



Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

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Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL)

- Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment
- Legislation requires a conservation partners program to encourage and support local conservation efforts.
 - To provide matching grants for restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife
 - Funding comes from sales tax



*Goats Clearing Invasive Buckthorn at Lake Elmo Park Reserve
Project by: Washington County*

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How are CPL Grants Organized?

• Metro, Traditional, New Applicant Grants

- Larger grants: \$5000-\$500,000
- Up to two grant cycles
- Private Land Allowed (under permanent conservation easement)
- Acquisitions Allowed
- Open-ended habitat projects

• Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP)

- Smaller grants: \$5000-\$50,000
- Up to five grant cycles
- Public land only
- No acquisitions
- Limited to list of specific activities

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Traditional and Metro Cycles

- Grant requests \$5,000- \$500,000
- Total project cost cannot exceed \$1 Million
- Metro projects must occur within the 7-county metro area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott & Washington) or within the city limits of Duluth, St. Cloud or Rochester



*A newly restored prairie bordering Rattlesnake Bluff at Frontenac State Park.
Project by: Minnesota Land Trust*

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NEW FOR FY2024: New Applicant Round

- Grant requests \$5,000- \$500,000
- Total project cost cannot exceed \$1 Million
- Restoration, enhancement, or acquisition projects
- Only applicants who have never received CPL or Outdoor Heritage Funds funds are eligible.



*Diversity tree planting in response to Emerald Ash Borer.
Project by: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe*

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Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP)

- Restoration or Enhancement projects only
- \$5000-\$50,000
- Quick evaluation and award period
- Only certain projects covered.
 - Projects determined by habitat type.



*First flowers in bloom at a newly restored prairie.
Project by: Three Rivers Park District*

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Match Requirements

- What is match?
 - Cash, goods, or services provided by the grantee to the project.
 - Cash Match:
 - Payments towards habitat work
 - In-Kind Match:
 - Volunteer hours
 - Equipment use/rental
 - Value assigned to goods

10% of Grant Award Required



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Eligibility Requirements

- Only nonprofit organizations and government agencies may apply
- Projects must be on permanently protected lands
- Individuals are not eligible
- Partnerships are encouraged!



*New prairie growth in spring at a large restoration site.
Project by: Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc.*

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Timelines

- Online Application System
 - System opens August 1st
- Traditional, Metro, and New Applicant
 - Awards announced in early December
 - Contracts set up December/January
- Expedited Conservation Projects
 - Open continuously, funds awarded every other month, up to 5 rounds
 - Awards announced 4 weeks after round closes
- Up to 3 years to complete projects www.mndnr.gov/cpl



*A hilltop savanna cleared of invasive buckthorn.
Project by: City of St. Paul*

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Timelines

- Traditional, Metro, New Applicant
 - Technical Review Committee
 - DNR Division Directors
 - DNR Commissioners
 - ~6 Month Process
- Expedited Conservation Projects
 - DNR Habitat Team
 - Fish and Wildlife Division Director
 - ~2 Month Process



*A den found at a newly restored site.
Project by: Pheasants Forever*

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Evaluation Criteria

- Overall Project Value- habitat quality/quantity
- Applicant Performance- local support, collaboration, previous grant performance
- Project Benefits- habitat benefits
- Public Benefits- public access
- Financial Assessment- cost effectiveness, budget
- Urgency

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CPL 2024 Results

- **New Applicant Round:**
 - \$3 Million Available
 - 12 Applicants; \$3,165,747 in requests
 - 8 Grantees Funded
- **Metro Round:**
 - \$2.5 Million Available
 - 12 Applicants; \$4,196,230 in requests
 - 8 Grantees Funded
- **Statewide Round:**
 - \$2.5 Million Available
 - 10 Applicants; \$3,396,605 in requests
 - 8 Grantees Funded
- **Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP):**
 - \$1 Million Available
 - 33 Applicants (3 New); \$1,309,447 in requests after 3 rounds.
 - 24 Grantees Funded

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Looking Ahead at FY 2025

- \$15,000,000 allocation from LSOHC
 - \$4,400,000 for Traditional Statewide Applicants
 - \$4,000,000 for New Applicants
 - \$4,000,000 for Metro Applicants
 - \$2,000,000 for Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP)
 - \$600,000 for Administrative Costs

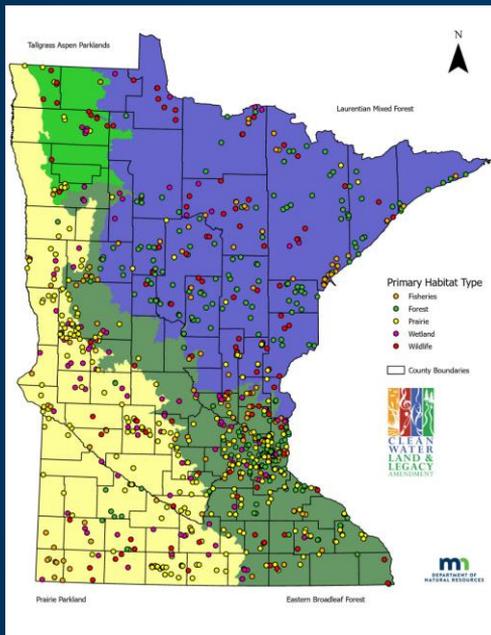
Goal for 2025: At least 90 applications

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CPL projects 2010-2024

- **Over 1000 Projects** have been funded through CPL.
- **Over 260 Organizations** have partnered with CPL to get projects funded.
- **Over 585,000 acres** of habitat have been restored, enhanced or protected through the CPL program.

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Thank You!

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