

Memo

Prepared by District Administrator (Will Lytle)

Time/Date: 7:00pm, June 18th, 2025



Grant Correspondence

We Are Water MN traveling exhibit in 2026!

Deadline: July 12, 2025

[We Are Water MN](#) is a traveling exhibit and community engagement initiative. Interactive displays share messages about water through personal narratives, historical materials, and scientific information. Public programming builds community relationships with and responsibilities to water. The program is looking for organizations to join us in this work by hosting the exhibit. More information about program structure and the application process are posted on [the project webpage](#). Applications are due July 12, 2025, for a planning and hosting period that runs from October 2025 to December 2026.

In 2026, We Are Water MN will join the Mississippi Centennial Celebration: Sacred Water, Shared Future. This initiative honors the Mississippi River and its amazing recovery since 1926, when the first water quality survey of the river found a nearly dead ecosystem with only three live fish in 50 miles of river. To this end, we may give special consideration to applications from communities situated on the Mississippi River or its tributaries—but ALL communities are always welcome to apply!

We are Water MN is led by the Minnesota Humanities Center and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society; the Board of Water and Soil Resources; the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources; and University of Minnesota Extension. The program is funded, in part, with money from the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Fund and by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Application period now open for Spring 2026 Lawns to Legumes Grants

Contact: Mary Juhl; mary.juhl@state.mn.us, 612-358-5733

June 16, 2025

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Anyone who lives in Minnesota and has an outdoor space for planting is eligible to [apply](#) for a spring 2026 Lawns to Legumes grant.

The Lawns to Legumes program aims to increase habitat for at-risk pollinators in residential settings across the state by providing reimbursement-based funding, workshops, coaching and gardening resources. People who live in Minnesota and have a yard, deck, or other outdoor space for planting can apply to be reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with establishing new pollinator habitat. The program is available to both Minnesota homeowners and renters.

HOW TO APPLY: Lawns to Legumes is administered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in partnership with Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water. [Apply for spring 2026 grants on the Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water’s website.](#)

“Lawns to Legumes allows Minnesotans to take a hands-on approach to protecting at-risk pollinator populations,” said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. “Even small plantings in yards or boulevards make a difference for Minnesota’s pollinators.”

Applications will be accepted through Nov. 30. If you previously applied for the program and did not receive an award, you will need to reapply to be considered for spring 2026 funding.

More than 10,000 residential habitat projects across all 87 Minnesota counties have been completed since the program launched in 2019. Lawns to Legumes also shares [online resources](#) such as gardening templates, habitat guides, and advice about selecting native plants for all Minnesotans interested in creating pollinator habitat in their yards. The state’s general fund supports Lawns to Legumes.

For more information about Lawns to Legumes, visit BWSR’s [website](#).

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LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT

The Administrator recommends that the Board authorize staff to (1) circulate the “We Are Water MN” and “Lawns to Legumes Grants” call for applications to the LMRWD’s distribution list and (2) provide letters of support, as requested, for eligible watershed partners applying to host the activities in 2026.