

**Program Requirements:
Buffer Implementation Grant Program**

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities include assistance to support drainage system mapping and map review, landowner outreach, landowner technical and financial assistance, equipment purchases, and other buffer law implementation activities. Grantee will follow [Minn. Stat. § 103F.48](#)

Requirements for Implementing Conservation Projects

1. **Effective Life.** The effective lifespan of projects must be defined by current and acceptable design standards or criteria for no less than 5 years. The beginning date for a practice's effective life is the same date final payment is approved and the project is considered complete.
2. **Project Assurances.** The grantee must provide assurances that installed conservation practices and projects meet the purposes of the grant program, will remain in place for the lifespan expected based on the standard or professionally accepted practice, and will provide quality benefits for which they were designed. Such assurances may include easements, deed recordings, enforceable contracts, performance bonds, letters of credit, and termination or performance penalties. BWSR may allow replacement of a practice or project that does not comply with expected lifespan requirements with a practice or project that provides equivalent benefits.
3. **Operation, Maintenance, and Inspections.** All practice designs must include identification of operation and maintenance activities specific to the installed practices. An [operation and maintenance](#) plan is critical to ongoing performance of installed practices as well as to planning and scheduling those activities and must be prepared by designated technical staff for the life of the practice. An inspection schedule, procedure, and assured access to the practice site shall be included in the project file as a component of maintaining the effectiveness of the practice.
4. **Permitting.** The grantee is responsible for obtaining and complying with all permits necessary to execute the project. If applicable, grantee will be required to provide sufficient documentation prior to work plan approval that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary federal, state, and local permits and meets all water quality rules, including those that apply to the utilization of an existing water body as a water quality treatment device.

Implementing Contracts with Land Occupiers

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) (GAM) Chapter: Implementing Contracts with Land Occupiers.

Grant Management and Reporting

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 in eLINK. Funding is provided through the Clean Water Fund, making these grants subject to all Clean Water Fund reporting requirements, including use of the Legacy logo where applicable and practicable. If staff time will be used under this grant, grantee will use the Rates and Hours tool in eLINK to enter the estimated Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees funded through this grant.