



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Water Resources Restoration Fund Application

Grant Program Information

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) aims to work cooperatively with local government units (LGUs) on issues affecting LMRWD resources and share costs on projects that protect or enhance these resources.

The Water Resources Restoration Fund is a program that funds projects sponsored by LGUs that:

- reduce urban nonpoint source pollution;
- improve and protect groundwater quality; and
- promote surveys and studies of wetland (particularly calcareous fen) health and management

The LMRWD aims to undertake projects jointly with LGUs and will place higher priority on funding projects that are identified in the LMRWD Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and in LGU implementation plans (e.g., comprehensive plans or surface water management plans).

Projects for consideration are those that benefit river navigation, protect high value resource areas¹ and steep slopes², address erosion and sediment control, grant public access, and promote public enjoyment of resources within the LMRWD. Projects should also have a quantifiable benefit (i.e.: pollutant reduction, stormwater volume reduction, water quality improvement, stream habitat assessments, bank stability indexes, etc.). Targeted projects to receive funding are those that align with the LMRWD goals and strategies as mentioned in the LMRWD WMP.

The LMRWD has up to **\$100,000 per fiscal year** as part of the **Water Resources Restoration Fund** as outlined in the LMRWD WMP Implementation Program Budget. Funds are awarded up to **25% of a project's cost** on a reimbursement basis for project implementation. The LMRWD will award up to 25% of the lesser of the engineer's cost estimate or bided construction cost the project. Funds can be used for project materials, labor, engineering, or consulting fees.

Eligibility:

- Project must be in the LMRWD (see [LMRWD Map](#)).
- Project must be sponsored by an LGU.
- Projects must meet or exceed minimum regulatory requirements.
- Projects must obtain all applicable federal, state, and local permits.
- Funding will not be awarded for projects to meet existing regulatory requirements. Funding may be awarded for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that will provide water resource benefits beyond permit requirements.

¹ High value resource areas (HVRA) are a portion of land (or watershed) that contributes direct surface runoff to a trout water and/or calcareous fen within the LMRWD.

² Steep slopes are a natural topographic feature that have an average slope of 18% or greater measured over a horizontal distance of 25 feet or more.

The following examples are eligible projects that meet the LMRWD goals; however, this list is not comprehensive.

Reduce Urban nonpoint pollution:

- Gully (ravine) stabilization projects
- Streambank stabilization projects
- Reducing discharge over the steep slopes overlay district (SSOD)
- Stormwater management to reduce pollutants such as total phosphorus and total suspended solids
- Ecological restoration projects
- Stormwater capture and reuse projects
- Shoreline restoration projects

Improve Groundwater quality:

- Chloride management and reduction projects
- Projects promoting groundwater recharge
- Projects improving water quality and increase the capacity of the soils to store or infiltrate water

Promote surveys and studies of wetland health and management:

- High value resource management plans or studies (trout stream, calcareous fens, steep slopes)
- Wetland habitat projects that preserve, protect, and restore native plant and wildlife habits
- Resource monitoring of groundwater levels or water quality
- Educational campaigns promoting high value resource management and awareness
- Vegetation management studies to reintroduce native plants, control invasive plant species, and improve wildlife habit

Application Information

Deadlines:

Submit a complete application and all required information by Friday, February 28, 2025.

Application Status:

The LMRWD will provide the following email notifications to grant applicants updating them on their grant application status during the review process:

1. Acknowledgement of receipt of application email (within 2 business days of application submittal)
2. Proposed funding recommendation email (15 business days before the LMRWD Board Meeting where recommended projects will be considered)
3. Approved recommendation/next steps email (within 2 business days after approval at LMRWD Board Meeting)