

Drinking Water Protection



OVERVIEW

DRINKING WATER
FOCUS

UP TO \$2.4
MILLION
AVAILABLE

APPLY BY
AUGUST 17, 2020

ABOUT THE GRANT

The Minnesota State Legislature has approved a sub-grant program within the Projects and Practices program to support drinking water protection. This grant is focused on land treatment projects that will protect or improve the quality of drinking water sources. The grant is part of the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant program, made possible by Clean Water Fund.

WHAT AREAS WILL BE TARGETED?

This is an opportunity to target critical drinking water areas, including but not limited to:

- Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs)
- Surface water drinking water sources
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Township Testing Areas

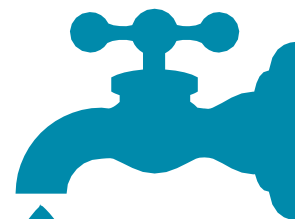
Drinking water resources identified in local water plans are also eligible if they can be protected by land conservation treatment practices.

WHAT ARE FUNDING PRIORITIES?

In the grant review process, priority will be given to activities that are:

1. Near the public water supply well or surface water intake;
2. Appropriate for the geologic vulnerability and surrounding land use.

Eligible projects:



Improve
water
quality

Focus
on drinking
water sources

Implement
land
treatment
projects



Developed by Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in collaboration with BWSR in June 2020. To learn more about the grant and eligible/ineligible activities, visit: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/apply>

EXAMPLE PRACTICES

Practices in a **high-vulnerability DWSMA** or **Township Testing Area** could include:

- Soil health practices
- Perennial crops
- Increased incentives for conservation adoption
- Stormwater treatment*
- Forestry conservation



Practices in a **surface water intake area** could include:

- Sediment management
- Stormwater treatment*



Practices in a **low-vulnerability DWSMA** could include:

- Sealing unused, unsealed public or private wells

WHO CAN APPLY

- Counties
- Watershed Districts
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Watershed Management Organizations



HOW TO APPLY

- Visit the BWSR website for more information and to complete an application (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/apply>).
- MDH and BWSR encourage you to consider projects that protect and improve local drinking water resources. For more information, please consult with: BWSR Board Conservationist, Source Water Protection Planner from MDH, Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA), local public water suppliers, or refer to Wellhead Protection Plans for targeted practices.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Maps of DWSMA vulnerability, nitrate testing results, and other data layers are available on the Watershed Health and Assessment Framework (WHAF) tool (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/whaf/index>) to evaluate and target potential project areas. WHAF instructions and an infographic on "Using Groundwater Data to Target Protection Activities" can be found on BWSR's website above under "Projects and Practices: [Groundwater Information using the WHAF Tool Guidance.](#)"
- See MRWA Planners at <http://www.mrwa.com/sourcewater.html> and MDH Planners at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/swpstafmap.pdf>.
- *Review MDH guidance for stormwater infiltration in DWSMAs at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website: https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Stormwater_and_wellhead_protection.