

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

2026 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 \$103 million is available from the Trust Fund through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2026. Most projects funded are two to three years in duration. Proposals must be submitted online at lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn by March 19, 2025.

Funding Available

Approximately \$103 million is available through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2026. 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 2026 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). Most projects are two to three years long, however more or less time can be requested.

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 be available for 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 19, 2025, 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 12/11/2024

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LCCMR Staff

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Tiffany Schaufler, *Project Analyst and Grants Specialist*

Diana Griffith, *Commission Assistant*

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

December 11, 2024	Funding priorities determined and 2026 RFP adopted.
January 8, 2025	2026 RFP issued.
March 19, 2025	Final submission deadline for proposals responding to 2026 RFP.
Early May 2025	All submitted proposals distributed to LCCMR members for review, evaluation, and ranking.
June 11, 2025	A subset of high-ranking proposals selected for further consideration are invited to give presentations before the LCCMR.
June 24-27, June 30-July 1, 2025	Selected proposals present before the LCCMR.
July 18, 2025	Subset of proposals selected for recommendation to the Legislature for funding.
August–November 2025	Projects recommended for funding begin submitting work plans for LCCMR staff review, and research projects recommended for funding undergo peer review.
December 10, 2025	Funding recommendations are adopted by the LCCMR in legislative bill format, as they will be presented to the Legislature.
January–May 2026	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 2026	LCCMR approves work plans for projects funded.
July 2026	Minnesota DNR sends grant agreements to non-state entities receiving ENRTF funds.
July 1, 2026	Money from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund becomes available for expenditure, and projects with an approved work plan may begin.

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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2026 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 7-8) 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. Support the development of local climate resiliency and adaptation plans for natural resources.
4. 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.

2026 Funding Priorities (Continued)

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.
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.

2026 Funding Priorities (Continued)

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.

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.

2026 Funding Priorities (Continued)

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. Foster collaboration among diverse groups, demonstrate the support of multiple stakeholders, and/or incorporate outreach to local and tribal communities to better protect lands.

G. Small Projects

The LCCMR seeks and encourages proposals for small 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.

Funding May Be Available Through Other Programs

Projects eligible for established, topic-specific state agency grant programs—such as for renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, clean water implementation, regional and local parks and trails, and habitat acquisition and restoration—are encouraged to apply directly to the particular state agency grant program as funds may be available in a timelier manner. You can find more information about other state grant opportunities at mn.gov/grants/.

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 business entities, 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 applicants

- Most recent IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ filed with the IRS.
- If exempt from 990 requirements: demonstration of exemption and your most recent board-reviewed financial statements.
- Most recent audit report performed by an independent third party in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (if required; see [current non-profit audit revenue thresholds](#)).
- Evidence of good standing with the Secretary of State.

For-profit applicants

- Your most recent federal and state tax returns filed with the IRS. This information will be considered non-public data.
- If exempt from tax return requirements: demonstration of exemption and your most recent board-reviewed financial statements.
- Evidence of good standing with the Secretary of State.
- Disclosure of any liens on assets.

Political subdivision applicants

- Current financial statements.
- Most recent audit report performed by an independent third party in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (if required; see [current political subdivision audit revenue thresholds](#)).

Additional Requirements for Capital Construction Projects

All applicants requesting funds for pre-design, 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 map must be submitted with your proposal. The map must include north arrow and scale and show what will be constructed and its location within the city, county, region, and/or state.

Please be aware that if the Commission determines that readiness is not sufficiently demonstrated, it may recommend funding only the planning, pre-design, 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 passed into law in 2023. 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](#)
- ENRTF [Easement Acquisition Project Requirements](#)
- **UPDATED** - ENRTF [Restoration Project Requirements](#)

A map must be submitted with your proposal that shows each of the specific proposed parcels for acquisition or restoration within the city, county, region, and/or state. The map must include a north arrow and scale. Each parcel does not need to be on its own map, but specific site locations must be understandable if more than one parcel is included on the same map.

A parcel list must also be provided with your proposal that identifies proposed fee title and easement acquisitions and restorations by parcel name, estimated cost, county, site significance, activity description, proposed number of acres, proposed shoreline or trail miles, type of landowner, and proposed title/easement holder (if applicable).

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.

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 expenditures (i.e., expenditures greater than \$5,000 per unit for equipment or tools) individually itemized as a Capital Expenditure in the approved Work Plan. For each Capital Expenditure, the Recipient must provide an explanation as to 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 of personnel 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](#). Allowable meal and

lodging expenses are for employees only. Purchasing meals or providing lodging for others is not an eligible expense.

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, except if explicitly approved for certain types of events.
- i. Conference attendance and associated costs and fees, except if to participate in formal presentation of project findings.
- j. Out-of-state transportation and travel expenses.

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, 2026, 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, finance charges, or contingency funds.
- 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 19, 2025 at 4:30PM

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 or map (1 page limit)
 - B. Use [these templates](#) to obtain a resolution or letter from your governing board authorizing submission of the proposal. 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. The templates may also be found on the [2026 Proposal & Funding Process page](#).
 - C. Documents described under the Financial Capacity requirements on page 7.
 - D. If you will have a third-party (external) fiscal agent, use [these templates](#) to obtain a letter or resolution from your fiscal agent acknowledging acceptance of the fiscal agent role for your project . The templates may also be found on the [2026 Proposal & Funding Process page](#).
 - E. A completed [Capital Construction Project Questionnaire](#) and [Budget Addendum](#) for proposals for pre-design, 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.

Visit our [2026 Proposal & Funding Process page](#) for additional resources to assist you with completing your proposal and to follow along with the 2026 funding process.