

Grant Program Requirements:
Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program Grant Program

Match

A non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of the grant received is required. State funded loans repaid with non-state funds may be used for the match. The anticipated source(s) for the match shall be identified in the grant work plan. Match can be provided by a landowner, land occupier, private organization, local government or other non-state source and can be in the form of cash or the cash value of services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives. Funds used for match for this program cannot be used as match for any other state grant program.

Grant Work Plan

A work plan shall be developed in eLINK and must be approved before execution of the grant agreement. The work plan shall reflect each eligible activity that will be implemented, a description of the anticipated activity outcomes or accomplishments, and grant funding amounts to accomplish each of the activities.

Eligible Activities and Expenses

The Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota on conservation lands and natural areas to benefit populations of pollinators, beneficial insects and other wildlife species with declining populations and provide co-benefits of carbon sequestration, soil health, water quality improvements, and increased landscape resiliency.

Eligible activities:

Eligible practices must be located on lands with a long-term commitment to conservation management through conservation easements, long-term conservation contracts or public ownership. Example eligible lands include those with existing Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easements, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), lands with other types of conservation easements, non-profit conservation preserves, city parks, county parks, and protected natural areas.

Practices must be sustained for a minimum of **10 years** and have a focus on long-term care of ecological functions and aesthetics.

Projects completed with BWSR grant dollars that involve vegetation restoration or establishment should follow BWSR's [Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#). The seed/plant source sequence in Section 2 of BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines must be followed.

Eligible activities include:

- **Technical Assistance.** Development of practice plans and specifications, assisting landowners, developing Operation and Maintenance plans, and other activities that support the establishment and long-term maintenance of eligible practice(s).
- **Grant Management and Reporting.** Grant funds may be used for grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the program. Eligible activities include local grant administration, management, and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity associated with the grant. Grantee is required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments.
- **Conservation Practice Cost Share and Incentives.**
 - Eligible practice types include:
 - Establishing new floral-rich plots or riparian plantings, including native flowering trees and shrubs (0.50 to 20 acres in size per practice); and/or

- Converting existing non-native cover to native vegetation, including native flowering trees and shrubs (.50 to 20 acres in size per practice); and/or
- Enhancing prairie, savanna, wetland, woodland ephemerals, and shoreline communities that are not currently dominated with non-native or invasive species and can be enhanced to provide high value habitat that is planned to benefit populations of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, birds, other wildlife, and at-risk species (no acreage limit).
- Site preparation, planting and management costs (tilling, burning, weed barriers, seeds, erosion fabric, hydromulch, weed free straw, containerized plants, seeding, containerized plant installation, inter-seeding, weed removal, mowing, conservation grazing, conservation haying, etc.).
- Non-native and invasive species management as part of efforts to enhance or re-establish native vegetation. **Note, the removal of non-native and invasive species can be part of projects but should not be a major component of the budget.**
- **Maintenance through grant period.** Grants funds can be used for maintenance activities completed within the terms of the grant agreement. All land occupiers receiving funding will be asked to sign a cost share contract and operation and management plan that summarizes their maintenance responsibilities for the effective life of the practice.

Grants Administration Manual Requirements

All grantees must follow applicable provisions of the Fiscal Year 2025 Grants Administration Manual (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/gam>). For questions regarding Grants Administration Manual requirements, grantee should consult their assigned Grant Manager.