

Coastal Program Grant Report

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

Current Funding Opportunities

- The Coastal Program is not accepting funding requests currently.

Recently Completed Projects

Annual Projects

Minnesota Point Boardwalk and Dune Restoration - Phase 1

Project Number: 22-306A-02

Grantee: City of Duluth

Final Cost: \$188,367.93 (Grant: \$82,397)

Project Start: 10/11/2022

Project End: 05/15/2025

The City of Duluth removed the older, failing boardwalk and constructed a safe, effective, accessible, and beautiful dune crossing boardwalk at Lafayette Community Center, a popular public access point to the sandy beaches along Lake Superior. They designed a new path to meet Architectural Barriers Act standards. They purchased a new, custom steel structure for the base and salvaged Ipe lumber from the City's Lakewalk reconstruction project to use the decking. Staff replanted the disturbed beachgrass within existing social tails to prevent future foot-traffic and the associated dune erosion and installed educational and acknowledgment signage.



The City also contracted for a Phase 1 Archeological Survey at the project site and completed engineering designs for the boardwalk at the Park Point Recreation Area. A Tribal Cultural Monitor from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was present during all ground disturbing activities.

Coastal Hazard Mitigation Projects

Stoney Point Engineering Designs

Project Number: 23-306-09

Grantee: St. Louis County

Final Cost: \$58,279.55 (Grant: \$18,300)

Project Start: 01/23/2024

Project End: 04/01/2025

St. Louis County completed preliminary engineering services associated with the Stoney Point stabilization project. The project is located on County Road 222 (Stoney Point Drive), along the shoreline of Lake Superior, within Duluth Township. The County is investigating slope stabilization options for approximately 600-feet of shoreline that has experienced excessive erosion, sloughing, and has negatively encroached within County highway infrastructure.

With a subconsultant, the County completed a topographic survey, geotechnical soil investigation, slope stabilization analysis, and preliminary design of the County preferred mitigation method with construction estimate. The County propose construction of the project to occur in 2027. For more information, see the [PROTECT Grant Application](#).

Federal Award and Grant Funds Awarded

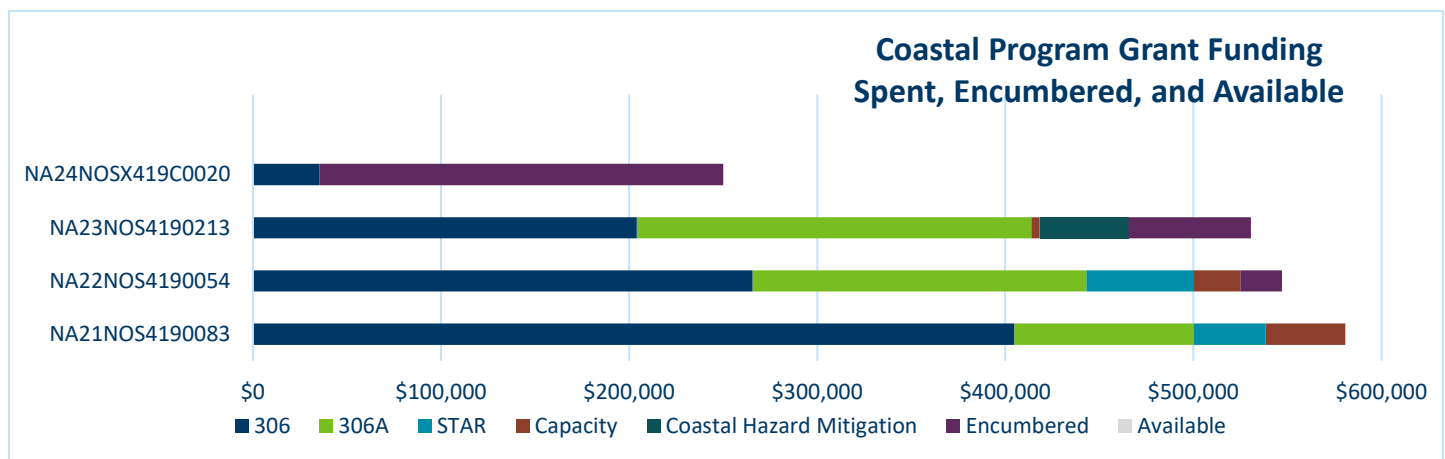
The table below shows the total federal award and amount of Annual and STAR grants awarded to date for the open NOAA Office of Coastal Management awards.

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	81,862	583,482
2022; NA22NOS4190054	1,128,000	06/30/2025	474,560	104,549	579,109
2023; NA23NOS4190213	1,158,000	12/31/2025	526,296	4,348	530,644
2024; NA24NOSX419C0020	1,158,000	12/31/2025	174,862	100,691	275,553
Total	\$4,566,000		\$1,677,338	\$291,450	\$1,968,788

Grants Reimbursed

The State has reimbursed grantees for 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 (NA23).
- Funds under contract (i.e., encumbered), not yet reimbursed are in purple.



Coastal Program Applications – Received and Funded

The table below shows the applications received and funded between July 1, 2019 and May 15, 2025.

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	11		65
STAR	Applications Funded	17	10	8	10	N/A	7		52
Capacity	Applications Received	4	4	5	5	19	16		53
Capacity	Applications Funded	4	4	5	5	18	15		51

- 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 5/20/2025

Projects Selected by the Coastal Council

Status	Federal Award	Project Number	Project Name	Grantee	Start Date	Expiration	Grant
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	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	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 CGEE	10/01/2024	12/31/2025	\$99,862
Awarded	NA24	24-306-11A	2025 Lake Superior Youth Symposium	University of Minnesota	3/1/2025	8/31/2025	\$10,000
Awarded	NA24	24-306-11B	Conservation outreach to benefit water quality	Cook County SWCD	4/1/2025	9/30/2025	\$10,000
Awarded	NA24	24-306-11C	Educational Materials to Empower Landowners	Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association	4/1/2025	9/30/2025	\$10,000
Awarded	NA24	24-306-11D	Students Making Waves: Aquarium's Summer Program for Teens	Great Lakes Aquarium	6/1/2025	11/30/2025	\$10,000
Awarded	NA24	24-306-11E	Launching a Successful Water Trail V	St. Louis River Alliance	7/1/2025	12/31/2025	\$10,000
Awarded	NA24	24-306-11F	GIS System and Data Collection	Town of Silver Creek	6/1/2025	11/30/2025	\$10,000
Awarded	NA24	24-306-11G	Rebranding and Conservation Recognition	Carlton County SWCD	6/1/2025	11/30/2025	\$10,000
15							\$598,447

NA – National Award (followed by the award year)

ARDC – Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation District

CGEE – Center for Global Environmental Education

Capacity Grants

Federal Award	Grantee	Grant	Description
COMPLETED			
NA22NOS4190054	Superior Hiking Trail Association	\$4,500	Workshop: Five staff attended the 2025 International Trails Summit April 15-17, 2025 in Madison Wisconsin. (Match \$2,918) See SHTA write up in the Trail Mix E-Newletter April 2025.
NA22NOS4190054	Independent School District #93, South Terrace Elementary	\$4,500	Youth Education: Created a weather station program for the students; purchased a weather station, curriculum materials, and outdoor classroom supplies. Approximately 80 students in grades 3 to 5 participated in weather related education March-May 2025.
IN PROCESS			
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, 205 in Duluth MN.
NA22NOS4190054	Two Harbors Area Recreational Trails Alliance	\$4,500	Planning: Complete the visioning phase of a proposed mountain bike trail and bike park in Two Harbors, Minnesota.
NA22NOS4190054	Sea Change Expeditions	\$4,064	Youth Education: Bring the Clean Cold and Clear program to six elementary schools on the North Shore during spring 2025. Clean, Cold and Clear Challenge is a multi-session, interactive program for 5th graders at North Shore Community School, 5th graders at Minnehaha Elementary School in Two Harbors and 6th graders at William Kelly Elementary in Silver Bay, Great Expectations School and Cook County Schools in Grand Marais as well as Oshki Ogimaag Community School in Grand Portage focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of climate change, invasive species, plastic and microplastic pollution on Lake Superior, it's watershed and the boreal forest. • Solutions and actions that can be taken at individual, community and policy levels to help mitigate the impacts.
NA22NOS4190054	Lake County SWCD	\$4,500	Youth Education: Host the 2025 State Envirothon competition at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (Finland, MN) in May 2025. The State Envirothon is a high school environmental education competition with students from all over Minnesota; this year's theme is "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change."
NA24NOSX419C0020	Great Lakes Aquarium	\$4,000	Youth Education: Provide funding support (mini grants) to public schools in Minnesota's coastal area for field trips and out of school educational opportunities at the Aquarium.
NA24NOSX419C0020	Carlton County	\$4,045	Technology Upgrade: The Transportation Department will purchase a survey grade GPS unit for collecting infrastructure data; pilot on ten stormwater features.
NA24NOSX419C0020	Lake County SWCD	\$4,500	Workshop: Send the Community Conservationist to the Level III Wildland Hydrology course "River Assessment and Monitoring" August 2025, in Alta Wyoming.

Federal Award	Grantee	Grant	Description
NA24NOSX419C0020	Lake County	\$4,500	Workshops: Purchase technology supplies for septic and wetland inspection and survey; staff will complete three relevant trainings.
NA24NOSX419C0020	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$9,146	Workshop: One staff will attend the Basic Survey Skills workshop (May-June 2025; Seeley Lake, MT) and three staff will attend the Applied Fluvial Geomorphology workshop (September 2025; Duluth, MN); hosted by Wildland Hydrology.
NA24NOSX419C0020	Cook County SWCD	\$4,500	Workshop: Two staff technicians will attend the Applied Fluvial Geomorphology workshop (September 2025; Duluth, MN); hosted by Wildland Hydrology.
NA24NOSX419C0020	University of Minnesota	\$4,496	Workshop: Host the "Lake Superior Speaks: Educator and Researcher Confluence" workshop for K-12 science educators; facilitated by Minnesota Sea Grant, July 23-25, 2025, at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (Finland MN). The event will cover basic limnology, applied aquatic research, and youth stewardship opportunities. Educators will also collaborate with UM researchers to develop place-based curricula focused on Minnesota's coastal communities and natural resources.
Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA) NA23NOS4730025	Minnesota Land Trust	\$111,288	Task 3 - Advancing Habitat Restoration and Land Conservation in the Coastal Zone: Coordinate the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership: including but not limited to stakeholder outreach, partner meetings, assist with funding requests for priority projects, refine and enhance the metrics dashboard on the Headwaters Partnership Decision Support Tool, and develop the state of the estuary landscape reporting process with partners.
IIJA NA23NOS4730025	Lake SWCD	\$13,000	Task3: Develop a Landscape Stewardship Plan, forest prioritization model, for Lake Superior North Watershed Planning area (HUC 8 Lake Superior North) and South (to Knife River area).
IIJA NA23NOS4730025	Cook SWCD	\$11,000	Task3: Complete training and education specific to improving and/or maintaining forest health in the Lake Superior watershed; provide public outreach.
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) NA24NOSX473C0018	ARDC	\$73,500	Coastal Erosion Hazard Mapping Improvements: Incorporate new lidar data and aerial imagery into the coastal erosion hazard map, publish the data making them publicly available, provide training to data users, and sustain the workgroup overseeing the project.
TOTAL		\$261,539	