

Submission Requirements To Propose Revisions Living Landscape Priority Area Map

In order for BWSR to consider revisions to the Living Landscape Priority Area map, proposals must include written justification that addresses each of the minimum criteria (listed below). Submissions should clearly demonstrate how the proposed area meets the ecological, spatial, and strategic thresholds outlined. Proposals must also include a detailed map of the proposed boundary.

All materials should be submitted via email to: jason.beckler@state.mn.us. Incomplete proposals or those that do not sufficiently address the established criteria may not be considered for inclusion during the annual update process.

Criteria for Recommending Changes to the Living Landscape Priority Area Map

1. Minimum Size Threshold

- Proposed additions should be at least 6,400 contiguous acres (10 square miles) to ensure ecological function and long-term viability, unless smaller areas provide critical connectivity or unique habitat value.

2. Target Species Presence

- Area supports known or potential habitat for one or more target species of concern, including Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), state or federally listed species, or focal pollinator species.

3. Habitat Coverage, Type, and Rarity

- At least 25% of the proposed area is currently covered by native or restored habitat (e.g., prairie, wetland, forest, or oak savanna), providing baseline conditions to build upon. Preference is given to areas that contain or connect to ecologically significant habitat types (e.g., calcareous fen, native prairie, remnant oak savanna) and/or rare plant communities identified in the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) or MN DNR Native Plant Community classification.

4. Environmental Benefits Expected

- Demonstrates potential for measurable environmental benefits, such as improved water quality, enhanced pollinator and wildlife corridors, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, cultural significance, and/or climate resilience.

5. Strategic Alignment

- Aligns with local conservation plans, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), or other regional planning documents that identify the area as a priority for restoration or protection.