

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Agencies and Programs

The following list of Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources agencies and programs is focused on agencies that serve the State of MN and the NE Arrowhead region. At the bottom of the list, please also find links to County and local agencies and programs. Please feel free to contact Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) Regional Planning Division with questions about any of the following programs. Phone: 218-722-5545 www.arrowheadplanning.org

This list of agencies and programs was developed in 2014-15 and is subject to change. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources include the following topic areas. This list is intended to provide current agencies and programs relevant to the following topic areas.

- Agriculture is the science, art, or occupation concerned with producing food including:
 - Cultivating land
 - Vegetable and fruit gardening
 - Raising crops
 - Feeding, breeding, and raising livestock
- Natural resources include:
 - Public Land
 - Forests
 - Mineral deposits
 - Water (lakes, rivers, and aquifers)
- Cultural resources include:
 - Archaeology
 - Architecture (historic buildings, theater, museum, etc.)
 - Paintings and sculptures
 - Folklore, community events
 - Interpretative arts such as storytelling, music and drama.

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

- **Film Production Incentive** - <http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/film-production.jsp>
Our Film Production Incentive grant program supports productions which create jobs and result in economic impact in the IRRRB service area. Contact: Mary Somnis, 218-735-3040, Mary.Somnis@state.mn.us
- **Culture and Tourism Grant** - <http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/culture-tourism.jsp> The Culture and Tourism Grant Program assists non-profits in supporting projects that stimulate tourism, enrich communities and generate economic impact through arts, culture, heritage and recreational activities within the IRRRB service area. Contact: Mary Somnis, 218-735-3040, Mary.Somnis@state.mn.us
- **Mining Impact Grant** - http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/mining_impact.jsp
Mining and its support businesses are the economic drivers for Northeastern Minnesota. The activities associated with mining, such as mineral exploration, development, extraction, and processing, have an impact on our daily lives. The Mining Impact Grant is a newly funded IRRRB

Program to proactively identify existing or potential mining influences on the region's communities. Dan Jordan, 218-274-7007, Dan.Jordan@state.mn.us

- **LVP Innovation Grant** - <http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/innovation-program.jsp> The Laurentian Vision Partnership Innovation Grant Program assists cities, townships, mining companies or joint powers boards with projects to promote the LVP vision and mission of "transforming pits and piles to living lakes and landscapes...our legacy for the future" within the IRRRB service area.

MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF):

<http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/>

The purpose of the ENRTF is to provide a long-term, consistent, and stable source of funding for activities that protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's "air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources" for the benefit of current citizens and future generations.

Grants in the following categories:

- Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information
- Water Resources
- Environmental Education
- Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species
- Air Quality, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy
- Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat
- Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation
- Administration and Contract Agreement Reimbursement

Minnesota Green Step Cities Initiative

<http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bestPractices.cfm>

During fall 2007, Minnesota's Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) held regional listening sessions around the state to discuss community-based energy opportunities and the state's Next Generation Energy Act of 2007. The idea was raised of creating a sustainable cities program, free to cities, that would challenge, assist and recognize cities that were "green stars." This idea was taken up by the 2008 Legislature, which directed the MPCA, the Division of Energy Resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and CERTs to recommend actions cities could take on a voluntary basis.

Topic Areas

1. Economic and Community Development
 - a. Benchmarks & Community Engagement: Adopt outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and engage community members in ongoing education, dialogue, and campaigns.
 - b. Green Business Development: Support expansion of the city's green business sector.
 - c. Renewable Energy: Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.
 - d. Local Food: Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.
 - e. Business Synergies: Network/cluster businesses to achieve better energy, economic and environmental outcomes.

David Larson, Landscape Architect, Office of Environmental Stewardship, MN Dept. of Transportation:
651/366-4637

Minnesota's Legacy

Opportunities for funding in the following categories: <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/opportunities-funding>

- Arts & Cultural Heritage Funding:
 - Children's Museum Grants (Minnesota Humanities Center)
 - Civic Education Grants (Minnesota Humanities Center)
 - Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization Grants (Indian Affairs Council)
 - Minnesota Filmmakers Legacy Grant Fund
 - Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program (Minnesota Historical Society)
 - Minnesota State Arts Board Grants (Minnesota State Arts Board)
 - Public Radio Grants (Minnesota Department of Administration)
 - Small Theatre Grants (Minnesota Department of Administration)
 - Veterans Memorial Park Grants (Minnesota Department of Administration)
- Environment & Natural Resources
 - Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) LCCMR 2015 Request for Proposals
- Outdoor Heritage
 - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program
 - Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Request for Funding

MN Department of Natural Resources

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act was enacted by Congress in 1964 "to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States" through planning, acquisition, and development of land and water outdoor recreation facilities. To be eligible for funding, each state must prepare a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) that identifies recreation issues of statewide importance and the actions the state will take to address them. These plans must be updated every five years. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/lawcon/index.html> Grants Manager: Joe Hiller, Phone: 651-259-5538, Joe.Hiller@state.mn.us

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html>

The Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program funds conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. Funding for the CPL grant program is from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, created by the people of Minnesota.

Outdoor Recreation Grant Program

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/outdoor_rec.html

Program purpose: To increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks throughout the state. This program is established in Minnesota Statutes 85.019.

How it works: Provides matching grants to local units of government for up to 50% of the cost of acquisition, development and/or redevelopment of local parks and recreation areas.

Local Trail Connections Program

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_local.html

Program purpose: To provide grants to local units of government to promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations, not to develop significant new trails.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) Prevention Grant Program

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/aq_inv_prevention_public_awareness.html

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Invasive Species Program offers Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Grants to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), especially zebra mussels and spiny waterfleas, into Minnesota waters. These grants offer an opportunity for local entities, such as lake associations, COLAs (Coalitions of Lake Associations), tribal organizations, watershed districts, and counties to partner with the DNR and receive state funding for public awareness initiatives.

Natural resources education

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/education/index.html>

2015 Watercraft Inspections by DNR Staff

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/watercraft_inspections.html

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Invasive Species Program is offering grants for watercraft inspections by DNR staff in 2015. These grants are intended to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, especially zebra mussels, into Minnesota waters.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Grant Programs

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/grants/grants.aspx>

- Biomass Thermal Energy Grant Program – awards will be for installation of certain wood-burning systems designed to produce thermal energy in regions of the state that cannot access natural gas.
- Crop Research Grant Program – funds for applied crop research that will improve agricultural product quality, quantity, and/or value and create public, transferable information with near term benefits for Minnesota farmers and the state's economy.
- County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grant - awarded to Minnesota's county fairs to fund projects and programs to enhance arts access and education and to preserve and promote Minnesota's history and cultural heritage

- Forest Protection Reserve Appropriation - grants to aid municipalities and organizations in preparing for new infestations of emerald ash borer or to respond to existing infestations of the invasive insect pest.
- Specialty Crop Grants - grants to help specialty crop growers in Minnesota remain competitive in the marketplace.
- Livestock Investment Grant - grants awarded to persons or entities who raise livestock in Minnesota, for the purposes of improving or expanding livestock production in Minnesota.
- Minnesota Farm to School Grant Program - supports Minnesota school districts in the processing of Minnesota agricultural products.
- Value Added Grant Program – supports Minnesota agricultural producers and processors to expand markets for Minnesota products.
- Ag Literacy Grant - offers cash awards to help educators more effectively integrate agriculture and the food system into their curriculum.
- Dairy Business Planning Grant - encourages dairy business planning and modernization activities of Minnesota dairy farms.
- Dairy Profitability & Enhancement Teams - for producers who are looking to make some changes in their operations.
- Sustainable Agriculture Grant - awarded to innovative, promising and worthwhile demonstrations of sustainable agricultural methods or systems in Minnesota.

Minnesota Department of Education

Grants Management Directory

<https://w1.education.state.mn.us/EGMS/index.do>

The Grants Management Directory provides all information about competitive and formula grants available through the Minnesota Department of Education in a centralized publically available location. You can view current or open grant opportunities that are accepting applications, search for a specific grant, view awarded grants or view closed grants that are now archived.

Minnesota Department of Health

Grant and Loan Information

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/grants/index.html>

The purpose of this website is to provide access to information about grants and loans available through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Grant programs are offered for: Rural health | Health IT | Health workforce training | Emergency preparedness | Primary care | Health disparities | Health promotion | Family planning | Maternal and child health | Prevention | Environmental health.

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Grants and RFPs

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_000102

The Department of Human Services offers a wide variety of grant programs for: Chemical health | Deaf and hard of hearing | Adult mental health | Aging adult services | Disability services | Health care | HIV/AIDS services | Children's mental health | Compulsive gambling | Refugee services | Family and children's services | Food support | Child development | Adoption | Child care | Child safety and permanency | Limited English proficiency programs.

Minnesota Department of Administration

Competitive Grant Opportunities

<http://www.mn.gov/admin/government/grants/arts-cultural-heritage-fund/competitive-grants/>

The Department of Administration posts opportunities for competitive grants throughout each fiscal year. These competitive grants are awarded through an application process to applicants that most closely meet the selection criteria. Current categories:

- Public Radio Grants
- Small Theatre Grants
- Veterans Memorial Parks

Minnesota Film and TV

Incentives

<https://mnfilmtv.org/incentives/>

Minnesota Historical Society – Grants

<http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/grants/>

The Minnesota Historical Society has grant programs available to provide support for individuals, organizations and agencies for historical research, historic preservation, and projects to preserve and interpret Minnesota's history.

Minnesota State Arts Board

<http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/artists.htm>

- Arts Access—Project grants to help arts organizations identify underserved groups or communities, identify the barriers that keep them from engaging in the arts, and develop and implement strategies to reduce or eliminate the barriers.
- Arts Learning—Project grants to provide opportunities for lifelong learners to acquire knowledge and understanding of and skills in the arts.
- Arts Tour Minnesota—Project grants to support touring performances, exhibitions, and other related arts activities throughout the state.
- Community Arts Schools and Conservatories—Operating support grants to organizations that provide open access to arts learning opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Cultural Community Partnership—Project grants, to enhance the careers of individual artists of color. Artists, at any stage in their career, can apply for a grant to help support a collaborative project.

- Folk and Traditional Arts—Project grants to support the artistic traditions and customs practiced within community and/or cultural groups by identifying, documenting, preserving, presenting, and honoring Minnesota's folk arts and traditions.
- Minnesota Festival Support—Project grants to engage Minnesotans in festivals that celebrate the arts, build community, and expose communities to diverse art forms including folk and traditional arts.
- Operating Support—This program provides general operating support to high quality, established arts organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art; to nonprofit organizations that provide a broad range of services to artists; and to community arts schools and conservatories that make arts learning available to Minnesotans of all ages and abilities.
- Partners in Arts Participation—Project grants to human service organizations to enable people of all abilities, economic backgrounds, cultural heritages, and geographic areas to participate in the arts.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD)

Minnesota regional offices: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/MN-Community%20Programs.html>

Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loans, grants and loan guarantees

- Essential buildings: schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, food shelves, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings,
- Transportation, fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, utility vehicles, emergency response equipment and necessary equipment to improve a public facility, weather sirens

US Environmental Protection Agency

Clean Water Fund

Funding for: Water quality monitoring, Watershed restoration and protection strategies and applied research and tool development, Protection and restoration, Groundwater assessment and SSTS - Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems. <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/clean-water-fund/index.html>

Watershed project funding

Funding opportunities for watershed projects around the state are available through federal and state funds. <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/minnesota-watershed-project-funding-system.html>

Green Infrastructure <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm>

Green infrastructure first emerged as an alternative approach to stormwater management in the early 1990s. Since then, stormwater professionals have accumulated an extensive body of knowledge on the design of green infrastructure practices that improve the triple bottom line, and on the development of policies that support this approach.

Case studies of Green Infrastructure at:

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm#tabs-3>

Green Infrastructure Benefits

- Reduction in combined sewer overflows, urban heat island reduction, air quality improvements, mitigate flooding, stormwater maintenance, stream restoration, air quality improvement, groundwater recharge, improved/maintained water quality of local water bodies.

Green Infrastructure Techniques <http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/tribal-CWA-workshop/docs/ProtectingWaterQualityWithLID.pdf>

- Urban tree canopy and vegetation, green roof, green alleys, bioswale, rain gardens, permeable pavement, native woodland garden, rain barrels, stormwater park

Green Communities

Tools and information on the best strategies, programs and policies to reduce your environmental footprint. 5-step environmental planning framework. <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm>

Natural Infrastructure Planning

http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/natural_infrastructure_planning.htm

Resource management programs

Helping providers and consumers of waste management services improve profitability and conserve resources. <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/preventing-waste-and-pollution/waste-reduction/resource-management-programs.html>

Waste Reduction and Recycling Program

Businesses are always seeking ways to increase competitiveness and boost productivity. One way to cut costs is to use resources more efficiently and preventing waste and pollution.

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/preventing-waste-and-pollution/waste-reduction/waste-reduction.html>

MN Waste Score Report

Information on solid waste disposal trends.

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/data/score/recycling-in-minnesota-the-score-report.html>

Library Programs

Arrowhead Library System

Library services for patrons, librarians, and staff. <http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us/>

MN Department of Education

Division staff are consultants who help libraries to plan, develop and implement high-quality services that address community needs. State Library Services administers federal grant, state aid, and state grant programs that benefit all types of libraries.

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/Lib/StateLibServ/>

US Institute of Museum and Library Services

Federal grants and programs. Contact MN State. http://www.ims.gov/applicants/available_grants.aspx

Minnesota State Library Agency, MN Department of Education, Division of State Library Services
Ms. Jennifer R. Nelson, Director of State Library Services
1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113-4266
Phone: 651/582-8791 E-mail: jennifer.r.nelson@state.mn.us

County and Local Agencies and Programs

Aitkin County

Environmental Services / Planning & Zoning

<http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/Departments/Enviro-Svcs/environmental.html>

Our mission statement: "To Promote the judicious use of our vast resources while protecting and preserving our Environment."

Land and Parks

<http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/Departments/Land/landhome.html>

Aitkin County Land Department (ACLD) - A Department for all seasons

Long Lake Conservation Center

<http://www.llcc.org/>

Carlton County

Parks and Trails

http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=A406412E-16F4-4C0D-9C1D-FF3C51C2ACD9&Type=B_BASIC

Carlton County Extension Office

<http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/carlton>

Land Department

http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=3048881E-B5ED-4133-B8F8-EDF9F7C9D2DE&Type=B_BASIC

Management of approximately 72,000 acres of tax-forfeited land and 43.62 miles of County Owned abandoned Soo Line Trail.

Cook County

Planning & Zoning

<http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/government/departments/planning-and-zoning>

Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/government/departments/soil-and-water>

Itasca County

Soil and Water Conservation District

<http://www.itascaswcd.org/>

The Itasca SWCD is a local agency which provides access to conservation and resource management services. In cooperation with federal, state and local agencies, the District provides technical assistance, cost-sharing and natural resource management information and education. Urban and rural landowners, businesses, industry and agencies may request these services.

Environmental Services

<https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Environmental%20Services/Pages/default.aspx>

The Environmental Services Department issues permits for buildings (new, alterations and replacements), septic, land use, and lakeshore alterations. Water testing kits are available here.

Land Department

<https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Land/Pages/default.aspx>

The Land Department is responsible for land management of 300,000 acres of Itasca County tax forfeited lands. The Department reviews and comments on state and federal natural resource policy issues. The Land Commissioner is also the County Agricultural Inspector who is responsible for administering the MN Noxious Weed Law in Itasca County.

Park System

<https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Park%20System/Pages/default.aspx>

The Park System is responsible for the management and maintenance of county parks, recreation areas, public water accesses, and trails located on direct county owned and tax-forfeited lands.

University of Minnesota Extension: Itasca County Office

<https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Extension/Pages/default.aspx>

The Extension Department provides education in the areas of agriculture, consumer skills, 4-H youth development, horticulture and natural resources.

Koochiching County

Community Services

http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/com_serv/comservmain.htm

Land & Forestry

http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/land_&_forestry/lafmain.htm

Lake County

Planning and Zoning

http://www.co.lake.mn.us/departments/planning_and_zoning/index.php

Planning and Zoning administers county-wide land use controls that guide property development with the county. The staff administers and enforces state and local ordinances which govern shoreland, wetlands, subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS), subdivisions and the Lake County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinance #12.

Lake County Forestry/Land Department

http://www.co.lake.mn.us/departments/forestry_land_department/index.php

Lake County Forestry/Land Department is responsible for the administration and management of State tax-forfeit lands within the boundaries of Lake County, and is charged with the full range of land and timber resource management activities, including timber sales, forest management and development, and tax forfeited land administration.

Soil & Water Conservation District

http://www.co.lake.mn.us/departments/soil_and_water_conservation_district/index.php

Lake SWCD is a Local Government Unit (LGU) established in 1965 to assist landowners with natural resource issues. Our mission is "to provide technical assistance to help property owners and local units of government implement sound land management planning to protect the natural resources of Lake County."

St. Louis County

Community Development

<http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/DepartmentsAgencies/PlanningDevelopment.aspx>

Planning and Community Development Department is responsible for land use planning, zoning and land subdivision administration, community development, and enterprise Geographic Information Systems (GIS) planning and development.

Land & Minerals Department

<http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/DepartmentsAgencies/LandMinerals.aspx>

St. Louis County, through its Land & Minerals Department, manages State Tax Forfeited Trust Lands to provide an optimal combination of available resources for the sustained benefit of the people of St. Louis County by establishing practical resource management programs based on responsible stewardship and sustainability.

Public Works

<http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/DepartmentsAgencies/PublicWorks.aspx>

Public Works Mission: To provide a safe, well maintained road and bridge system that will insure the reliable and convenient access to County services, facilities, recreational and natural resource areas and employment centers, to enhance the quality of life of St. Louis County residents, and to promote the economic development of the area.