

Land Use and Zoning Resources, Agencies and Programs

The following list of Land Use and Zoning 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 2015 and is subject to change. This list is intended to provide current agencies and programs relevant to Land Use and Zoning.

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

- Comprehensive Plan Grant - http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/comprehensive_plan.jsp The Comprehensive Plan Grant Program funds the development and adoption of comprehensive plans for cities, townships, and collaborative organizations located within the IRRRB service area.

Minnesota County and Municipal Ordinances

Ordinances (Including Zoning) and laws available online: Minnesota towns, cities and counties have made some or all of their local laws available online. This link allows you to search an alphabetical list of the jurisdictions that have ordinances available online. When possible, the link goes directly to the law page. In other cases, search the webpage to find links listed as "charter," "code" or "ordinances". <http://mn.gov/lawlib/ordinance.html>

Minnesota Association of Counties

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

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is a voluntary, non-partisan statewide organization that has assisted the state's 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota since 1909. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted.

Minnesota Association of Townships

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

Mission is "To secure for township officers and office holders full recognition and enjoyment of their rights to administer their responsibilities in a just and professional manner; to secure the tools necessary for them to fulfill their obligations as public servants; and to strengthen and extend our form of township government in such a way as to provide to the citizens the services they are entitled."

League of Minnesota Cities

<http://www.lmc.org/page/1/about-the-league.jsp>

The League of Minnesota Cities is a membership organization dedicated to promoting excellence in local government. The League serves its more than 800 member cities through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management, and other services.

MN Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA)

- Research paper: Minnesota's Planning and Zoning Enabling Laws: Analysis and Options for Reform http://www.mnapa.com/documents/_2013/Draft-White-Paper-Minnesota-Planning-and-Zoning-Enabling-Laws-Analysis-and-Options-for-Reform.pdf
- Planning blog – Provides a forum for discussing current planning and zoning issues. <http://www.mnapa.com/blog/>

Minnesota Land Use/Cover Information

Use this site to find GIS data, maps and statistics that show Minnesota's land use and land cover characteristics from presettlement to recent times. The information available here varies widely, representing a range of time periods and geographic regions. Both "land use" and "land cover" data are described since the concepts are closely related and are often used interchangeably.

http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/chouse/land_use.html

Minnesota Land Cover Classification System

The Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) is a tool that fills an important informational niche for natural resource managers and planners: it categorizes urban and built-up areas in terms of land cover rather than land use. <http://dnr.state.mn.us/mlccs/index.html>

Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

Definitions and discussion topics including: Growth Management and Urban Sprawl, Property Rights and Takings Issues, Brownfields, Land Use Law, etc.

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/links/links.aspx?links=landuse>

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. Land Use
 - a. Comprehensive Plan and Implementation: Adopt a Comprehensive Plan and tie regulatory ordinances to it.
 - b. Efficient City Growth: Promote financial and environmental sustainability by enabling and encouraging walkable housing and commercial land use.
 - c. Mixed Uses: Develop efficient and healthy land patterns that generate community wealth.
 - d. Efficient Highway- and Auto-Oriented Development: Adopt commercial development and design standards for auto-oriented development corridors and clusters.
 - e. Conservation Design: Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems.
2. 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.

GREENSTEP ADVISORS

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

Carissa Schively Slotterback, Urban and Regional Planning Program of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota: 612/625-0640, cschively@umn.edu, <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/people/cschively/>

Minnesota's Legacy

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

- 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 State Statutes

City Zoning: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=462.357>

City Subdivision: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=462.358>

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>

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

Zoning & Environmental Services

http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=3B87E2F7-6D2C-499D-AB07-5703191F2108&Type=B_BASIC

The mission of the Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services Department is to protect and enhance Carlton County's quality of life, environment, and growth by providing the citizens of Carlton County with comprehensive planning, efficient ordinance enforcement, courteous technical assistance and public forums.

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

Environmental Services (Planning, Zoning, and Solid Waste)

<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), septics, land use, and lakeshore alterations. Water testing kits are available here.

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.

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.

Koochiching County

Environmental Services

<http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/esd/esdmain.htm>

Zoning and Flood Plain Information, Water Plan, Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) Reports, Septic System Ordinance, Shoreline Management Ordinance, River Management Plan, Solid Waste Management, Recycling, Transfer stations, canister sites.

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

Zoning

<http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/LANDPROPERTY/BuildingZoning/Zoning.aspx>

Find How a Property is Zoned and Requirements for Each Zone District

Building and Zoning Services

<http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/LANDPROPERTY/BuildingZoning.aspx>

Addresses, Access across Tax Forfeit, Driveway permits, Boards & Committees, Garbage & Recycling, Land Survey, Land Use and building permits.

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.