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

This grant program has two options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Steward grant</th>
<th>Opportunity grant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primarily for smaller projects that improve surface or ground water quality or quantity, enhance natural areas and promote environmental stewardship to the community.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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Eligible recipients

- Landowners, including individuals, non-governmental organizations, local government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses in Hennepin County.

Guidelines

- 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.
- 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 management 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.

Eligible expenses

- Environmental or engineering consulting fees, materials, supplies, labor and inspection fees.

Application timeline

- Apply once per year in the fall.
- Successful applicants are determined through a competitive selection process.
- 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.

Amount of funding available per grant

- Maximum of $25,000 per project.
- Typical awards range from $5,000 to $15,000.
- Up to $100,000 per project.
- Typical projects range from $25,000 to $50,000.

Matching funds

- 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.
- No match is required.
- Funds are often used for required match for other leveraged funds.

Project timeline

- 12 to 24 months to complete project.
- All practices must be designed and maintained for at least 10 years.

Reporting requirements

- 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
- Contact Jim Kujawa at 612-348-7338 or James.Kujawa@hennepin.us