



Authorization To Apply For Minnesota Department Of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Funds

Niki Geisler, Parks Director
Parks Department

Grant Program Overview



Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) program

- Administer by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- \$11,100,000 in CPL funds available for fiscal year 2027

Grant Program Timeline

- August 1, 2026: Request for Proposals releases
- September 15, 2026: Application deadline
- December 30, 2026: Grant awards announced
- June 30, 2030: Project completion deadline

A History of Successful Applications

- 16 grants awarded to Dakota County from the CPL program
- \$2,955,000 in grant dollars awarded
- Nearly 1,000 acres restored

Applications



Natural Area Maintenance and Enhancement

- Parks System-wide, 2027 through 2029
- Offsets anticipated reductions to Natural Resources' Environmental Legacy Fund budget
- Prescribed burning, overseeding, haying, maintenance, etc.

Big Rivers Regional Trailhead

- Remove invasive shrubs while improving sightlines and addressing public safety concerns
- 11 acres of oak savanna and oak woodland

Grant Match

- 10% required match will be met with in-kind staff and volunteer time, greenhouse-grown plants

Board Action Request



Staff requests Board authorization to apply for two CPL grants for fiscal year 2027:

- Natural Area Enhancement: Up to \$500,000
- Big Rivers Regional Trailhead Restoration: Up to \$150,000