

Coastal Program Grant Report

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program
January 22, 2025; Presented by Cynthia Poyhonen, grant coordinator

Current Funding Opportunities

- [2024-25 Small Grants for Coastal Management](#): posted, open through June 30, 2025

Recently Completed Projects

Annual Projects

Documentary: A Sea Change for Lake Superior

Project Number: 23-306-10

Grantee: Trustees of the Hamline University of Minnesota

Final Cost: \$200,111.40 (Grant: \$98,727)

Project Start: 09/04/2023

Project End: 11/30/2024

The Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University produced [A Sea Change for Lake Superior](#) documentary, using acclaimed storytelling, engaging imagery, insightful interviews and filming with research scientists, and the documentation of events to make vivid the unequal legacy, current state, and future prospects of Lake Superior. *A Sea Change for Lake Superior* includes prominent Indigenous voices and perspectives.

On December 4, 2023, PBS North began broadcasts of the documentary during primetime; and Hamline hosted multiple public and private screenings and submitted the documentary to film festivals and for awards.

They segmented the documentary into 14 short videos, integrating them into a special version of the [Lake Superior Multimedia Gallery](#) program that focused on [climate change impacts](#) related to the lake. The segments can be played on 22 kiosks strategically placed on the coast, as well as on the pocket gallery (phone/tablet app).



Native Plant Restoration along Agate Bay Shoreline

Project Number: 23-306A-02

Grantee: Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District

Final Cost: \$79,555.96 (Grant: \$37,384)

Project Start: 09/08/2023

Project End: 11/30/2024

Lake SWCD, with partners including the Conservation Corps of Minnesota, restored approximately ½ acre of Lake Superior shoreline in Agate Bay (Two Harbors). They first created design and maintenance plans. They then removed invasive species, clipping and disposing of invasive tansy and Canada thistle seedheads, mowing and covering the site with plastic, treating the site with herbicides labeled for aquatic use, and hand-pulling plants. They cut the woody invasive species and treated the stumps. On half the site, they planted by laying down biodegradable weed suppressant

mat and planting plugs and shrubs into the mat. The other half of the site was tilled and seeded by hand broadcasting, then covered with a sprayed-on hydromulch. They planted native trees and surrounded the site with wire fencing to keep out herbivores. They installed two concrete sign bases with metal signposts, for future educational signs. In addition to signage on site, SWCD staff spoke on the radio, to the newspapers, and to conferences and workshops about the work being done. This native planting project is part of a suite of projects taking place in Agate Bay.



Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Poplar River

Project Number: 23-306-09

Grantee: Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District

Final Cost: \$18,300

Project Start: 10/06/2023

Project End: 09/30/2024

Cook County SWCD, SWCD Technical Service Area #3 (TSA3) and the Poplar River Management Board have identified 18 areas of concern along the lower reach of the Poplar River. The project area is entirely located within Cook County in Lutsen, Minnesota and lies in between The Superior Hiking Trail “Ski Hill Road” bridge crossing and State Highway 61 overpass. The MN DNR, Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program, provided funding to evaluate the identified erosion sites for potential solutions providing flood damage mitigation and resiliency, and to assess the overall condition of the lower reach particularly in response to severe flooding in the spring of 2022. This report “LOWER REACH OF THE POPLAR RIVER ASSESSMENT” provides a summary of the overall condition of the watershed, field and office evaluations conducted on the eroding sites, and recommendations for riverbank stabilization measures along the Poplar River.

Federal Award and Grant Funds Awarded

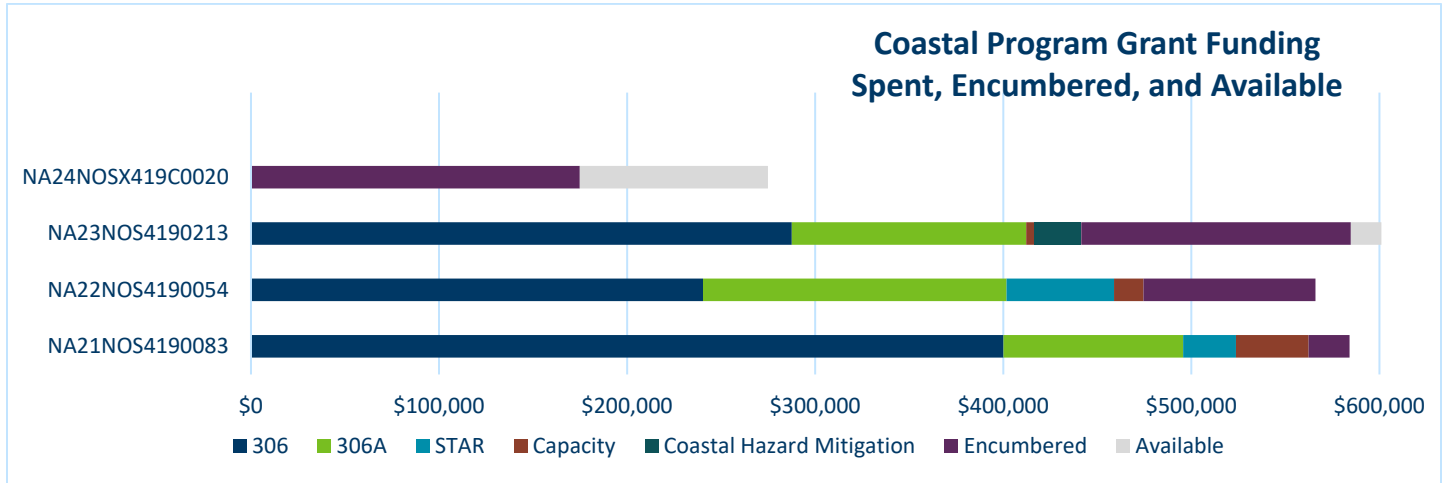
The table below shows the total federal award and amount of Annual and STAR grants awarded to date for the open NOAA Office of Coastal Management awards.

Federal Fiscal Year and Award	Total NOAA Award	Award Expiration	Annual Grants Awarded	Small Grants Awarded	Total Funds Awarded to Date
2021; NA21NOS4190083	1,122,000	06/30/2025	501,620	80,108	581,728
2022; NA22NOS4190054	1,128,000	06/30/2025	474,560	95,985	570,545
2023; NA23NOS4190213	1,158,000	12/31/2025	521,296	4,348	525,644
2024; NA24NOSX419C0020	1,158,000	12/31/2025	174,862		174,862
Total	\$4,566,000		\$1,672,338	\$180,441	\$1,852,779

Grants Reimbursed

The State has reimbursed grantees for project expenses (projects completed/in process), as shown in the chart below.

- Annual grants (306) are shown in blue, and STAR grants are shown in teal.
- Low-cost construction and land acquisition projects (306A) are in green.
- Coastal Hazard Mitigation funds (dark green) were only awarded in 2023.
- Shown in purple are all the funds under contract (i.e., encumbered), not yet reimbursed.
- Funds available (not yet awarded) is in gray.



Coastal Program Applications – Received and Funded

The table below shows the applications received and funded between July 1, 2019 and December 31, 2024.

Funding	Federal Fiscal Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Annual	Applications Received	10	3	12	9	6	2	3	45
Annual	Applications Funded	9	2	6	7	6	2		32
STAR	Applications Received	18	12	14	10	N/A	3		57
STAR	Applications Funded	17	10	8	10	N/A			45
Capacity	Applications Received	4	4	5	5	19	5		42
Capacity	Applications Funded	4	4	5	5	18	5		41

- Annual Applications are funded in federal fiscal year (i.e., 2024 with the NA24 award, begins July 2024).
- STAR and Capacity applications are received during federal fiscal year (i.e., 2024 applications are received between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025); and funded with available funds.

Coastal Program Grant Funded Projects, Updated 1/22/2025

Status	Federal Award	Project Number	Project Name	Grantee	Start Date	Expiration	Grant
Awarded	NA21	21-306-08B	Launching a Successful Water Trail Phase 4	St. Louis River Alliance	7/12/2024	12/31/2024	\$10,000
Awarded	NA21	21-306-09	Coastal Erosion Hazard Map Update-Phase 3	ARDC	09/23/2021	12/31/2024	\$47,200
Awarded	NA22	22-306-08	Mycorrhizal Fungi and Tree Seedling Success	University of Minnesota	10/24/2022	12/31/2024	\$71,224
Awarded	NA22	22-306A-02	Minnesota Point Boardwalk and Dune Restoration	City of Duluth	10/11/2022	12/31/2024	\$108,182
Awarded	NA23	23-306-11	North Shore Management Plan Update	ARDC	09/12/2023	12/31/2025	\$14,238
Awarded	NA23	23-306-12	Low-Cost Buoys for Smart Coastal Monitoring	University of Minnesota	09/20/2023	12/31/2025	\$94,747
Awarded	NA23	23-306A-01	Park Hill Acquisition	City of Duluth	09/22/2023	12/31/2025	\$100,000
Awarded	NA23	23-306A-03	Minnesota Point Boardwalk and Dune Restoration - Phase 2	City of Duluth	09/22/2023	12/31/2025	\$108,000
Awarded	IJA	Task3	Coordinate the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership	Minnesota Land Trust	06/05/2023	11/30/2025	\$111,288
Awarded	IJA	Task3	Develop a Land Stewardship Plan	Lake SWCD	04/23/2024	11/30/2025	\$13,000
Awarded	IJA	Task3	Staff Training and Education on Forest Management	Cook SWCD	05/06/2024	11/30/2025	\$11,000
Awarded	NA23	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Carlton County	Carlton SWCD	12/01/2023	11/30/2025	\$18,300
Awarded	NA23	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Stormwater Modeling, Skunk Creek Crossings, Two Harbors	Lake County	02/02/2024	06/30/2025	\$18,300
Awarded	NA23	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Stoney Point Coastal Hazard Mitigation Project	St. Louis County	01/23/2024	04/01/2025	\$18,300
Awarded	NA24	24-306-09	Park Point Recreation Area Plan	City of Duluth	10/29/2024	12/31/2025	\$75,000
Awarded	NA24	24-306-10	St Louis River and Estuary Outreach	Hamline University of Minnesota	10/01/2024	12/31/2025	\$99,862
16							\$918,641

Capacity Grants; active between 05/21/2024 and 09/24/2024

Federal Award	Grantee	Grant	Description
NA22NOS4190054	Superior Hiking Trail Association	\$4,500	Workshop: Staff will attend the 2025 International Trails Summit April 15-17, 2025 in Madison Wisconsin.
NA22NOS4190054	University of Minnesota, Institute on the Environment	\$4,500	Workshop: Host a two-day conference, Our Climate Futures: Opportunities for Citizen Science on a Great Lake to connect UMD faculty, staff and students with community organizations and citizens to promote equitable citizen science projects around the theme of climate change. The conference will be held February 3-4, 2025 in Duluth MN.
NA22NOS4190054	Independent School District #93, South Terrace Elementary	\$4,500	Youth Education: Create a weather station program for the students, purchasing a weather station, curriculum materials, and outdoor classroom supplies.
NA22NOS4190054	Two Harbors Area Recreational Trails Alliance	\$4,500	Planning: Complete the visioning phase of a proposed mountain bike trail in the Two Harbors, Minnesota.
COMPLETED			
NA22NOS4190054	Carlton SWCD	\$4,500	Workshop: The Water Resources Technician completed the 'Applied Fluvial Geomorphology' Level 1 course, put on by Wildland Hydrology. The course was in Duluth in September.
NA22NOS4190054	North St. Louis SWCD	\$4,500	Workshop: The Watershed Conservationist for the St. Louis River Watershed participated in the MPCA Smart Salting: Smart Salting Tool - Level 2 certification training (7/17/24) and attended the Salt Symposium (8/6/24-8/7/24); and completed the Wildland Hydrology Level 1: Applied fluvial geomorphology course (September, in Duluth).
NA22NOS4190054	South St. Louis SWCD	\$2,637	Workshop: The Conservation Specialist completed the 'Applied Fluvial Geomorphology' Level 1 course, put on by Wildland Hydrology. The course, cosponsored by the DNR, was in Duluth in September.
NA23NOS4190213	Wildlife Forever	\$4,348	Conference: Sponsored the 2024 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference ; 597 attendees from 22 states, 3 provinces, and 3 countries; held November 12-14 in Duluth MN.
NA21NOS4190083	City of Wrenshall	\$1,374	Technology Upgrade: Purchased an iPad, accessories, and GIS software license to add and document assets in the field, to maintain the municipal sewer system.