



Grant Announcement – Culvert/Bridge Replacement Incentive Program

Grant Description and Purpose

The DNR is making available \$1 million of funding from the Clean Water Legacy Fund in the form of 25% cost-share grants to local units of government to replace culverts at stream-road crossings to address channel erosion, ecological connectivity (e.g., fish passage), and floodplain connectivity issues. Funding is intended to offset additional costs associated with adopting higher design standards based on a geomorphic design approach. Replacement in-kind projects are not eligible.

Eligible Expenses

The grant will cover 25% of the costs of construction. DNR staff may provide technical assistance for geomorphic surveys and design consultation.

Requirements

- Projects must address impairments, channel stability, and fish passage
- Projects design will be developed collaboratively with DNR
- Projects will incorporate the Geomorphic Approach
- Replacement in-kind projects are not eligible

Timeline

The DNR will use a continuous rolling application, making awards until available funding is spent.

Process

1) Submit Grant Application

Interested applicants should complete and submit the “2023-Grant Request for Applications and Information_Culvert & Bridge Replacement Program” and “Preliminary River Assessment”.

2) Review

Grant applications and Preliminary River Assessment will be reviewed for completeness. Eligible projects with complete applications will be added to a potential project list. The list will be prioritized based on a rating of expected benefits. DNR staff may contact applicants to compile additional site information to perform a screening-level assessment of channel erosion, ecological connectivity, and floodplain connectivity. DNR can provide assistance as needed. Criteria considered in proposal rating will include:

- Project located on a stream listed on the [Minnesota impaired waters list for sediment or biological impairment](#).
- Project is likely to provide ecological benefits including:
 - Channel stabilization
 - Improved ecological connectivity (e.g., fish passage)
 - Improved floodplain connectivity

- Scale of the potential benefits (e.g., length of stream, multiple consecutive sites, integration with restoration)
- Project addresses an issue in an [underserved community](#)
- The DNR may also consider the need to balance geographic representation of projects

The DNR will work from the project priority list until all available funding has been obligated.

3) Tentative Grant Award

Projects selected from the list will be considered as tentative grant recipients. Award agreements will be issued after preliminary design and cost estimate.

4) Preliminary Design & Cost Estimate

DNR staff will work with the tentative grant recipient to develop a mutually agreed preliminary design and estimated project cost. This may include doing a final [geomorphic assessment](#), conducting any required channel surveys and performing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling as required.

5) Grant Award

Grant agreements will be developed between the DNR and the grant recipient after the preliminary design and a detailed engineering cost estimate. The award will be based on 25% of construction based on the estimate.

6) Final Design

The tentative grant recipient (or their engineer) is responsible for the final design; however, DNR staff must approve of the final design to ensure that it still provides the intended ecological benefits.

7) Permitting and Construction

The grant recipient is responsible for acquiring all necessary permits and for overseeing construction efforts. DNR staff are available for consultation for these project phases.

8) Post Construction

The grant recipient will provide a reimbursement request including all required financial information and a copy of the as-built drawings of the completed project.