

**Grant Program Requirements:
Pollinator Pathways Grant Program**

Match

A non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of the grant received is required. Match can be provided by landowners, land occupiers, private organizations, local governments, or other non-state sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind for services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives. Funds used for match for this program cannot be used as match for any other state grant program.

Grant Work Plan

A work plan shall be developed in eLINK and must be approved before execution of the grant agreement. The work plan shall reflect each eligible activity that will be implemented, a description of the anticipated activity outcomes or accomplishments, and grant funding amounts to accomplish each of the activities.

Eligible Activities and Expenses

The primary purpose of activities funded through this program is to promote native plantings that establish key corridors for at-risk* pollinators and establishing habitat for benefitting pollinators at scales from local neighborhoods to across watersheds. This will be achieved through efforts to establish habitat and educating Minnesotans about pollinators within pollinator corridors/pathways and building overall interest in ecological landscaping. This program is intended to fund pollinator plantings and to inspire and guide DIY projects.

** A plant or animal is considered "at-risk" when; It is proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, It is a candidate species for listing; or It has been petitioned by a third party for listing; or It's populations are rare, declining, or may be vulnerable to decline Find a list of [At-Risk Pollinator Species](#) on the Lawns to Legumes Partners webpage.*

Eligible activities can consist of:

- **Project development and public outreach** activities which will directly support or supplement the goals and outcomes of the work plan such as civic engagement: public outreach; initial contacts, action, and activities with landowners/residents and/or partners; preliminary information gathering, conservation marketing or other activities.
- **Establishment of pollinator habitat projects** such as planting beneficial trees and shrubs, pollinator lawns, pollinator meadows, native pocket planting, container planting on impervious surfaces (pavement, rooftops, apartment decks etc.) that are no greater than 5 ac. in size.
 - Eligible project expense include:
 1. **MN Native Plants and Seeds** includes insecticide/neonicotinoid free flowers/forbs, bare root plants, grasses and sedges, trees and shrubs, and seeds.
 2. **Project expenses** including biodegradable weed suppression mulch (non-dyed preferred), compost, fencing or other herbivores portion materials, signage, equipment rental fees, and delivery fees), contractor installation and/or maintenance of project.
- **Program and project support:** education, outreach, marketing, staff time.
- **Education:** development and implementation of conservation education activities and programs such as workshops, clinics, publications, websites, presentations, fairs, etc.
- **Supplies/Equipment:** acquisition of equipment (hand sod kicker, hand shovels, hand rakes and trowels, watering tree gator) or supplies.
- **Administration/Coordination:** staff time for grant administration
- **Technical and engineering assistance** necessary to implement grant activities associated with technical site assessment, surveys, preliminary analysis and design, final design construction supervision, installation, inspection, and completion of projects.

Eligible expenses are those expenses solely incurred through project activities that are directly related to and necessary for producing the project outcomes described in the work plan. Grantee is required to account for the staff time charged to BWSR grants in order to track the expenditure of grant funds and match to ensure the use of the funds is consistent with applicable State and BWSR requirements. Costs that are unallowable to be charged to BWSR grants include but are not limited to:

- Bad debts, late payment fees, and investment management fees
- Donations, fundraising, sponsorships, and acknowledgements
- Entertainment, gifts, prizes, and decorations
- Alcohol
- Interest on loans not authorized under state statute
- Loans of BWSR grant funds
- Lobbying, lobbyists, and political contributions
- Merit awards and bonuses

Requirements for Implementing Conservation Projects

1. **Effective Life.** The effective lifespan of projects must be defined by current and acceptable design standards or criteria for no less than 5 years. The beginning date for a practice's effective life is the same date final payment is approved and the project is considered complete.
2. **Project Assurances.** The grantee must provide assurances that installed conservation practices and projects meet the purposes of the grant program, will remain in place for the lifespan expected based on the standard or professionally accepted practice, and will provide quality benefits for which they were designed. Such assurances may include easements, deed recordings, enforceable contracts, performance bonds, letters of credit, and termination or performance penalties. BWSR may allow replacement of a practice or project that does not comply with expected lifespan requirements with a practice or project that provides equivalent benefits.
3. **Operation, Maintenance, and Inspections.** All practice designs must include identification of operation and maintenance activities specific to the installed practices. An [operation and maintenance](#) plan is critical to ongoing performance of installed practices as well as to planning and scheduling those activities and must be prepared by designated technical staff for the life of the practice. An inspection schedule, procedure, and assured access to the practice site shall be included in the project file as a component of maintaining the effectiveness of the practice.
4. **Permitting.** The grantee is responsible for obtaining and complying with all permits necessary to execute the project. If applicable, grantee will be required to provide sufficient documentation prior to work plan approval that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary federal, state, and local permits and meets all water quality rules, including those that apply to the utilization of an existing water body as a water quality treatment device.

Implementing Contracts with Land Occupiers

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) (GAM) Chapter: Implementing Contracts with Land Occupiers.

Program and Project Support

Eligible activities include public education and engagement, equipment, and other activities necessary for the implementation of pollinator conservation practices and programs consistent with the purposes of these funds. Project support expenditures must be appropriately documented.

Technical and Engineering Assistance

Eligible activities include but are not limited to development of project plans and specifications necessary to

implement activities. Eligible activities include actual technical and engineering expenses to advance plan implementation, site investigations and assessments, design and cost estimates, construction or installation supervision, and inspections.

Grant Management and Reporting

Eligible activities include local grant administration, management, and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity associated with the grant. Grantee is required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments.

Grants Administration Manual Requirements

For questions regarding Grants Administration Manual requirements, grantee should consult their assigned Grant Manager.