

Climate Resiliency: Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program

2023 Proposed Funding

BWSR is requesting **\$4 million** from the general fund to support the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP). This program provides financial and technical assistance to establish or enhance areas of diverse native vegetation to support declining populations of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, birds and other wildlife species essential for ecosystems and food production across conservation lands, open spaces and natural areas and provide additional benefits for carbon sequestration, water quality improvement and landscape resiliency.

Program summary

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) launched the HELP pilot program in November 2021 after receiving \$750,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The program offers cost-share grants for projects on lands that are a priority for the protection of endangered or threatened pollinators and other wildlife species. Eligible lands include existing natural areas, conservation plantings and open spaces.

Current eligible applicants include soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations and counties; grant opportunities may be expanded to additional organization types in the future.

Contact

John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director
John.jaschke@state.mn.us
(612) 202-3815

Andrea Fish, BWSR Assistant Director
Andrea.fish@state.mn.us
(612) 616-5112



Top: Cottonwood SWCD program technician and Farm Bill assistant Becky Buchholz completed a survey on a conservation easement in summer 2022. **Photo credit:** Cottonwood SWCD

Bottom: Native vegetation is planted into a lakeshore. **Photo Credit:** BWSR

