FY 2024-2025 Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Program Awards

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Applicant	County	Request Amount	Recommended Amount	Abstract
C25-0270	Goodwin Ave Stormwater Wetland	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	Chisago	$225,800.00	$225,800.00	The proposed project will restore approximately half an acre of wetland and expand a stormwater pond located adjacent to the Sunrise River. It will provide an estimated 56% total phosphorus removal and 88% total suspended solids removal for the contributing 20-acre developed residential drainage area. Calculating loads based on the Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS), the estimated removals are 5.0 lb./yr TP and 1,424 lb./yr TSS. The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District is partnering with the City of Wyoming and a local private landowner to implement this project. The District has the support of the City and landowner to complete this project, provided grant funding is secured.
C25-0280	Clean Water Legacy Partners - CLCLT Resident Rain Garden Installations	City of Lakes Community Land Trust	Hennepin	$193,525.00	$193,525.00	This project continues a collaboration with Metro Blooms and City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) coming together and working with environmental justice and BIPOC communities in Minneapolis. From previous partnership projects, as a result, rain gardens are a high priority for CLCLT residents. Our focus is to install 25 rain gardens and plant 15 - 20 trees and provide maintenance and education around the health of clean water and soil for residents.
C25-0285	Improving Pike Lake's East Bay	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Land and Natural Resources Department	Scott	$85,000.00	$85,000.00	The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) aims to protect and improve its water resources from a watershed perspective, including working with other stakeholders to address shared waters. The project area is in the Prior Lake Outlet Minor Watershed, which flows to the Mnisota Wakpa (Minnesota River) and is an important watershed for many communities. The SMSC Natural Resources Department has collected water quality data within this watershed since 1999 as part of an overall goal to ensure that all tribal waters are clean and provide a safe and healthy resource for tribal members, future generations and surrounding communities. Mni (water) holds a deep cultural significance to the Dakota people. Caring for Ucí Maka, (Grandmother Earth), is at the heart of what the SMSC strives for – now and for future generations. Pike Lake (MN DNR ID 70007600) is a 50.75-acre basin located north of County Hwy 42 and west of Pike Lake Road and has been listed as impaired for nutrients since 2002. Pike Lake has two bays, Pike Lake West and Pike Lake East, which are separated by a narrow, shallow strait and a small island that hosts an active bald eagle nest. Shoreline ownership is a mix of forested SMSC land on the north, a City of Prior Lake park on the west, residential on the south and a gravel road to the east. This lake has been monitored for water quality parameters by the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) since 2012 on both lake bays. Additional collaborative monitoring and restoration efforts completed on Pike Lake include surveys for fish, aquatic plants and waterfowl, removal of common carp, fish stocking and aeration.The current inlet and outlet of Pike Lake are both located on the west bay, leaving the east bay to stagnate. The primary inflow to the lake is the Prior Lake Outlet Channel which enters on the west shore of Pike Lake West and outflows 700 feet to the north. This input includes stormwater and excess water from the regulated outlet on Prior Lake. Without an outlet on Pike Lake East, it is susceptible to winter fish kills due to lack of oxygen. The most recent occurrence was in February 2021, which resulted in a huge population loss of native fishes and common carp. This project will investigate the feasibility of enhancing water quality in Pike Lake by installing an additional outlet on Pike Lake East to promote circulation across the entire lake rather than concentrating flow on the west side only. This design aims to improve oxygenation and water mixing, with anticipated ecological and chemical benefits. Increased water flow and oxygen levels are expected to reduce stratification, stabilize pH levels, and limit the release of harmful nutrients like phosphorus from sediments. Improved oxygenation supports aquatic biodiversity by creating healthier habitats for fish and other organisms. Enhanced circulation will likely suppress harmful algal blooms, diminish odors, and mitigate the proliferation of bacteria while promoting growth of native aquatic vegetation. Beyond ecologicalimprovements, the intervention aligns with broader SMSC environmental goals by promoting sustainable lake management practices. It has the potential to restore recreational and aesthetic value to Pike Lake, benefiting not only SMSC but surrounding communities as well. By addressing systemic water quality issues through strategic engineering, this study aims to provide measurable insights into the remediation of this impaired waterbody. The study will analyze baseline conditions, model the anticipated impacts of an additional outlet, and give suggestions on how to improve connectivity between the west and eastbays of Pike Lake. This information will inform the viability of the proposed additional outlet as a water quality improvementsolution and how it contributes to the long-term health of Pike Lake’s ecosystem.

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C25-0288	Targeted chloride reduction through street sweeping at SMSC	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Land and Natural Resources Department	Scott	$183,150.00	$183,150.00	The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) lands are perched above the Minnesota River (Mnisota Wakpa) and at the top of three local watersheds, including the Prior Lake Outlet Minor, Lower Sand Creek Minor and City of Shakopee Minor Watersheds. These watersheds have high road density, so road salt, tire particles and other vehicle pollutants have the potential to impact the surrounding water resources. Protecting and improving SMSC waters can directly enhance the quality of water flowing downstream through neighboring communities and the water flowing into the Mnisota Wakpa. These areas are known to contain culturally significant resources, such as wild rice (Psin). In this critical area, the reduction of road contaminants will have an immediate benefit to surrounding watersheds, groundwater and protection of culturally significant resources. The goal of this grant is to directly remove salt and sediment from parking lots and roadways managed by SMSC by increasing street sweeping, particularly during winter months. This would be achieved through purchasing a new street sweeper designed to tolerate corrosive road salt and sized to enable access to low clearance and high traffic areas. The current street sweeper that would be replaced is 20 years old, requires repairs frequently and is unable to be used during the winter. A direct benefit would be the proactive removal of salt and sediment from roadways that would otherwise end up in stormwater and wetlands aroundSMSC. Another benefit would be better implementation of the SMSC Winter Salt Management Plan, SMSC Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan, SMSC Watershed Based Plan and Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Management Plan.
C25-0300	Newport Elementary Filtration BMP	South Washington WD	Washington	$250,000.00	$250,000.00	The South Washington Watershed District has identified a series of priority sites to install filtration systems on aging storm sewer networks in the underserved cities of Newport and St. Paul Park aimed at reducing sediment and phosphorus loads to the impaired Mississippi River. SWWD is working with the cities to add stormwater treatment where there has historically been none due to the age of development and prevalence of shallow bedrock. Prioritization of this work has been driven by two recently completed subwatershed retrofit assessments, targeting specific storm sewer networks in the two cities. Shallow bedrock (0-12" below grade) and the elevation of existing storm sewer networks limit the feasibility of traditional passive stormwater management and/or volume control BMPs such as wet ponds and raingardens. Implementation of this project will continue a coordinated effort among the partners to reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to the Mississippi River through installation of one structural stormwater BMP directly benefitting the Mississippi River in the City of Newport. Located just west of Newport Elementary School, this practice is expected to reduce sediment delivery to the Mississippi River by up to 65 tons/yr and reduce phosphorus loading by up to 88 lbs./yr according to a BMP analysis completed by HR Green, Inc. on behalf of SWWD in 2022.
C25-0303	More than Monarchs for Minnesota	Monarch Joint Venture	Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lyon, Martin, McLeod, Murray, Nicollet, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Scott, Sibley, Steele, Waseca, Watonwan	$121,500.00	$121,500.00	This project will enhance riparian buffers and upland grassed waterways in the Lower Minnesota, Le Sueur, Cottonwood, and Blue Earth River watersheds by adding native, pollinator-friendly plants to support monarchs, other wildlife, and water quality outcomes. Through technical assistance and cost-share, the project will support at least 20 agricultural landowners in implementing a minimum of 40 acres of habitat enhancements. At least two education and outreach events will also be held to recruit and engage local landowners. By targeting high-priority areas identified in the existing watershed management plans, the project will improve terrestrial habitat connectivity and quality, and support water quality outcomes, aligning with the goals of these plans. This multi-beneficial approach will enhance biodiversity, support filtration of agricultural field runoff, and support wildlife recreation and hunting opportunities by providing brood cover for upland nesting gamebirds and songbirds. Additionally, the project will support long-term conservation efforts and strengthen partnerships across the region.

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C25-0305	Building Conservation Agriculture Clusters in Cannon River Subwatersheds	Clean River Partners	Rice	$250,000.00	$250,000.00	This project will focus on building clusters of farmers practicing conservation agriculture in four subwatersheds of the Cannon River. Clean River Partners (CRP) will be working with a cluster of farmers in the Bridgewater Township area of Rice County (along Rice, Heath, and Wolf Creeks) to share their experiences with an emerging cluster of farmers along the Little Cannon River subwatershed in Goodhue County in order to continue the Bridgewater cluster's protection of the Rice, Heath, and Wolf Creeks and to build upon an emerging cluster of conservation in the Little Cannon River area. CRP is an environmental organization located in Northfield that has been protecting and improving the land and water in the Cannon River Watershed since 1990. Rice, Heath, and Wolf Creeks and the Little Cannon River were chosen because there is local community interest in and support for improving the water quality of these resources and there has been strong commitment from select farmers in each of these areas to practice conservation agriculture. We will build on existing partnerships and community interest in two Tier 1 conservation areas of our watershed, as identified by the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (CRWJPO) in the Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan (CRWCMP).The first area is the combined subwatersheds of Rice, Heath, and Wolf Creeks, located in Rice County. Rice Creek is a self-sustaining brook trout stream with a DNR fishing access easement that members of the public use for recreational and subsistence fishing. Soil and water quality improvements in Rice Creek will be visible to farmers as well as fishers and ecologists who observe improved trout population health.The second area is the Little Cannon River subwatershed, located in Goodhue County. The Little Cannon River is a cold-water resource and a designated trout stream impaired for excess sediment. In 2020, a parcel of land along the Little Cannon River was acquired and conveyed to the Minnesota DNR. That parcel became the Little Cannon River Aquatic Management Area (AMA). For this project, CRP wants to focus our efforts on the area near the Little Cannon River AMA and upstream of the AMA. Through this project, we anticipate increasing the number of farmers practicing conservation agriculture, increasing the number of acres on which conservation agriculture practices are implemented, increasing the number of conservation agriculture practices implemented per acre, and building area farmers' capacity for peer leadership on conservation agriculture, leading to water quality benefits in four key subwatersheds of the Cannon River Watershed.
C25-0306	East Phillips brownfield stormwater management system technical drawings, and public art education series	East Phillips Neighborhood Institute	Hennepin	$218,000.00	$218,000.00	The East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) is seeking funds to deepen partnerships with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), Hamline University's Adopt-a-Drain program (A-a-D), the University of Minnesota's Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL), and other partners at the nexus of civil engineering, landscape architecture, and community artistry. Funds from this grant will result in build-ready construction documents for a stormwater management system that will protect the Mississippi watershed from stormwater pollutants currently entering the Mississippi River, and prevent further arsenic contamination on a brownfield site in South Minneapolis. EPNI is redeveloping the 7.6-acre site (the "EPNI Urban Farm") into a green production facility with a focus on renewable energy production, aquaponics farming, and rainwater recycling. In addition, we will deepen the public knowledge of urban stormwater and the watershed through 4 public education events and 10 public art projects. EPNI is a community based organization that serves the East Phillips neighborhood of South Minneapolis, an area less than 1.5 miles from the Mississippi River. East Phillips is an IRA-designated "disadvantaged community" as defined by the EPA, a Justice40 community, an MPCA-designated Environmental Justice community, and part of the Minneapolis-designated Southside Green Zone. 30% of residents live in poverty, and over 80% of the population identifies as BIPOC.The neighborhood is at the epicenter of a former Superfund site, which was caused by pesticide manufacturing in the 1930s and was finally remediated in the 2010s. This contamination left a toxic arsenic plume underneath the 7.6-acre site which has compromised the groundwater. It is imperative that EPNI create a stormwater management system which caps the surface ofthe site, and prevents the migration of the arsenic plume towards the Mississippi River.
C25-0307	Shoreline Restoration and Bank Stabilization on Leech Lake	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Cass	$50,000	$50,000	LLBO has identified a site on Leech Lake where there is bank failure due to shoreline erosion. LLBO plans to use this funding to restore and protect this site. Leech Lake is an important waterbody with near-pristine water quality and supports a variety of important species. Restoration and protection of this site will reduce nutrient runoff and sedimentation to Leech Lake as well as protect cultural resources. The location of the site is being kept private to protect the integrity of the site and any potential cultural resources.

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C25-0308	Lake Lida Comprehensive Lakeshed Assessment	Lake Lida Comprehensive Lakeshed Assessment	Otter Tail	$57,000.00	$57,000.00	We will develop a comprehensive lakeshed assessment that will provide a phosphorus budget, lake response model, and targeted sites for project implementation. This assessment will allow us to measurably improve the water quality in Lake Lida in Otter Tail County. The majority of the Lake Lida shoreline is developed with homes, cabins, and resorts. The entire eastern shore of the southern bay is in Maplewood State Park. Lake Lida is an important lake regionally due to its excellent fishing and recreational opportunities both in summer and winter. Lake Lida was prioritized as a focus lake in the Otter Tail Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (OTCWMP) based upon its outstanding biological significance and general development shoreline classification. The South Bay of Lake Lida was chosen in particular because there are growing concerns about eutrophication and harmful algae blooms that have been occurring over the past decade. Improvements to water quality in South Lida Lake will benefit the public that use the swimming beach at Maplewood State Park.
			Total	$1,633,975.00	$1,633,975.00	