

What is it and how does it work?

The Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) is responsible for providing wetland credits for local road authorities to satisfy their state and federal regulatory wetland replacement requirements. Therefore, BWSR is opening an easement sign-up period, to purchase perpetual conservation easements from landowners on a per acre payment rate.

BWSR is responsible for all costs of the project design, regulatory approval, and implementation of the wetland restoration project. BWSR typically contracts with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to aid BWSR and the landowner with the easement acquisition process, construction oversight, and invoicing for completed work. Landowners are expected to hire construction contractors to construct the site using the BWSR developed plan and are reimbursed by BWSR. Vegetation establishment and management is completed by BWSR.

How much will BWSR pay?

Payment is based on a pre-determined amount per acre of crop and non-crop land in accordance with the Wetland Bank Easement Payment Rate table on the BWSR website <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/local-government-road-wetland-replacement-program> or available from the local SWCD. To determine a potential payment amount, estimate the acreage of both eligible crop land and non-crop land within the proposed easement area and then apply the payment rates accordingly. Crop land is defined as land that has produced horticultural, row, or close grown crops or that has been enrolled at a cropland rate in a federal or State conservation program at least two of the previous five years.

Some applications may include land that is ineligible to receive wetland credit under state and federal rules or is otherwise ineligible for easement payments. In certain situations, these areas will be allowed as part of an application as donated lands and will be subject to all easement restrictions.

What criteria does BWSR use when evaluating projects?

Restoration projects will be evaluated using the following criteria. However, a technical feasibility assessment will be completed prior to the evaluation of the other criteria to determine program eligibility. The percentage in parentheses is the contribution of the criterion towards the total score for the project:

1. Cost per Credit (30%)
2. Technical Feasibility (20%)
3. Credit Yield (20%)
4. Functional Benefit for the Watershed (10%)
5. Rare or Difficult to Replace Wetland Functions or Characteristics (10%)
6. Qualifications of the Applicant (10%)

What type of sites are eligible?

BWSR is seeking to restore wetlands on marginal croplands with restorable wetlands that have been lost or significantly degraded because of drainage, fill, or excavation. Eligible sites should meet the following criteria:

- Wetlands were historically present at the site or are present in a degraded condition and the physical characteristics of the site will allow for hydrologic and vegetative restoration.
- Sites that are at least 40 acres or more.
- More than 50% of the acres within the proposed easement area should be fully or partially drained restorable wetlands.
- The proposed easement boundary should support an upland buffer adjacent to restored wetlands.
- The property must be free of other easements or legal agreements that may conflict with or serve the same purpose as the wetland banking easement.

What about lands enrolled in other programs?

Lands previously restored and/or enrolled in other conservation programs (i.e., Conservation Reserve Program) may require the landowner buy themselves out of CRP.

Does the location of the site matter?

BWSR is restricting this sign-up to the following Wetland Bank Service Areas (BSAs) 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

How does a perpetual conservation easement affect a property?

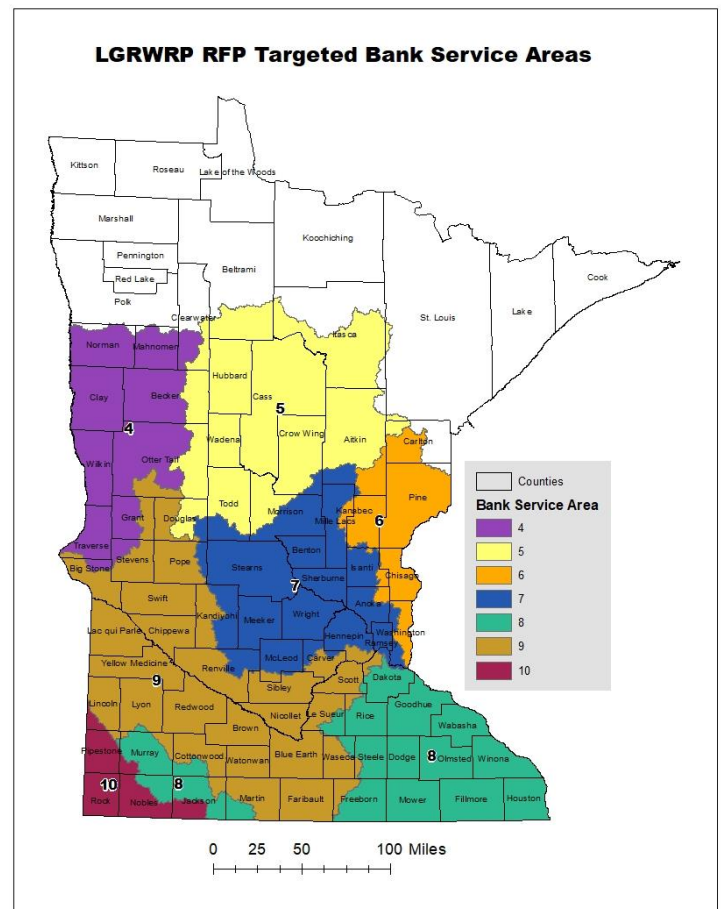
Before restoration begins, the State must acquire a perpetual conservation easement. The landowner retains ownership, but activities like cropping, grazing, haying, grading, and vehicle use are restricted within the easement area. Ownership transfers are allowed, and passive recreation such as hunting is permitted. Public access is prohibited; only state and federal agencies may enter for implementation and monitoring tasks.

If the easement lacks direct access from a public road, a separate access easement is required. BWSR monitors the site for five years post-construction to ensure compliance with the restoration plan. After that, the landowner assumes long-term maintenance responsibilities under the terms of the easement.

What is the process for deciding which sites/projects to fund?

The steps in the review and selection process relevant to the landowner/applicant are provided below:

1. Applications due on or before 4:30 PM on November 13, 2025
2. Initial screening, evaluation of application materials completed (November 24, 2025)
3. Notification sent to applicants with projects failing technical feasibility requirements December 1, 2025
4. Notification of project selection will be provided on or before December 4, 2025



Depending on characteristics of the site and weather conditions, a field inspection/investigation may take place during the review period. Landowners should continue to utilize their property (cropping, haying, etc.) during this period.

If my site is selected, what do I have to do?

Once a site is selected the landowner will enter into an easement purchase agreement with BWSR. Project coordination will occur during the entire development stage with design and easement boundaries being a mutual agreement. After the easement is recorded and payment issued, the landowner hires construction contractors, with full reimbursement from the State. The SWCD assists throughout, and the landowner bears no cost or oversight responsibility.

How do I apply?

Landowners interested should contact their local SWCD office to determine if their site is a good candidate. The SWCD staff can also aid with preparing the application materials for submittal to BWSR. Application materials are also available on the BWSR website.

Applications must be received by U.S. Mail or email no later than 4:30pm Central Time, **November 13, 2025**.

- U.S. Mail or courier to the following address:
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
ATTN: Dennis Rodacker
520 Lafayette Rd North
St Paul, MN 55155
- ben.carlson@state.mn.us (Please put “**RFP Application**” in subject line)

Further Questions?

Questions can be directed to your local SWCD or BWSR Wetland Banking Staff:

- Dennis Rodacker, Wetland Mitigation Supervisor, dennis.rodacker@state.mn.us or 651- 666-0913.
- Ben Carlson, Wetland Mitigation Coordinator, ben.carlson@state.mn.us 651-315-3952