

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on December 3, 2025

M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program

Project Manager: Dan Shaw

Affiliation: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Mailing Address: 520 Lafayette Road N.

City/State/Zip: Saint Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (612) 236-6291

E-mail: dan.shaw@state.mn.us

Website: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b

Appropriation Amount: \$750,000

Amount Spent: \$675,285

Amount Remaining: \$74,715

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project restored and enhanced over 800 acres of high-diversity habitat across Minnesota, improving conditions for pollinators and at-risk insects while advancing statewide conservation practices and launching BWSR's new Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP).

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project successfully launched a new statewide program through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to strategically restore and enhance habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. Through collaboration with 14 conservation organizations—including soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, counties, and non-profit partners—BWSR implemented 70 restoration and enhancement projects totaling approximately 810 acres. Projects were strategically distributed across Minnesota in locations such as Duluth, Moorhead, La Crescent, and Marshall, and included schools, parks, easements, and other permanently protected lands. These efforts established and enhanced diverse native plant communities that provide continuous floral resources, nesting habitat, and shelter for a wide range of at-risk species such as the monarch butterfly and rusty patched bumble bee.

The project advanced statewide conservation practices by developing a new pollinator–beneficial insect conservation planning template, refining the use of native seed mixes, and updating BWSR’s Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines. It also contributed to new or updated technical resources such as the Pollinator and Biodiversity Toolbox, Landscape Resiliency Toolbox, and What’s Working for Conservation website, providing practitioners with guidance on site preparation, seed selection, and long-term management. Collectively, these projects are estimated to sequester more than 460 metric tons of carbon annually and retain 1,820 acre-feet of water, supporting both climate resilience and ecosystem function.

This work directly supported implementation of the Governor’s Pollinator Executive Order (EO 19-28) and recommendations from the Governor’s Committee on Pollinator Protection, demonstrating how coordinated, science-based restoration can achieve meaningful statewide impact. As a result of this ENRTF investment, BWSR established the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP)—a permanent, ongoing initiative that will continue to restore high-quality habitat and build conservation capacity across Minnesota’s landscapes.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The project successfully launched a new statewide program to restore and enhance diverse, high-quality habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects across Minnesota. In partnership with 14 organizations, 70 projects were completed on approximately 810 acres of public and conservation lands, improving floral diversity, habitat connectivity, and long-term management capacity using updated planning tools, seed mixes, and technical guidance. The project also strengthened statewide collaboration, improved technical resources, and informed future restoration strategies. Dissemination included public-facing web materials, updated guidance documents, statewide workshops, project signage, and published articles, ensuring broad access to lessons learned, best practices, and program outcomes.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: December 4, 2025

ID Number: 2020-071

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

Project Title: Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program

Project Budget: \$750,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Dan Shaw

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Office Telephone: (612) 236-6291

Email: dan.shaw@state.mn.us

Web Address: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: December 3, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed & Additional Update Approved

Date of Last Action: December 3, 2025

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b

Appropriation Language: \$750,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for building a new initiative to strategically restore and enhance approximately 1,000 acres of diverse native habitat to benefit multiple insects through grants, cost-share, and outreach. Notwithstanding subdivision 14, paragraph (e), restorations and enhancements may take place on land enrolled in conservation reserve program and reinvest in Minnesota easement programs. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: This pilot program will restore and enhance diverse native habitat over approximately 90 projects on conservation lands and natural areas strategically located across Minnesota to address declining pollinators and insects.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Dramatic declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies and other beneficial insects that support our ecosystems and food systems have been raising significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and globally. Currently there is no state grant program focused on establishing targeted pollinator habitat on conservation lands and natural areas. There is also a need to combine current efforts with updating state seed mixes, refining restoration methods and the identifying lands that are a high priority for restoration into a structured conservation program with supporting resources.

This project was recommended for funding as part of the 2020 RFP. We are requesting the funding amount that was requested in BWSR's initial application.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

The Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program will build a new BWSR initiative to restore and enhance approximately 1000 acres of diverse native habitat over 90 projects strategically located across Minnesota. Project placement and seed mix design will be tailored to address the habitat needs of a wide diversity of insects, including at-risk species. This program will align with the Governor's pollinator executive order (EO 19-28), address several habitat goals and recommendations of the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection (including GCPP recommendations 1.1 and 1.2), and help attain goals of the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Funding through this new initiative will be distributed through BWSR's Cost-share process and a competitive grant RFP. Eligible projects will include public lands or private lands with a public investment, including existing RIM easements, CRP, city parks, county parks, and protected natural areas. Approximately 1000 acres and 90 projects will be restored. Projects will focus on:

- 1) Establishing new floral rich plots or riparian plantings 0.5 to 5 acres in size and/or
- 2) Enhancing prairie, savanna, wetland, and shoreline communities that provide high value habitat. Planned to benefit a variety of beneficial insects and at-risk-species.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Strategic Program Planning and Education

Activity Budget: \$54,000

Activity Description:

Develop project ranking criteria and pollinator-beneficial insect conservation plan templates, conduct three regional pollinator workshops.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Assemble an advisory team to guide program development, combine habitat maps, and develop ranking criteria	November 30, 2021
Release a competitive RFP (request for proposal) for habitat projects.	April 30, 2022
Collaborate with Xerces Society on three regional pollinator workshops to present BMP's and plan templates.	May 31, 2022
Collaborate with Xerces Society to develop two pollinator – beneficial insect conservation plan templates.	June 30, 2022

Activity 2: Pollinator Habitat Project Planning and Restoration

Activity Budget: \$694,500

Activity Description:

Restore and enhance approximately 1000 acres across 90 sites on conservation lands.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
SWCDs or their designees develop pollinator-beneficial insect conservation plans/conservation plan updates for protected lands.	December 31, 2023
Total expected number of acres restored in year 2 is 300 - 500 acres.	December 31, 2023
Conduct site preparation, planting and management of projects with the goal of maintaining diverse plantings.	April 30, 2024
Total expected number of acres restored in year 3 & 4 is 300 - 500 acres.	June 30, 2025

Activity 3: Program Assessment, Signage and What's Working Outreach

Activity Budget: \$1,500

Activity Description:

Assess disseminate results, findings, and best practices.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Document successful planning, design, installation and management strategies and case studies on BWSR's webpage.	June 30, 2025
Assemble the advisory team to discuss results, successes, improvement and next steps in refining program.	June 30, 2025
Add ENRTF signage at all project sites	June 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Sarah Foltz-Jordan	Xerces Society	Co-develop with BWSR staff two pollinator – beneficial insect conservation plan templates, one for new habitat installations, and one for enhancement/management of existing habitat, based on Xerces' existing habitat guidance. Conduct three regional pollinator workshops to present program requirements, best practices and new conservation plan templates.	Yes
LeAnn Buck	Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts	Conduct outreach with Conservation District Staff about the program structure, workshops and opportunities for participation as program advisors and landowner contacts.	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

The ENRTF will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

This proposal enhances existing investments in long-term conservation as part of a solution to the decline of at-risk species and other important insects. The project will develop and implement conservation plans that will guide the long-term management and monitoring of protected lands. Once the new BWSR program is established BWSR will pursue other funding sources for the program such as federal grants and foundation funding.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Northeast Minnesota White Cedar Restoration - Phase 2	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 06d	\$335,000
Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$392,000
Acceleration of Minnesota Conservation Assistance - Final Phase	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08d	\$1,000,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach and Implementation	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08k	\$6,000,000
Lawns to Legumes	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08f	\$900,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Program Coordinator		Coordinate grant			22%	0.78		\$19,800	-	-
BWSR Grant Coordinator		Develop grant agreements and oversee grant			22%	0.39	X	\$33,000	-	-
							Sub Total	\$52,800	\$40,031	\$12,769
Contracts and Services										
SWCD	Subaward	SWCDs or their designees develop pollinator-beneficial insect conservation plans/conservation plan updates for awarded projects on protected lands. Conduct site preparation, planting and management of projects with the goal of establishing and maintaining high diversity plantings.				0		\$674,500	\$612,763	\$61,737
Xerces Society	Subaward	Develop two pollinator – beneficial insect conservation plan templates, one for new habitat installations, and one for enhancement/management of existing habitat, based on Xerces’ existing habitat guidance. Collaborate on three regional pollinator workshops to present program requirements, best practices and new conservation plan.				0.21		\$21,000	\$21,000	-
							Sub Total	\$695,500	\$633,763	\$61,737
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-

Capital Expenditures									
							Sub Total	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship									
							Sub Total	-	-
Travel In Minnesota									
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Five trips, two people, 300 miles	Site Visits to collaborate with partners and document projects				\$220	\$211	\$9
							Sub Total	\$220	\$211
Travel Outside Minnesota									
							Sub Total	-	-
Printing and Publication									
							Sub Total	-	-
Other Expenses									
		Signage (90)	Print and add ENRTF signage at all project sites.				\$1,480	\$1,280	\$200
							Sub Total	\$1,480	\$1,280
							Grand Total	\$750,000	\$675,285
									\$74,715

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - BWSR Grant Coordinator		Develop grant agreements and oversee grant	Classified : This position is necessary for the project to develop grant agreements and oversee the distribution of grants.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
In-Kind	General Fund Appropriation to BWSR (citation to be determined)	Minnesota BWSR Senior Ecologist (8% FTE) of time over three years.	Secured	\$32,400	\$32,400	-
			State Sub Total	\$32,400	\$32,400	-
Non-State						
In-Kind	Xerces Society	Outreach	Secured	\$1,000	\$1,000	-
In-Kind	Public and private landowners	Minimum 25% cost share requirement for public projects and 10% for private landowners.	Secured	\$492,382	\$492,382	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$493,382	\$493,382	-
			Funds Total	\$525,782	\$525,782	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
02-31-24-11-0001	Anoka	Prairie restoration through prescribed burning and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$2,500	Public	Anoka County	No Longer Being Considered
02-31-24-42-0001	Anoka	Pairie restoration through woody plant control, mowing and prescribed burning, and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$3,000	Public	Anoka County	Completed
02-31-25-44-0044	Anoka	Turf to prairie restoration	Restoration	0.25	-	\$1,000	Public	City of Anoka	Completed
0302721330002	Washington	prairie restoration	Restoration	4	-	\$23,000	Private	MN Land Trust	Completed
0402620240001	Washington	prairie enhancement	Restoration	4	-	\$5,053	Private	NGO	Completed
0503020110002	Washington	native prairie and savanna establishment	Restoration	10	-	\$14,000	Public	Washington County	Completed
06-32-24-23-0003	Anoka	Prairie Restoration through buckthorn control, spot herbicide treatment, prescribed burn and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$3,250	Public	Anoka County	Completed
08-0-019400 , 08-0-019600 , 08-0-019700 , 08-0-020600	Aitkin	pollinator prairie planting	Restoration	6	-	\$27,000	Public	Aitkin County	Completed
08-0-019400, 08-0--19600, 08-0-019700, 08-0-020600	Aitkin	Pollinator plantings and nature classes for underserved children	Restoration	6	-	\$27,000	Public	Aitkin County	Completed
08.00013.00, 08.00014.00, 08.00015.01, 08.00016.01, 08.00015.00, 36.00001.00, 36.00002.00, 36.00033.00, 36.00034.00, 36.00034.01, 36.00035.00	Marshall	The site is part of a 2560 acre	Restoration	400	-	\$40,000	Public	Middle-Snake-Tamarac River Watershed District	Completed
09-31-22-0002	Anoka	Prairie restoration at Rusty Patched Bumble Bee observation site	Restoration	5	-	\$3,000	Public	Anoka County	Completed
10.0015.001	Houston	The pollinator prairie enhancement planting offers a diverse mix through the nectar and pollen plants such as	Restoration	3.8	-	\$2,280	Private	individual	Completed

		milkweed and blazingstar for the monarch butterfly and wild bergamot along with the blazingstar for the rusty patched bumble bee.							
10.0303.003	Houston	This prairie project will provide diverse, high-quality pollen and early spring sources of nectar for pollinators such as the monarch butterfly and rusty patched bumble bee.	Restoration	0.78	-	\$468	Private	individual	Completed
10.0319.000	Houston	New pollinator prairie planting area is being converted from encroaching cool season non-native grasses.	Restoration	16.5	-	\$9,900	Private	individual	Completed
1102820440072	Washington	Prairie riparian establishment	Restoration	0.5	-	\$14,500	Public	City of St. Croix	Completed
12.07106.0000	Stearns	Enhancement of native prairie to diverse pollinator planting	Restoration	57.45	-	\$15,984	Private	individual	Completed
1203210210003	Washington	prairie enhancement	Restoration	5	-	\$7,020	Private	Minnesota Land Trust	Completed
14-30-24-43-0036	Anoka	Turf conversion to prairie	Restoration	0.5	-	\$2,200	Public	City of Fridley	Completed
1402721430003	Washington	Prairie enhancement	Restoration	10	-	\$5,500	Public	Washington County	Completed
16-31-22-32-0001	Anoka	Prairie restoration through burning and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$3,000	Public	Anoka County	Completed
16.0227.000	Houston	Native prairie enhancement to pollinator plot	Restoration	3.68	-	\$2,208	Private	individual	
2102822111001	Washington	prairie enhancement	Restoration	13	-	\$13,365	Public	South Washington County School District	Completed
22-31-22-44-0002	Anoka	Prescribed burn, seeding prairie habitat	Restoration	0.5	-	\$500	Public	Anoka County	Completed
23-7600-06607, 23-7600-06611	Lake	Erosion control, invasive species removal and pollinator habitat	Restoration	1.1	-	\$81,800	Public	State of Minnesota	Completed
2302921210001	Washington	prairie restoration	Restoration	4	-	\$4,990	Public	Washington County	Completed
25-1623-004	Houston	Diverse native planting for at-risk insect species through inter-seeding existing remnant prairie	Restoration	18.1	-	\$12,110	Public	City of LaCrescent	Completed
27-602001-0	Lyon	Pollinator habitat enhancement	Restoration	15.12	-	\$24,100	Public	City of Marshall	Completed
27-819023-1	Lyon	Pollinator habitat restoration	Restoration	4	-	\$11,355	Public	City of Marshall	Completed
30-32-24-33-0053	Anoka	Smooth brome grass to prairie conversion	Restoration	0.5	-	\$1,000	Public	City of Anoka	Completed

303302201300001	Anoka	Turf to prairie-pollinator habitat	Restoration	0.51	-	\$2,100	Public	Anoka County	Completed
31-33-24-14-0001	Anoka	Burn, seeding establishing of pollinator habitat	Restoration	5	-	\$3,250	Public	Anoka County	Completed
31-33-24-34-0001	Anoka	Prairie restoration through woody invasive species control, prescribed burning and seeding	Restoration	3	-	\$2,000	Public	Anoka County	Completed
31-33-24-43-0001	Anoka	Prairie restoration, prescribed burning, spot herbicide treatment and seeding	Restoration	10	-	\$8,000	Public	Anoka County	Completed
31.00327.01	Beltrami	Installed pollinator garden at City of Bemidji fire station. Converting turf to pollinator garden.	Restoration	0.5	-	\$734	Public	City of Bemidji	Completed
31.00443.00	Beltrami	Installed pollinator garden around entryway of Beltrami County fairgrounds, converting turf into pollinator habitat.	Restoration	0.5	-	\$3,368	Public	Beltrami County	Completed
32-31-23-0007	Anoka	Prairie restoration for pollinator habitat	Restoration	0.5	-	\$2,200	Public	City of Blaine	Completed
32-33-24-12-0001	Anoka	prairie restoration through spot herbicide treatment, prescribed burning and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$3,250	Public	Anoka County	Completed
32-33-24-14-0001	Anoka	Prairie restoration through woody invasive species management, spot herbicide treatment, prescribed burning and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$3,500	Public	Anoka County	Completed
3203021120006	Washington	Prairie enhancement	Restoration	2.2	-	\$4,800	Public	ISD 832 MAHTOMED	Completed
323204770, 323150770, 324350230, 323204290	Winona	Wetland and lakeshore restoration projects	Restoration	7.1	-	\$24,100	Public	City of Winona	Completed
323208152, 323208155	Winona	Pollinator planting establishment	Restoration	1	-	-	Private	Minnesota State College & MN State College SE Tech Foundation	No Longer Being Considered
323208250, 323208153, 323208280	Winona	Prairie restoration through invasive species removal, seeding and mowing	Restoration	13	-	-	Private	State of Minnesota Higher Education	No Longer Being Considered
33-32-25-21-0003	Anoka	Mississippi West Regional Park	Restoration	5	-	\$3,000	Public	Anoka County	Completed
33.21961.0000	Stearns	Diverse pollinator planting	Restoration	2.61	-	\$6,215	Private	individual	Completed

35-32-24-41-0001	Anoka	Prairie and savanna restoration through burning, spot herbicide treatment and mowing	Restoration	5	-	\$3,250	Public	Anoka County	Completed
35-32-24-41-0001	Anoka	Turf to prairie conversion	Restoration	0.2	-	\$1,500	Public	Anoka County	Completed
36-32-24-33-0002	Anoka	Prairie restoration through non-native spot treatment, prescribed burning and seeding	Restoration	2	-	\$1,500	Public	Anoka County	Completed
36-32-24-42-0002	Anoka	Dry prairie and sedge meadow restoration through spot herbicide application, mowing and spot herbicide treatment	Restoration	5	-	\$4,000	Public	Anoka County	Completed
36-32-25-11-0004	Anoka	Turf to prairie conversion	Restoration	0.85	-	\$3,000	Public	City of Ramsey	Completed
80.00056.00	Beltrami	Pollinator planting on City of Bemidji Park. Converting turf to pollinator area	Restoration	7	-	\$14,157	Public	City of Bemidji	Completed
800056900	Beltrami	Turf grass conversion to native prairie for pollinator	Restoration	1	-	\$125,500	Public	City of Bemidji	Completed
800600900	Beltrami	Removed turf grass and replacing it with a pollinator lawn	Restoration	0.4	-	\$5,500	Public	City of Bemidji	Completed
800701100; 80070080, 800717900, 800717700, 800717800	Beltrami	Established a pollinator prairie planting.	Restoration	7	-	\$8,000	Public	Beltrami County	Completed
82.46637.0070	Stearns	Enhancement of infiltration basin vegetation to diverse pollinator planting	Restoration	0.2	-	\$5,265	Public	City of St. Cloud	Completed
92.56715.0900	Stearns	Enhancement of infiltration basin and prairie vegetation to diverse pollinator planting	Restoration	13.64	-	\$22,267	Public	Sartell High School	Completed
98.60573.0050	Stearns	Enhancement of oak savanna to diverse pollinator planting	Restoration	6.75	-	\$8,100	Public	Stearns County	Completed
Amber Lake Park	Martin	Invasive species removal and planting of prairie restoration	Restoration	0.1	-	\$5,400	Public	Fairmont	Completed
Battle Creek Middle School 022822120001	Ramsey	Invasive species removal, erosion control and prairie establishment	Restoration	2	-	\$233,214	Public	Saint Paul Public Schools	Completed
Cedar Creek Park North	Martin	turf grass conversion to native prairie	Restoration	10	-	\$3,750	Public	Martin County	Completed
Cedar Creek Park South	Martin	Turf grass conversion to native prairie	Restoration	10	-	\$3,750	Public	Martin County	Completed

City of Sartell West Water Treatment 92-57172-0500	Stearns	Agriculture and mowed turf conversion to pollinator habitat in wellhead protection area	Restoration	20.3	-	\$13,425	Public	City of Sartell	Completed
City of Waite Park Riverside Park, 98-61600-0000	Stearns	turf converted to pollinator habitat along river corridor	Restoration	0.7	-	\$1,870	Public	Waite Park	Completed
City of Artell North Water Treatment plant, 92-56503-0010	Stearns	turf conversion to pollinator habitat	Restoration	4	-	\$3,960	Public	City of Sartell	Completed
Grams County Regional Park	Sherburne	Restoration of mesic, upland and wet prairie on 24 acres of fallow hayfield	Restoration	24	-	\$55,000	Public	Sherburne County	Completed
Lake Boulevard, No Parcel ID but latitude and longitude is 47.476299, -94.877405	Beltrami	Invasive species removal and establish native prairie for pollinators	Restoration	2	-	\$1,754	Public	City of Bemidji	Completed
Martin County RIM	Martin	Native prairie enhancement to benefit pollinators	Restoration	10	-	\$5,297	Private	Individual	Completed
Peter Goerger Avon Hills Easement 05-02718-0000	Stearns	Diverse native prairie restoration through high diversity planting	Restoration	18.53	-	\$3,625	Private	Individual	Completed
Urban	Martin	Prairie restoration through mowing and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$3,750	Private	Individual	Completed
Woodlawn Cemetery 323204860	Winona	Buff prairie restoration and enhancement	Restoration	4.5	-	\$15,000	Private	Woodlawn Cemetery Association	Completed
Worthely 1	Martin	Prairie planting through mowing and seeding	Restoration	5	-	\$3,750	Private	Individual	Completed
Worthley 2	Martin	Prairie restoration through mowing and seeding	Restoration	2	-	\$1,500	Private	Individual	Completed
Totals				837.87	0	\$984,684			

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All lands to be restored through this project will be permanently protected with an emphasis on lands with easements or parks on city, county or state land.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

As part of this project templates for project implement and project enhancement will be developed to be used on all projects. These templates will include detail on project site preparation, installation and management as well as needs for documentation of the restoration process. In addition to being saved at local SWCD offices, these documents will be provided to landowners to guide long-term management. Ensuring the long-term care of projects will be a key ranking criteria used as part of the competitive RFP process for the grant program.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

Use of the BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines will be stressed as a project requirement in the program RFP, as well as the project templates used for all projects. There will be an emphasis on protecting the genetic integrity of any remnant plant communities associated with projects.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Ensuring the long-term care of projects will be a key ranking criteria used as part of the competitive RFP process for the grant program, this will include considerations about future funding availability for management. The project templates developed for all projects will also provide direction for the long-term management. The role of landowners to maintain projects into the future will be stressed and local conservation staff will continue working with landowners to provide technical guidance.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

The grant RFP for the program will state that consideration needs to be given to contracting with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Project assessments/evaluations will be completed by local staff working with landowners after completion and three years as a follow-up to ensure that project goals are being met and to document project success that will be a requirement of the grant program (BWSR has routine inspection requirements for conservation projects funded with state dollars). These evaluation will also play a key role in determining if any specific maintenance activities are needed for projects.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [b47d5fb7-a7e.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

This graphic shows the state of Minnesota with insect species that this program benefits and provides information about program goals and outcomes....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	f1377939-847.pdf
HELP Signage Logo	95448a1a-e5a.pdf
List of Technical Resources Enhanced Through the Program	0d2e38c3-380.pdf
Program Webinar Presentation	e9502781-4ec.pdf
Final Project Location Map	368f7e41-1e0.docx
Final Project Location Map pdf	ddee8221-5fe.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
BWSR Snaps hot Article about LCCMR Funded Program	https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2023-05/Snapshot%20Story%201%20June%202023%20HELP_Accessible.pdf
Lyon County BWSR Shaps hot Article	https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2024-02/snapshots_story_1_march_2024_marshall_help_grant_entrf_logo.pdf
LaCrescent BWSR Shaps hot Article	https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2025-05/snapshots_story_2_june_2025_la_crescent_help_grant.pdf#:~:text=Projects%20completed%20from%20spring%202023%20through%20fall%202024,brush%20on%202.2%20acres%20of%20dry%20bluf%20prairies.

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Under "professional/technical contracts" the SWCD subaward was adjusted to \$647,500 from \$674,500 to compensate for the \$30,000 decrease from the application to the final project amount

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?
N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	• Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	An amendment request is being submitted as part of adding parcel information for projects. There will be a few additional parcels added in future reporting as more projects are identified. This additional of parcel information was the only change	September 28, 2023	Yes	October 9, 2023
2	Amendment Request	• Budget • Other • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Budget - Other • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	The end date for Activities 2 and 3 (Pollinator Habitat Project Planning and Restoration & Program Assessment, Signage and What's Working Outreach) was listed as 2024 which was incorrect and changed to the correct end date of 2025. We also added a new budget category for Instate Travel of \$200 to cover travel expenses for visiting projects. The staffing budget was decreased by \$200.	October 1, 2024	Yes	October 28, 2024
3	Amendment Request	• Budget • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Budget - Other • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Attachments	Minor budget changes were made as part of finalizing the grant. \$20 was moved from "Budget Other" (signage) to (Travel and Conferences) to make costs consistent with BWSR's records. "Budget-Non-ENRTF" funds were adjusted to reflect the increased match provided for the program. The following parcels were re-entered after being lost: 12.07106.0000-82.46637.0070-33.21961.0000-92.56715.0900-98.60573.0050-10.0303.003-10.0015.001-16.0227.000-0402620240001-210282211001-2302921210001-1203210210003-0302721330002-3203021120006-1102820440072-1402721430003-0503020110002-80.00056.00-	November 10, 2025	Yes	November 18, 2025

			31.00327.01-10.0319.000-08-0-019400-08-0-019600-08-0-019700-08-0-020600			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update September 3, 2025

Date Submitted: November 10, 2025

Date Approved: November 18, 2025

Overall Update

This project has built momentum for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and conservation partners to focus on the support of at-risk insect species, as well as overall biodiversity across Minnesota. Fourteen organizations collaborated with BWSR on this project to complete work on 70 separate restoration and enhancement projects covering 810 acres. These projects focused on establishing and enhancing high diversity plantings on a wide range of landscapes including schools, conservation easements, and public parks and natural areas. Work was conducted with diverse partnerships in all parts of Minnesota (Duluth, Moorehead, LaCrescent, Marshall, etc.) Restoration on these projects has built knowledge for the conservation community about how to effectively conduct site preparation, planting and management to support biodiversity. This has led to the update of several state seed mixes, refining restoration technical resources and outreach, and the identification of lands that are a high priority for restoration. The grant allowed BWSR to build a state grant program (the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program) focused on establishing targeted pollinator habitat and supporting for a wide range of at-risk wildlife on conservation lands and natural areas. Signs identifying this innovative project and ENRTF funding have been installed at project sites.

Activity 1

A team of interagency advisors including BWSR, MnDOT, DNR, MN Bee Lab, USFWS, Pheasants Forever, and Xerces Society played a key role in guiding the success of this project. The team developed a request for proposals (RFP) for the program, ranked applications and provided technical support to partners. BWSR also collaborated with Xerces Society to develop a conservation plan template (one instead of two to maximize efficiency) and additional guidance to ensure the success of partners collaborating on project planning, installation and management. The advisory team was involved in two rounds of RFP release and ranking of projects in 2022 and 2023.

A two hour habitat restoration workshop was conducted on April 29th of 2022 attended by 41 conservation staff followed by 1.5 hour regional workshops for NE, SW, NW, and NE Minnesota that allowed for more detailed discussions about project strategies to establish high value pollinator habitat and support other at-risk species.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 has a goal of 600-1000 acres of planting and enhancement for the project. Of the budget for project installation of \$674,500, \$ 612,763.24 was expended with around 810 acres restored and 70 projects completed. These projects had conservation plans developed and focused on establishing and enhancing high diversity plantings on a wide range of landscapes including schools, conservation easements, and public parks and natural areas. All grant agreements have been completed. A larger amount of match was provided by project partners than originally anticipated totaling \$492,382 which helped add to the quality and impact of projects. Projects completed through the program are sequestering around 460 metric tons of carbon each year, and holding around 1,820 acre feet of water per year. Parcel data for all projects has been entered.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Through development of the program and assessment of projects BWSR has updated several technical resources listed below as part of innovation and information developed through this program: The program advisory team has met yearly to further assess the program and plan for future actions.

- "BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines"(Guidance on seed and plant source requirements, diversity levels, and climate change considerations).<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/native-vegetation-guidelines>
- "Landscape Resiliency Toolbox" (Guidance on establishing resilient projects)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/bwsr-climate-resiliency-toolbox>
- "Pollinator and Biodiversity Toolbox" (Guidance for pollinator habitat projects)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/pollinator-toolbox>
- "Guidance Documents, Tools and Other Resources" (Technical information for project establishment)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/guidance-documents-tools-and-other-resources>
- "What's Working for Conservation" (including information about successful restoration practices implemented through the program)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/whats-working-for-conservation>
- "Featured Plant Articles" (Plant species featured important for program projects)<https://www.bing.com/search?q=bwsr%20featured%20plant%20articles%20archive&qs=n&form=QBRE&sp=1&ghc=1&lq=0&pq=bwsr%20featured%20plant%20articles%20archive&sc=12-35&sk=&cvid=CB77D276C7424B1EBF8D651987CE71E4>
- "BWSR Seed Mix Webpage Seed Mixes" | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (New seed ,mixes) *(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

Dissemination

The ENRTF is being acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications. A website was created to promote and share program information (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8921>). Also several articles promoting projects competed with this funding have been developed and made available (https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2024-02/snapshots_story_1_march_2024_marshall_help_grant_entrif_logo.pdf and https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2023-05/Snapshot%20Story%201%20June%202023%20HELP_Accessible.pdf). Results of the project have been discussed with over 100 project partners over the last year and will be presented in the fall of 2025 as part of the BWSR Academy.

Signage was developed with 90 signs posted at project sites showcasing the program logo and LCCMR-ENTRF Logo.

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: August 11, 2025

Date Approved: October 21, 2025

Overall Update

This project has built momentum for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and conservation partners to focus on the support of at-risk insect species, as well as overall biodiversity across Minnesota. Fourteen organizations collaborated with BWSR on this project to complete work on 70 separate restoration and enhancement projects covering 810 acres. These projects focused on establishing and enhancing high diversity plantings on a wide range of landscapes including schools, conservation easements, and public parks and natural areas. Work was conducted with diverse partnerships in all parts of Minnesota (Duluth, Moorehead, LaCrescent, Marshall, etc.) Restoration on these projects has built knowledge for the conservation community about how to effectively conduct site preparation, planting and management to support biodiversity. This has led to the update of several state seed mixes, refining restoration technical resources and outreach, and the identification of lands that are a high priority for restoration. The grant allowed BWSR to build a state grant program (the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program) focused on establishing targeted pollinator habitat and supporting for a wide range of at-risk wildlife on conservation lands and natural areas. Signs identifying this innovative project and ENRTF funding have been installed at project sites.

Activity 1

A team of interagency advisors including BWSR, MnDOT, DNR, MN Bee Lab, USFWS, Pheasants Forever, and Xerces Society played a key role in guiding the success of this project. The team developed a request for proposals (RFP) for the program, ranked applications and provided technical support to partners. BWSR also collaborated with Xerces Society to develop a conservation plan template (one instead of two to maximize efficiency) and additional guidance to ensure the success of partners collaborating on project planning, installation and management. The advisory team was involved in two rounds of RFP release and ranking of projects in 2022 and 2023.

A two hour habitat restoration workshop was conducted on April 29th of 2022 attended by 41 conservation staff followed by 1.5 hour regional workshops for NE, SW, NW, and NE Minnesota that allowed for more detailed discussions about project strategies to establish high value pollinator habitat and support other at-risk species.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 has a goal of 600-1000 acres of planting and enhancement for the project. Of the budget for project installation of \$674,500, \$ 612,763.24 was expended with around 810 acres restored and 70 projects completed. These projects had conservation plans developed and focused on establishing and enhancing high diversity plantings on a wide range of landscapes including schools, conservation easements, and public parks and natural areas. All grant agreements have been completed. A larger amount of match was provided by project partners than originally anticipated totaling \$492,382 which helped add to the quality and impact of projects. Projects completed through the program are sequestering around 460 metric tons of carbon each year, and holding around 1,820 acre feet of water per year.

Activity 3

Through development of the program and assessment of projects BWSR has updated several technical resources listed below as part of innovation and information developed through this program: The program advisory team has met yearly to further assess the program and plan for future actions.

- "BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines Native Vegetation Establishment and

Enhancement Guidelines" (Guidance on seed and plant source requirements, diversity levels, and climate change considerations).<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/native-vegetation-guidelines>

- "Landscape Resiliency Toolbox" (Guidance on establishing resilient projects)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/bwsr-climate-resiliency-toolbox>
- "Pollinator and Biodiversity Toolbox" (Guidance for pollinator habitat projects)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/pollinator-toolbox>
- "Guidance Documents, Tools and Other Resources" (Technical information for project establishment)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/guidance-documents-tools-and-other-resources>
- "What's Working for Conservation" (including information about successful restoration practices implemented through the program)<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/whats-working-for-conservation>
- "Featured Plant Articles" (Plant species featured important for program projects)<https://www.bing.com/search?q=bwsr%20featured%20plant%20articles%20archive&qs=n&form=QBRE&sp=1&ghc=1&lq=0&pq=bwsr%20featured%20plant%20articles%20archive&sc=12-35&sk=&cvid=CB77D276C7424B1EBF8D651987CE71E4>
- "BWSR Seed Mix Webpage Seed Mixes" | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (New seed ,mixes)

Dissemination

The ENRTF is being acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications. A website was created to promote and share program information (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8921>). Also several articles promoting projects competed with this funding have been developed and made available (https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2024-02/snapshots_story_1_march_2024_marshall_help_grant_entrif_logo.pdf and https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2023-05/Snapshot%20Story%201%20June%202023%20HELP_Accessible.pdf). Results of the project have been discussed with over 100 project partners over the last year and will be presented in the fall of 2025 as part of the BWSR Academy.

Signage was developed with 90 signs posted at project sites showcasing the program logo and LCCMR-ENTRF Logo.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: March 31, 2025

Date Approved: June 2, 2025

Overall Update

Fourteen organizations have completed work on their habitat restoration and enhancement projects. Since the last update around 100 additional acres have been restored as part of 70 total projects completed. Project signs are being distributed to organizations for installation and information about successful habitat practices are being collected from project managers.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 has a goal of 1000 acres of planting and enhancement for the project. Of the budget for project installation of \$674,500, \$476,691 has been expended with around 810 acres restored and 70 projects completed. All grant agreements have expired with all but one grant being review and closed-out (Winona SWCD).

Activity 3

BWSR is working on collecting information from program participants about restoration practices that were successful for their efforts to be included on the BWSR What's Working website.

Dissemination

The ENRTF is being acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications. A website was created to promote and share program information (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8921>). Also several articles promoting projects competed with this funding has been developed and made available (https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2024-02/snapshots_story_1_march_2024_marshall_help_grant_entr_f_logo.pdf and https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2023-05/Snapshot%20Story%201%20June%202023%20HELP_Accessible.pdf)

A HELP logo has been completed with 90 signs being purchased, showcasing the program logo and LCCMR-ENTRF Logo. All program participants will receive signage that will be placed at each project site, promoting the program.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2024

Date Submitted: October 1, 2024

Date Approved: October 28, 2024

Overall Update

Fourteen organizations are working on habitat restoration and enhancement projects through this program. Many groups are working to finish their restoration and enhancement projects this fall. BWSR is starting to collect information from participants about successful habitat establishment and enhancement strategies to be included on BWSR's What's Working for Conservation website.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 has a goal of 1000 acres of planting and enhancement for the project. Of the budget for project installation of \$674,500, \$282,349 has been expended with around 718 acres restored and 33 projects underway. The following groups are currently working on projects: Root River SWCD, Martin SWCD, Ramsey-Washington Metro WD, Aitkin SWCD, Crow Wing SWCD, Sherburne SWCD, Washington Conservation District, Beltrami SWCD, Anoka CD, Stearns SWCD, Washington Conservation District, Lyon SWCD, Winona SWCD, and Lake SWCD, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.

Activity 3

The program advisory team met in August to discuss the current status of the program and future priorities. The pilot that was funded by LCCMR is being extended as a program through General Fund and new projects were awarded in September. BWSR is working on collecting information from program participants about restoration practices that were successful for their efforts to be included on the BWSR What's Working website.

Dissemination

The ENRTF is being acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, project signage and other communications. Signage for project have been printed and will be distributed for projects reaching completion.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: April 2, 2024

Date Approved: April 12, 2024

Overall Update

Fifteen organizations are working on habitat restoration and enhancement projects through this program. As the grants close in June the grantees are working on finishing their restoration and enhancement projects. BWSR is starting to collect information from participants about successful habitat establishment and enhancement strategies to be included on BWSR's What's Working for Conservation website.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 has a goal of 1000 acres of planting and enhancement for the project. Of the budget for project installation of \$674,500, \$228,000 has been expended with around 66 projects underway including enhancement projects covering 566 acres and restoration projects covering 622.53 acres. The following groups are currently working on projects: Root River SWCD, Martin SWCD, Ramsey-Washington Metro WD, Aitkin SWCD, Crow Wing SWCD, Sherburne SWCD, Washington Conservation District, Beltrami SWCD, Anoka CD, Stearns SWCD, Washington Conservation District, Lyon SWCD, Winona SWCD, and Lake SWCD.

Activity 3

The program advisory team met in February and discussed the current status of the program and future priorities. The pilot that was funded by LCCMR is being extended as a program through General Fund and a new RFP for the program to start additional projects was released on March 28th. BWSR is working on collecting information from program participants about restoration practices that were successful for their efforts to be included on the BWSR What's Working website.

Dissemination

The ENRTF is being acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, project signage and other communications. Signage for project will be distributed in coming weeks.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2023

Date Submitted: September 28, 2023

Date Approved: October 9, 2023

Overall Update

Currently, fifteen organizations are working on habitat restoration and enhancement projects through this program. Many innovative approaches are being used to establish habitat which is advancing our understanding of effective practices. Groups are in the process of reporting their activity since June 1st, so we will have additional information soon about restoration and enhancement efforts. A key next step for the program will be to start collecting information about successful habitat establishment and enhancement strategies to be included on BWSR's What's Working for Conservation website.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 has a goal of 1000 acres of planting and enhancement for the project. Of the budget for project installation of \$674,500, \$162,798 has been expended with around 55 projects underway and 5 enhancement project completed covering 29 acres and 3 restoration projects completed covering 622.53 acres. The following groups are currently working on projects: Root River SWCD, Martin SWCD, Ramsey-Washington Metro WD, Aitkin SWCD, Crow Wing SWCD, Sherburne SWCD, Washington Conservation District, Beltrami SWCD, Anoka CD, Stearns SWCD, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD, Washington Conservation District, Lyon SWCD, Winona SWCD, Lake SWCD

Activity 3

The program advisory team continues to provide input for the program through email, periodic meetings and individual discussions. The team is encouraged by the current progress of funding recipients and recommended program adjustments. Project signs with the ENRTF logo are in the design stage and will be distributed to projects as they are completed. BWSR staff is starting to work with groups currently restoring sites to collect What's Working information for BWSR's website now that projects are getting further along in the restoration process.

Dissemination

The ENRTF is being acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2023

Date Submitted: September 28, 2023

Date Approved: October 9, 2023

Overall Update

The eleven subawards that were appropriated in 2022 have been making progress on the site planning and site preparation. Many of them will be planting projects in the spring of 2023. Some of the funding recipients are working on several projects; the current number of active restoration projects is around 25. The program advisory team just reviewed grants for the second round of subawards and have recommended seven additional awardees that will be working on around 15 additional projects. The funding recommendations are going to BWSR's Board in April for approval.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 has a goal of 1000 acres of planting and enhancement for the project. With current projects that are in development we will likely be restoring around 2000 acres. We will have a more accurate acreage estimate once the new groups with subawards start their efforts. We may have a lower number of total projects (90) than originally expected as the average project size is larger than expected. We will amend the workplan in the future to change the total number of projects if needed. Current groups that are working on projects are developing conservation plans for their restorations.

Activity 3

The program advisory team recently met and discussed next steps and adjustments for the program moving ahead. The team is encouraged by the current progress of funding recipients and recommended program adjustments. Some projects were recently featured during the Best Practices for Pollinators Summit (several hundred attendees) coordinated by Pollinator Friendly Alliance and Xerces Society and we are planning to incorporate this information into BWSR's What's Working webpage.

Dissemination

The ENRTF is being acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2022

Date Submitted: October 1, 2022

Date Approved: October 28, 2022

Overall Update

Eleven projects that were funded in spring of 2022 have been getting underway this summer. A second RFP for the program will be released in early November to disperse additional project funding. Eligible applicants will be Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, and Counties.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Eleven projects that were funded in spring of 2022 are making progress with site preparation efforts and planting in some cases. The current 11 recipients have BWSR reporting due by October 10th so we will be receiving additional information including project acreage at that time. Funding recipients will also be reimbursing for project expenses. They are also filling out conservation plans for each project to maximize benefits to target wildlife species. A second RFP for the program will be released in early November to distribute additional project funding. Eligible applicants will be Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, and Counties.

Activity 3

Most projects are still in beginning states but we have been communicating with participants about the need to document successful planning, design, installation and management strategies and case studies to be included on BWSR's What's Working webpage.

Dissemination

The ENRTF has been acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo on outreach, educational and technical materials and will be for signs to be located at project sites.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2022

Date Submitted: April 29, 2022

Date Approved: May 27, 2022

Overall Update

A key role of this project is to develop a new BWSR pilot program and competitive RFP to establish new floral rich plots or riparian plantings and/or enhance prairie, savanna, wetland and shoreline communities to provide high value habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. BWSR developed a new HELP (Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot) to launch this effort and funding has currently been awarded to 11 organizations to start establishing project. A second RFP will be released later this summer.

Activity 1

A program RFP, ranking criteria and guidance for project prioritization was developed by a group of interagency advisors including BWSR, MnDOT, DNR, MN Bee Lab, and Xerces Society staff. BWSR also collaborated with Xerces Society to develop a conservation plan template: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VwoEU6X9K-thyenTXr4WIYFD75V01iuw2gOxhhoIKc/edit>

in a google document format so project partners can collaborate on the planning. This template is to be filled out by project managers for all funded projects. We initially planned to develop two separate templates for pollinator plots and habitat enhancement but decided it was more efficient for project managers to have the two templates combined into one more comprehensive template.

A two hour habitat restoration workshop was conducted on April 29th attended by 41 people followed by 1.5 hour regional workshops for NE Minnesota; SW and NW Minnesota; and NE Minnesota that allowed for more detailed discussion about project strategies to establish high value pollinator habitat.

Following the release of the program RFP 11 projects were recommended for funding by the BWSR Board on April 27th and project managers will be developing project workplans.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Activity 2 is focused on restoring and enhancing approximately 1000 acres across 90 sites on conservation lands. A second program RFP will be released later this summer to seek additional projects. The 11 funded projects will start their site preparation and seeding work later this season.

Activity 3

Activity 3 is focused on program Assessment, Signage and What's Working Outreach and will be finalized later as the program progresses.

Dissemination

The workshop presentations and new conservation planning template will be added to BWSR's HELP program website within a week. A follow-up email will also be sent to 50 people that registered for the workshop with the presentation attached, link to the conservation plan template and links to additional resources.