

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - DIVISION OF FISHERIES  
AND WILDLIFE**

**SHORELAND and AQUATIC HABITAT PROGRAM**

**BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**The Department of Natural Resources - Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Shoreland and Aquatic Habitat (SH) Program is currently requesting proposals for projects related to shoreline habitat improvement and restoration that will take place in Fiscal Years 2013 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014).**

The purpose of the SH Program is to expand the diversity and abundance of native aquatic and shoreland plants; to improve and protect the quality of aquatic habitat; enhance and protect water quality; raise awareness of the value of native shoreline and aquatic vegetation. SH program Block Grants are to provide cost share funding to counties, cities, watershed districts, other local units of government, conservation groups and lake associations to conduct shoreline and watershed enhancement projects with native plants, with the goal of improving aquatic habitat and water quality for fish and wildlife.

Projects on private properties will have at least 75% of the frontage restored with an adjacent buffer zone that is at least 25 ft deep/wide. The focus of these projects must be on reestablishing vegetation for fish and wildlife habitat and funds cannot be used for rock riprap stabilization or permanent wave breaks. Funds can be used for materials needed to reestablish native vegetation along shorelines including: native trees, shrubs, plants and seeds, temporary biodegradable toe protection and erosion control fabric, mulch, herbicide to treat invasive species on site, labor to design, install and maintain project, temporary biodegradable wave breaks and temporary fencing for keeping out foot traffic or herbivores (geese/muskrats) from the site. If projects are implemented in a manner different from the approved plan, without prior approval for the changes by the DNR Authorized Representative, the entire grant may be terminated and no future payments made.

**How to Apply:**

To be considered for funding, complete the attached grant application and return it to your Regional Fisheries office by **October 28th, 2011**. Projects will be selected for funding based on area and regional priorities and SH Program objectives.

**Project Guidelines:**

**Grant Amount.** From \$20,000 - \$100,000, the grant amounts will vary depending on the number, size and complexity of the projects. Preference will be given to projects that are

- that incorporate aquatic plants and native woody vegetation (shrubs and trees) in the project design but these plants should be known to have grown (or currently grow) within the project area or along undeveloped reference shorelines. There should also be a strong likelihood of

aquatic plants surviving without major modifications to the shoreline, to have them included in the plan.

- on the MNPCA impaired water list
- A project that is part of a long term plan to improve habitat and water quality for fish and aquatic life.

**Local Match.** At least a 3:1 (DNR: project partner) match is required. The remaining match can be comprised of in-kind services, donated materials, and/or cash. Please see the SH Financial Manual for specifics on what can be used for in-kind expenses.

**Project Type & Size.** Projects considered for funding will vary by type (see examples below) and size. For projects on private properties, at least 75% of the frontage should be restored with an adjacent buffer zone that is at least 25 ft deep/wide.

**Vegetation.** Projects should not destroy existing, desirable habitat or native vegetation along the shoreline. Only local, native species may be included within the project area. No exotic species or nursery-derived cultivars of natives may be used. Plant included in the project should be native to the county and grow in natural, reference sites along the lake or similar nearby ecosystems.

**Agreements.** Funded projects require a signed agreement stating that the site will be appropriately maintained for 10 years, and allowing access to the site for project installation, maintenance, monitoring and visitation.

**Project types vary, and may include efforts that:**

- establish native buffer zones along lakes and rivers and within their watersheds,
- develop workshops and demonstration sites on restoring native shoreline,
- develop educational materials/forums to promote buffer zones and native aquatic plants,
- measure the effects of riparian buffer strips on water and habitat quality

**Application deadline: October 28th, 2011**