

# Natural Resources Grants

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



<p><b>This grant program has two options</b></p>	<p><b>Good Steward grant</b> 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><b>Opportunity grant</b> 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><b>Eligible recipients</b></p>	<p>Landowners, including individuals, non-governmental organizations, local government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses in Hennepin County.</p>	
<p><b>Guidelines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal for smaller community-based or single applicant projects.</li> <li>• Typical projects include constructing rain gardens, stabilizing stream banks, restoring native vegetation installing vegetated filter strips and other best management practices.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal for larger scale projects seeking to leverage multiple funding sources from more than one partner.</li> <li>• Ideal for projects documented as priorities in the applicant's managements plans (e.g. comprehensive plan, watershed management plan).</li> <li>• Applicants are encouraged to seek design and engineering assistance to help scope a project prior to the application period.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Eligible expenses</b></p>	<p>Environmental or engineering consulting fees, materials, supplies, labor and inspection fees.</p>	
<p><b>Application timeline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply once per year in the fall.</li> <li>• Successful applicants are determined through a competitive selection process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications are accepted at any time; however, funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.</li> <li>• A pre-application meeting to discuss project details is highly recommended.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Amount of funding available per grant</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of \$25,000 per project.</li> <li>• Typical awards range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$100,000 per project.</li> <li>• Typical projects range from \$25,000 to \$50,000.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Matching funds</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant funding can cover up to 75% of total eligible project costs.</li> <li>• The landowner is responsible for contributing the remaining 25% of the project costs, which can be cash or in-kind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No match is required.</li> <li>• Funds are often used for required match for other leveraged funds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project timeline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 to 24 months to complete project.</li> <li>• All practices must be designed and maintained for at least 10 years.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reporting requirements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each project must enter into a formal project agreement with the county.</li> <li>• Submit a project work plan with budget and design, operation and maintenance plans.</li> <li>• Submit final report with invoices and project outcomes.</li> </ul>	

## 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](http://hennepin.us) – search natural resources grants
- Contact Jim Kujawa at 612-348-7338 or [James.Kujawa@hennepin.us](mailto:James.Kujawa@hennepin.us)

