

Natural Resources Grants

Hennepin County offers grants to landowners for projects that preserve and restore the county's natural resources.



<p>This grant program has two options</p>	<p>Good Steward grant Primarily for smaller projects that improve surface or ground water quality or quantity, enhance natural areas and promote environmental stewardship to the community.</p>	<p>Opportunity grant Primarily to help partners take advantage of opportunities to implement larger projects that improve surface or ground water quality or quantity, or preserve, establish or restore natural areas.</p>
<p>Eligible recipients</p>	<p>Landowners, including individuals, non-governmental organizations, local government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses in Hennepin County.</p>	
<p>Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal for smaller community-based or single applicant projects. • Typical projects include constructing rain gardens, stabilizing stream banks, restoring native vegetation installing vegetated filter strips and other best management practices. • While these grants may fund removal of invasive plants as part of a larger overall project, most invasive plant removal is not eligible unless it is part of a comprehensive habitat and restoration plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal for larger scale projects seeking to leverage multiple funding sources from more than one partner. • Ideal for projects documented as priorities in the applicant's managements plans (e.g. comprehensive plan, watershed management plan). • Applicants are encouraged to seek design and engineering assistance to help scope a project prior to the application period.
<p>Eligible expenses</p>	<p>Environmental or engineering consulting fees, materials, supplies, labor and inspection fees.</p>	
<p>Application timeline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply once per year in the fall. • Successful applicants are determined through a competitive selection process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications are accepted at any time; however, funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. • A pre-application meeting to discuss project details is highly recommended.
<p>Amount of funding available per grant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of \$25,000 per project. • Typical awards range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$100,000 per project. • Typical projects range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
<p>Matching funds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant funding can cover up to 75% of total eligible project costs. • The landowner is responsible for contributing the remaining 25% of the project costs, which can be cash or in-kind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No match is required. • Funds are often used for required match for other leveraged funds.
<p>Project timeline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 to 24 months to complete project. • All practices must be designed and maintained for at least 10 years. 	
<p>Reporting requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project must enter into a formal project agreement with the county. • Submit a project work plan with budget and design, operation and maintenance plans. • Submit final report with invoices and project outcomes. 	

Contact us today

Our staff is available to answer questions and offer resources to:

- Evaluate the natural resources on your property with Hennepin County's natural resources interactive map
- Provide technical assistance on water quality and erosion control issues
- Help develop a suitable project
- Provide follow-up and ongoing assistance

For more information:

- Visit hennepin.us – search natural resources grants
- Kris Guentzel at 612-596-1171 or kristopher.guentzel@hennepin.us

