

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources 2027 ENRTF Request for Proposal



Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec.14: "The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources."

Summary

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) welcomes proposals for projects of all sizes that address the priorities and requirements described within this Request for Proposal (RFP) and that aim to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The LCCMR reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Approximately \$121 million is anticipated to be available from the Trust Fund through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2027. The standard project length is three years, but shorter and longer projects will also be considered. Proposals must be submitted online at lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn by March 18, 2026.

Funding Available

Approximately \$121 million is anticipated to be available through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2027. The LCCMR makes recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Recommended projects must be approved by the 2027 Legislature through an appropriations bill, signed into law by the governor, and have a work plan approved by the LCCMR before funds can be spent. For non-state entities, payment is made by [reimbursement](#) for expenses incurred, and fiscal oversight is provided through a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Final reimbursement is contingent on final report approval by the LCCMR at the end of the project. The standard project length is three years, but shorter and longer projects will also be considered.

Amount of Request

There is no minimum or maximum request amount. All proposals should strive to maximize efficiency and return on investment for the proposed expenditures.

Applicant Eligibility

The RFP is open to all who want to apply and who have demonstrated financial capacity. Applicants must be available to make a formal presentation to the LCCMR if selected and to respond to staff or commission member questions.

Online Proposal System

All proposals must be submitted through the LCCMR's [online proposal submission system](#). Early account registrations and proposal submissions are strongly encouraged.

Deadline for Submission

Final proposals must be submitted online by March 18, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

Information from this document may be copied and distributed to others. This publication can be made available in alternate formats, such as large print or audio format, upon request.

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Proposal and Appropriation Timeline

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as of 11/19/2025

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Up-to-date information on deadlines and meetings can be found on the [meeting schedule page](#) of our website.

November 19, 2025	Funding priorities determined and 2027 RFP adopted.
January 7, 2026	2027 RFP issued.
March 18, 2026	Final submission deadline for proposals responding to 2027 RFP
May 2026	All submitted proposals distributed to LCCMR members for evaluation (Evaluation #1)
June 9, 2026	Member Evaluation #1 deadline
June 17, 2026	A subset of high-ranking proposals selected for further consideration are invited to give presentations before the LCCMR.
June 29-30 and July 1-2, 2026	Selected proposals present before the LCCMR. LCCMR members begin further evaluation of selected proposals (Evaluation #2).
July 15, 2026	Member Evaluation #2 deadline
July 30, 2026	Subset of proposals selected for recommendation to the Legislature for funding
August–December 2026	Projects recommended for funding begin submitting work plans for LCCMR staff review, and research projects recommended for funding undergo peer review.
December 16, 2026	Funding recommendations are adopted by the LCCMR in legislative bill format, as they will be presented to the Legislature.
January–May 2027	LCCMR recommendations presented to the Legislature for consideration via introduction as an appropriations bill. Bill is considered and acted upon by the Minnesota House and Senate. Upon passage, the bill goes before the governor to be signed into law.
June 2027	LCCMR approves work plans for projects funded.
July 1, 2027	Money from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund becomes available for expenditure, and projects with an approved work plan may begin.
July–September 2027	Minnesota DNR conducts fiscal capacity reviews and sends grant agreements to non-state entities receiving ENRTF funds.

About the LCCMR

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is made up of 17 members: five Senators, five Representatives, five citizens appointed by the governor, one citizen appointed by the Senate, and one citizen appointed by the House. The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

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2027 Funding Priorities

All proposals must meet the constitutional aim to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, especially those that may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state.

Proposals should address one or more of the priorities described in the categories below, with a priority on proposals that meet the purposes of the Reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in [M.S. 84.95, Subd 2](#). However, proposals pertaining to environmental or natural resource issues not directly addressed below may also be considered. Categories and priorities are not listed in order of importance.

Proposals that address prevention strategies for protecting natural resources, that include citizen and community involvement in scientific efforts, or that implement or identify clear strategies for implementing research results are strongly encouraged.

Proposals will not be considered for:

- Construction of buildings or building infrastructure for environmental education or renewable energy purposes, unless for research or demonstration.
- Development of new school curriculum, except to allow new modules within existing curriculum or update existing curriculum to reflect current state of knowledge or art.

Please make sure you are familiar with all requirements (see pages 8-9) before you begin your proposal, particularly if your proposal will include fee title land acquisition, easement acquisition, restoration, or capital construction.

A. Resiliency

Proposals that help Minnesota's environment, natural resources, and communities achieve resilience in the face of climate change, land use changes, and extreme weather events. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Identify, assess, and/or prioritize potential threats to the environment and natural resources.
2. Research, demonstrate, and/or promote comprehensive and viable solutions for reducing the impacts of climate change, land use changes, or extreme weather events on the environment and natural resources, through both engineered and natural solutions targeted at critical areas.
3. Research and/or develop technologies and measures to detect or address emerging or emergency threats to the environment and natural resources.
4. Broaden understanding and implementation of effective climate adaptation management practices for natural resources among public and private landowners through education, outreach, technical assistance, and/or the development of collaborations and networks to share and learn about new and innovative practices.
5. Support the development of local climate resiliency and adaptation plans for natural resources.
6. Create collaborations and build partnerships among all parties – including academic institutions, government agencies, non-government organizations, communities, and the private sector – to foster innovation and leverage resources and expertise to better address emerging threats to the environment and natural resources.
7. Enhance coordination and interagency collaboration among federal, state, tribal, and local governments to ensure a unified response to emerging environmental or natural resource issues.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

8. Implement proactive measures to prevent or minimize the impacts from emerging environmental or natural resource issues.
9. Implement land and water management practices and/or protect and restore wetlands, forests, prairies, and other critical systems to enhance biodiversity and provide multiple community resilience benefits.

B. Water

Proposals that help ensure Minnesota's waters are better managed for both water quantity and quality to support aquatic life, drinking water, recreation, and other uses. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Research impacts of runoff, stormwater, or contaminants on surface water or groundwater quality and develop practical solutions to prevent or address these impacts.
2. Research current and future water supply and use to support planning efforts and implementation of best management practices and ensure the state's water resiliency and sustainability.
3. Increase understanding and awareness of weather and climate patterns and their potential impact on water resources.
4. Demonstrate innovative practices, strategies, and/or partnerships that prevent or reduce water issues in urban, suburban, or rural regions.
5. Implement measures to improve water quality and/or restore or enhance habitats, shoreline, or natural hydrology in lakes, rivers, wetlands, and other surface waters, with an emphasis on efforts that incorporate coordination and collaboration among tribal, state, and local agencies and community partners.
6. Provide educational opportunities or technical assistance programs for teachers, students, state and local decision-makers, landowners, or the public on how to improve and protect water resources, including groundwater, surface water, and stormwater systems.
7. Monitor and assess the condition of groundwater or surface water, including lakes, rivers, and wetlands, on a regular cycle and provide a long-term data set to support decision-making and evaluate efforts.

C. Education and Outdoor Recreation

Proposals that contribute to all Minnesotans, especially young people, having access to and taking advantage of opportunities to connect to the lands and waters of Minnesota, including through culturally relevant and innovative approaches.* The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Address social, economic, or physical barriers to natural resources-based outdoor recreation through programs that encourage inclusivity and address inequities so that public lands and waters are accessible to all.
2. Assess programs, activities, or physical spaces for their accessibility and effectiveness and/or implement changes to adapt and retrofit them to welcome more people.
3. Provide evidence-based, hands-on, and engaging curriculum, programs, or natural-resource-based outdoor events to bring a diversity of students and/or adults to outdoor experiences.
4. Create mentorship programs, leadership opportunities, and/or learning experiences for a diversity of young people to explore and pursue careers in the environment and natural resources.
5. Enhance environmental education initiatives by integrating diverse cultural perspectives, experiences, and partnerships that foster environmental stewardship in all communities.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

6. Develop local or regional plans to enhance natural resources-based outdoor recreational opportunities in communities across the state.
 7. Collaborate or partner with indigenous, local, BIPOC, or underserved communities to develop culturally relevant, inclusive, and accessible environmental, natural resource, or natural resources-based outdoor recreation programs, practices, curriculum, or facilities.
 8. Design and/or develop culturally relevant, accessible, and resilient outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure – including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters – that create new natural resources-based experiences.
 9. Expand networks of trails, parks, or natural areas to protect and connect green spaces seamlessly, improve accessibility and safety, and/or encourage all Minnesotans to recreate and engage with nature.
- * Generally, only elements of baseball fields, basketball courts, splash pads, playground equipment, and other recreational facilities and infrastructure that improve or enhance natural resources or users' experience with natural resources are eligible.

D. Fish and Wildlife

Proposals that help ensure Minnesota has healthy and diverse aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and plants that sustain and enhance the state's environment, economy, and quality of life. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Research species or ecosystems and develop strategies to effectively manage, maintain, protect, and restore healthy habitats and populations.*
 2. Monitor the health of natural systems to support and improve species management and conservation strategies.
 3. Support and provide technical assistance and/or planning support to private landowners on cost-effective, proven strategies and technologies to develop and restore diverse, native habitat.
 4. Promote public awareness on the importance of diverse wildlife and plant populations through comprehensive education programs.
 5. Prevent the introduction, reduce the spread, or develop and demonstrate alternative control techniques for invasive species.* Standard control, removal, and maintenance activities of invasive species will not be considered.
 6. Develop plans and/or implement conservation actions to protect, conserve, or restore species, with a priority on efforts that maintain or create connected, continuous habitat or address the needs of vulnerable, declining, poorly understood, or sensitive species.
 7. Evaluate the effectiveness of current management practices and past investments to sustain and enhance wildlife and native plant populations.
- * All proposals related to invasive species research must consider the research priorities established by the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center or Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. All research proposals should be submitted to the Centers when applicable. The Centers will keep the LCCMR updated on the status of proposals received.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

E. Energy

Proposals that move Minnesota forward towards achieving reliance on renewable energy in all sectors, including transportation, building, industry, and agriculture. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Research and develop new and innovative renewable energy or fuel technologies along with environmental considerations, including biofuels, e-fuels, sustainable aviation fuels, and energy storage.
2. Evaluate, demonstrate, and/or assess renewable energy systems or fuels for economic viability, compatibility with other land uses, and environmental and natural resource impacts over the full lifecycle of the technology.
3. Develop and/or implement plans that identify, prioritize, and coordinate efforts to reduce energy consumption and to transition to renewable energy through land use planning, infrastructure, education and awareness, and other methods.
4. Encourage and support the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in agriculture, mining, industry, utilities, transportation, homes, or businesses.
5. Ensure equitable access to renewable energy and/or energy efficiency programs in all communities.
6. Provide inclusive education and experiential learning programs to build a skilled and diverse workforce for the renewable energy sector.

F. Land

Proposals that help ensure Minnesota's public and private lands – including forests, grasslands, wetlands, and agricultural lands – provide long-term benefits to fish, wildlife, and people. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Develop, demonstrate, and/or evaluate new and innovative practices and processes on public and private lands, including agricultural and forest land, that provide multiple, long-term environmental benefits, including benefits related to habitat, water quality and quantity, soil health, and carbon sequestration, and take into account economic considerations.
2. Enhance education, technical assistance, or public outreach to promote the application of practices beneficial to the environment, natural resources, and all Minnesotans.
3. Acquire and conserve minimally disturbed lands that provide the greatest capacity for multiple conservation benefits to humans, fish, wildlife, and water resources.
4. Restore and enhance lands to provide high-quality natural resource, ecological, or recreational value.
5. Implement natural resource corrective actions where delay will be detrimental to the environment and natural resources.
6. Foster collaboration among diverse groups, demonstrate the support of multiple stakeholders, and/or incorporate outreach to local and tribal communities to better protect lands.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

G. Small Projects

The LCCMR seeks and encourages proposals for projects under \$300,000, especially from political subdivisions and non-profits, to quickly and efficiently provide environmental and natural resource benefits in Minnesota. Proposals should address one or more of the priorities listed in the above categories A through F.

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals must be eligible for funding, as defined by law (see page 11) and as indicated in this RFP, and clearly articulate how the project will meet the constitutional purpose of protecting, conserving, preserving, or enhancing the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, or other natural resources. The following criteria are considered in evaluating and selecting individual proposals to recommend for funding:

Funding Priorities: The proposal responds to RFP funding priorities.

Environmental or Natural Resource Benefits: The extent to which the project will benefit Minnesota's environment, natural resources, or how Minnesotans experience them relative to the amount requested.

Outcomes/Results: The proposal clearly identifies the work that will be done, and the specific outputs, results, and likely outcomes that will benefit the environment and natural resources, or how Minnesotans experience them.

Capacity: The proposal and past performance demonstrate the applicant's administrative, financial, professional, scientific, and/or technical capacity to manage the project and deliver on proposed outputs and results in a timely, accountable, and effective manner.

Completeness and Clarity: The proposal is clear, sufficiently detailed, and includes all required information and attachments needed to fully evaluate the proposal.

Additional factors may also be considered, as applicable, in evaluating and selecting proposals, including but not limited to:

Information and Dissemination: The project will contribute to the knowledge base *and* disseminate that information so that it can be used to benefit efforts to protect, conserve, restore, enhance, or manage the environment and natural resources.

Innovation: The project will employ or demonstrate innovative approaches to more effectively and efficiently solve specific environmental and natural resource issues.

Timeliness and Readiness: The proposal includes work that is urgent or would significantly benefit from funding in the current cycle *and* demonstrates readiness for that work to begin as soon as funds are available.

Leverage: The project will leverage additional efforts, resources, or non-state funds.

Collaboration/Coordination: The project will use a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach with project partners from a diversity of agencies, organizations, or communities and/or will include meaningful engagement with those entities in completing the proposed work.

Finally, the commission may consider how the selected proposals as a whole provide benefits to and address needs in all areas and communities of the state.

Requirements

Project Requirements

All projects must comply with [Article XI, Section 14 of the Minnesota Constitution](#), [Minnesota Statute 116P](#), and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) [General Project Requirements](#) and [Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines](#).

Work Plan and Progress Reports

Project managers of recommended projects must submit a work plan. Successfully funded projects must have an approved work plan, and no funds may be spent until the work plan has been approved. The project manager must submit annual or semiannual progress reports, and modifications to the approved work plan and budget expenditures must be made through the LCCMR amendment process.

Financial Capacity

A pre-award financial capacity assessment is required for all non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, and political subdivisions. To help us evaluate financial capacity, the following must be submitted with your proposal. Additional information may be required at later stages in the grant proposal process.

Non-profit organizations

- Most recently filed IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ.
- If exempt from 990 requirements: a copy of your IRS determination letter and your most recent board- or managing group-reviewed financial statements.
- Most recent audited financial statements if you had \$750,000 or more in revenue in the last fiscal year and were required to have an audit (see [current non-profit audit revenue thresholds](#)).
- Evidence of good standing with the Secretary of State.

For-profit organizations

- Your most recently filed federal and state tax returns. This information will be considered non-public data.
- If exempt from tax return requirements: your most recent financial statements, including balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows. This information will be considered non-public data.
- Evidence of good standing with the Secretary of State.
- Disclosure of any liens on assets filed with the Secretary of State or county recorder, or if no liens, a signed statement that no current liens are filed.

Political subdivision

- Most recent audit report (if required; see [current political subdivision audit revenue thresholds](#)).

Additional Requirements for Capital Construction Projects

All applicants requesting funds for predesign, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other long-lived (10 years or more) fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more must read and understand the following summary document regarding a **25% non-ENRTF match** and other requirements:

- ENRTF [Capital Construction Project Requirements](#)

A completed [Capital Construction Project Questionnaire](#), [Budget Addendum](#), and aerial map must be submitted with your proposal. The map must include location within the state, parcel boundaries, and clearly delineate what will be constructed using the requested funds. Further instructions on required map elements are provided in the LCCMR Proposal and Grant Management System. Any concept plans or completed designs should also be attached if available.

Please be aware that if the Commission determines that readiness is not sufficiently demonstrated, it may recommend funding only the planning, predesign, or design portion of a proposal. Applicants may reapply for subsequent phases.

Requirements (continued)

Construction, Service Contracts, and Purchasing

State contracting and competitive bidding requirements apply, including but not limited to, prevailing wage and targeted group purchasing requirements. More information on requirements for non-state organizations may be found in the [DNR Pass-Through Grants Reimbursement Manual](#).

Additional Requirements for Land Acquisitions, Easements, and Restorations

All fee title and conservation easement acquisition proposals must include funding for development and implementation of a management and restoration plan. If no funding is requested, your proposal must address why funding for this work is not needed to achieve a high quality restoration.

Largescale stream or wetland restoration projects and land acquisitions for the purpose of capital construction are also subject to a **25% non-ENRTF match** and other capital construction requirements. See the summary documents below for more information.

All acquisition and restoration applicants must read and understand the following summary documents:

- ENRTF [Fee Title Acquisition Project Requirements](#)
- **UPDATED** - ENRTF [Easement Acquisition Project Requirements](#)
- ENRTF [Restoration Project Requirements](#)

Aerial maps of each of the proposed acquisition or restoration parcels must be submitted with your proposal. The maps must include location within the state and parcel boundaries. If all parcels have not yet been identified, a single map showing the approximate locations is sufficient. Further instructions on required map elements are provided in the LCCMR Proposal and Grant Management System.

A parcel list must also be included in your proposal that identifies all parcels you are considering for acquisition (fee title or easement) or restoration with the requested funds by parcel name, estimated cost, county, site significance, proposed number of acres, proposed shoreline or trail miles, type of landowner, and (if applicable) proposed title/easement holder. This list may include more parcels than you end up acquiring or restoring with the requested funds.

Guidance on Allowable Expenses

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses mean those expenses solely incurred through project activities that are directly related to and necessary for producing the project outcomes described in the proposal. All proposed expenses must be specified in the proposal submitted. Please note that for non-state organizations all funds are awarded on a reimbursement basis, unless otherwise authorized, and all eligible expenses will need to be documented. Eligible expenses are:

- a. Eligible expenditures incurred only after the effective date as approved by the LCCMR.
- b. Wages and expenses of salaried recipient employees if specified, documented, and approved. For state agencies: use of unclassified staff only OR request approval for the use of classified staff accompanied by an explanation of how the agency will backfill that part of the classified staff salary proposed to be paid for with these funds. This is subject to specific discussion and approval by the LCCMR.
- c. Fringe benefit expenses, such as FICA/Medicare, retirement, and health insurance of recipient's employees, if specified.
- d. Services and contracts (including for construction) specified in the approved work plan that are rendered by individuals or organizations not a part of the recipient; no contractor is approved unless it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the [DNR's reimbursement manual](#) for non-state organizations. These rules include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements.
- e. Sub-awards as approved in the work plan. ENRTF spending requirements and, for non-state ENRTF recipients, grant agreement requirements flow down to the sub-award recipients.
- f. Equipment, tools, materials, and supplies specific to the project and incoming freight charges for them. State procurement requirements apply and may include targeted group purchasing provisions.
- g. Capital equipment (i.e., expenditures greater than \$5,000 per unit for equipment or tools) individually itemized as capital equipment in the approved work plan. For each item, the recipient must provide an explanation of how the equipment or tool purchased will continue to be used for the same program through its useful life, or if the use changes, a commitment to pay back to the ENRTF an amount equal to either the cash value received or a residual value approved by the director of the LCCMR if it is not sold.
- h. Publication and printing/copying expenses necessary for contract administration, work products production, and semi-annual reports relating to accomplishments.
- i. In-state transportation and travel expenses, such as lodging, meals, and mileage, for employees directly involved in the project in the same manner and in no greater amount than provided for in the current "[Commissioner's Plan](#)" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget and as provided by the LCCMR or, for University of Minnesota projects, the [University of Minnesota plan](#).

Generally Ineligible Expenses—Unless Explicitly Approved

Generally ineligible expenses mean all expenses not defined as eligible expenses, but for which an explicit exception can be sought from the LCCMR if the expenses can be clearly justified and individually documented as directly related to and necessary for a project. No broad allocations for costs in either dollars or percentages are allowed. In deciding whether to seek exception for these costs consider that cash and in-kind leverage are factors considered in proposal evaluation. Generally ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- a. General operations, overhead, and other indirect expenses, including office maintenance, office utility expenses, and office materials and supplies.
- b. Office rental fees (including storage space rental).
- c. Communication expenses incurred for telephone calls, web access, postage, and similar services.
- d. Insurance, except title insurance.
- e. Attorney fees, except to acquire and clear title to land.
- f. Purchase of communication devices such as pagers, cell phones, or smart phones.
- g. Purchase of computers, tablets, or audiovisual equipment.
- h. Generally available food and refreshments.
- i. Conference attendance and associated costs and fees, except if to participate in formal presentation of project findings.
- j. Out-of-state expenses, including transportation, travel, and contracting.
- k. Transportation and travel expenses, such as lodging, meals, and mileage, for non-employees.

Prohibited Expenses

Prohibited expenses mean all expenses indicated below, including but not limited to:

- a. Any expenses incurred before the project is authorized: before July 1, 2027, or before LCCMR work plan approval—whichever is latest.
- b. Fundraising.
- c. Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services.
- d. Lobbyists or political contributions.
- e. Organization advertising and marketing expenses.
- f. Loans, grants, or subsidies to persons or entities for development.
- g. Bad debts, late payment fees, or finance charges.
- h. Interest or investment management fees.
- i. Board of directors' or officers' salaries.
- j. Merit awards and bonuses.
- k. Memberships (including subscriptions and dues).
- l. Publications, periodicals, and subscriptions.
- m. Employee workplace parking.
- n. Entertainment, decorations, gifts, and prizes.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund: MN Constitution and Statutory Expenditures

Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec. 14 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Established

A permanent environment and natural resources trust fund is established in the state treasury. The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The assets of the fund shall not be used to pay the principal or interest of any bonds. The assets of the fund shall not be used to pay for any costs related to the construction, repair, improvement, or operation of any facility or system that processes wastewater, but may be used to pay for research related to wastewater. The amount appropriated each year of a biennium, commencing on July 1 in each odd-numbered year and ending on and including June 30 in the next odd-numbered year, may be up to 7 percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium. Not less than 40 percent of the net proceeds from any state-operated lottery must be credited to the fund through December 31, 2050. [Adopted, November 8, 1988; Amended, November 6, 1990; November 3, 1998; November 5, 2024]

M.S. 116P.08 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Expenditures and Exceptions

Subdivision 1. **Expenditures.** (a) Money in the trust fund may be spent only for:

- (1) the reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in section 84.95, subd. 2;
 - (2) research that contributes to increasing the effectiveness of protecting or managing the state's environment or natural resources;
 - (3) collection and analysis of information that assists in developing the state's environmental and natural resources policies;
 - (4) enhancement of public education, awareness, and understanding necessary for the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of air, land, water, forests, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources;
 - (5) capital projects for the preservation and protection of unique natural resources;
 - (6) activities that preserve or enhance fish, wildlife, land, air, water, and other natural resources that otherwise may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state;
 - (7) administrative and investment expenses incurred by the state board of investment in investing deposits to the trust fund; and
 - (8) administrative expenses subject to the limits in section 116P.09.
- (b) In making recommendations for expenditures from the trust fund, the commission shall give priority to funding programs and projects under paragraph (a), clause (1) and (6). Any request for proposals issued by the commission shall clearly indicate these priorities.

Subdivision 2. **Exceptions.** Money from the trust fund may not be spent for:

- (1) purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response action under chapter 115C;
- (2) purposes of municipal water pollution control in municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more under the authority of chapters 115 and 116;
- (3) costs associated with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants;
- (4) hazardous waste disposal facilities;
- (5) solid waste disposal facilities;
- (6) projects or purposes inconsistent with the strategic plan; or
- (7) acquiring property by eminent domain, unless the owner requests that the owner's property be acquired by eminent domain.

How To Apply

Proposals due by March 18, 2026, at 4:30 PM

1. Register for an account on the [LCCMR Proposal and Grant Management System](#).
2. Login and click “Create a New Proposal”.
3. Follow the instructions for completing your proposal.
4. Upload your completed attachments as required:
 - A. Visual component (1 page limit) or map. Attach a map, graphic, table, photo(s), or figure to help illustrate or elaborate on your project. Land acquisition, restoration, and capital construction projects must attach maps, and the maps may be more than 1 page to show multiple parcels.
 - B. A resolution or letter from your governing board authorizing submission of the proposal, using [these templates](#). This is required for non-state entities, including non-profits, for-profits, tribes, political subdivisions, and federal agencies. University of Minnesota entities may use their own template.
 - C. Documents described under the Financial Capacity requirements on page 8.
 - D. If you will have a third-party (external) fiscal agent, a letter or resolution from your fiscal agent acknowledging acceptance of the fiscal agent role for your project, using [these templates](#).
 - E. A completed [Capital Construction Project Questionnaire](#) and [Budget Addendum](#) for proposals for predesign, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other long-lived (10 years or more) fixed asset costing \$10,000 or more, including largescale stream or wetland restoration, or for land acquisitions for purposes of capital construction.
5. Review all information and attachments.
6. Click “Submit”.
7. Save or print the confirmation email. Please check your junk mail folder if the confirmation email does not appear in your inbox. Contact the LCCMR if you do not receive a confirmation email or if your proposal status does not appear as “Final Submitted” on your dashboard.

Additional Resources and Questions

Visit our [2027 Proposal & Funding Process page](#) for additional resources to assist you with completing your proposal and to follow along with the 2027 funding process. This page also provides guidance on how to submit questions and request meetings to discuss your draft proposal.