

M.L. 2026 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2027

Overall Topic Area	\$ Recommended	Percentage of Total Recommended	Number Recommended	Percentage of Number Recommended
Resiliency	\$10,641,000	10.30%	10	9.17%
Water	\$17,014,000	16.47%	20	18.35%
Education and Outdoor Recreation	\$37,806,000	36.59%	40	36.70%
Fish and Wildlife	\$18,750,000	18.15%	19	17.43%
Energy	\$773,000	0.75%	2	1.83%
Land	\$17,964,000	17.39%	17	15.60%
Administration*	\$378,000	0.37%	1	0.92%
Total	\$103,326,000	100.00%	109	100.00%

Fund Source	\$ Amount
FY2027 - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund	\$ 103,326,000
Total \$	\$ 103,326,000

*Includes commission buffer. The buffer is for mistakes made during the allocation process. If the buffer is not needed, the commission may either allocate it to another proposal or it will be allocated to the Emerging Issues Account later this year.

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As of July 18, 2025, the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has selected 109 proposals totaling approximately \$103 million to recommend to the 2026 Minnesota Legislature for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The amount available for appropriation from the ENRTF for FY 2027 is \$103,326,000. In response to LCCMR's 2026 Request for Proposal (RFP), 400 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$359 million were received and considered through a competitive, multi stage evaluation. The following recommendations range from funding the full proposal and dollar amount requested to partial funding for specific proposal elements.

Proposal ID	Project Title	Amount Recommended	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
Resiliency (10 Recommendations = \$10,641,000)						
2026-085	Community Resiliency through AmeriCorps	\$3,312,000	Over three years, we will deploy 150 AmeriCorps members statewide to build community capacity and conduct projects that align with LCCMR and ENRTF's Resiliency goals.	ServeMinnesota	Sharon Delcambre	Statewide
2026-155	Preparing Resilient Communities with Model Land Use Ordinances	\$468,000	Develop and improve Minnesota-specific model ordinances for economic, environmental, and social resilience. Facilitate cohorts and provide examples so planners can tailor the templates to their community's unique needs and priorities.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Kristin Mroz Risse	Statewide
2026-207	Resilient and Biodiverse Community Spaces	\$612,000	The project focuses on resiliency and biodiversity planning for community spaces statewide and addressing several Minnesota Climate Action Framework initiatives.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Dan Shaw	Statewide
2026-218	Northwoods and Waters Community Resilience Collaborative	\$1,220,000	The Collaborative will create a Regional Resilience Plan uniting NE and Central MN counties, Tribal Nations, and agencies to address climate adaptation with sustainable land, water, infrastructure, and energy solutions.	Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	Joshua Bergstad	NE
2026-282	Protect Community Forests for Community Resiliency	\$2,603,000	Project will reduce impacts of EAB through community management (inventory, planting assessment, management plan, removal, non-neonicotinoid treatment) and improve community forests by involving residents and planting a diversity of trees.	MN DNR, Forestry Division	Valerie McClannahan	Statewide

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2026-298	Identifying Flooding Hazards on Mille Lacs Tribal Lands	\$800,000	Hydrologic and hydraulic models will be developed for the Big Sandy Lake and upper Rice River watersheds to map flood-prone areas and identify restrictive infrastructure that may contribute to flooding.	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Charles Lippert	NE
2026-464	Advancing Dehydration Technologies for Resilient Minnesota Food Systems	\$300,000	We will enable resilient food systems by defining opportunities and developing technology for solar drying and curing in Minnesota with three distinct farmer groups.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Natasha Wright	Statewide
2026-508	Climate-Smart Counties and Communities: Collaborative Resiliency Solutions	\$827,000	This project proposes a novel way to help rural and small communities and counties across Minnesota develop and implement locally-driven resiliency plans that tap world-class expertise in Minnesota and Germany.	U of MN, Institute on the Environment	Sabine Engel	Central, NE, NW, SE, SW
2026-528	Mahnomen EAB Preparation Project	\$62,000	The City of Mahnomen seeks funds to remove and replace ash trees that currently make up 67.5% of the community's urban canopy, while also addressing food insecurity.	City of Mahnomen	Taylor Guenther	NW
2026-544	Sustainable Food Security, Ecosystem Restoration, and Indigenous Empowerment	\$437,000	SFSEIIC combats Indigenous food insecurity through community-driven agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and improved local supply chains, empowering communities with culturally-tailored foods, capacity building, and a comprehensive directory of traditional food resources.	U of MN, Duluth	Wenqing Zhang	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$10,641,000				
Water (20 Recommendations = \$17,014,000)						
2026-034	Statewide Risk Estimates for Contaminants of Emerging Concern	\$175,000	Compile and analyze Minnesota's Contaminant of Emerging Concern occurrence data for lakes and rivers collected over two decades to generate ecological risk estimates for freshwater conservation and restoration purposes.	University of St. Thomas	Dalma Martinovic-Weigelt	Statewide

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2026-055	Eliminating Phenolic Compounds from Water Using Enzyme Filter	\$300,000	This project will study the biodegradation of phenolic compounds in water by an enzyme (laccase), and design an enzyme membrane filter to capture and destroy phenolic compounds in Minnesota waters.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Hua Zhao	Statewide
2026-070	Vadnais Lake: Nature-Based Recreation and Drinking Water Protection	\$2,842,000	Project will combine creation of critical water quality improvement ponds with educational and recreational elements, connecting underserved community members with natural resources, protecting drinking water, and promoting water stewardship.	City of Vadnais Heights	Jim Hauth	Metro
2026-088	Twin Cities PBS Almanac Environment and Natural Resources Desk	\$632,000	TPT's Almanac proposes a new, statewide Environment & Natural Resources Desk, amplifying stories of Minnesota's water, environment, and other natural resources, and the issues, policies, solutions, and people that intersect.	Twin Cities Public Television	Kari Kennedy	Statewide
2026-116	Studying Dam Removal Feasibility for the Mississippi Gorge	\$923,000	Assessing the feasibility, environmental benefits, river restoration potential, and costs of dam removal for two locks and dams in the Mississippi River gorge.	Friends of the Mississippi River	Colleen O'Connor Toberman	Metro
2026-124	Protecting Minnesota's Waters from Plastic- and Rubber-Derived Chemicals	\$418,000	Strategies to protect surface and groundwater from pollutants leached from polymers, coatings, plastics, and tire rubbers using stormwater treatment will be developed by assessing pollutant sources, presence, and reactivity.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	William Arnold	Statewide
2026-164	Public Toolbox to Forecast Toxic Cyanobacteria Blooms	\$509,000	This project will develop a field-deployable toolbox, "Cyanodetector", for detecting harmful algal blooms and forecasting cyanobacterial toxins to protect public health and manage recreational water advisories.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Chan Lan Chun	Statewide
2026-169	PFAS in Precipitation: Assessing a Critical Statewide Threat	\$910,000	PFAS contaminates Minnesota's natural resources through rainfall and snowfall. This project will support statewide, multi-year, measurements of PFAS in rain and snow and investigate associated sources.	U of MN, Duluth - Sea Grant	Alexander Frie	Statewide

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2026-203	Assessment of Microplastic Pollution in Karst Aquifers	\$458,000	We will determine the nature and extent of microplastic pollution in shallow karst aquifers, identify potential sources, and assess human and ecosystem health implications to inform mitigation and prevention strategies.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Metropolitan State University	Benjamin Maas	Statewide
2026-210	Ash Recovery and Recycling Center	\$1,177,000	Water resources in Otter Tail County are priceless. Minnesota has spent hundreds of millions on landfill cleanup. This proposal will protect water by reversing the landfilling process and recycling instead.	Otter Tail County	Nicholas Leonard	Central, NW
2026-248	PFAS and Microplastics: Potential Impacts of Environmental Co-Occurrence	\$721,000	Analyze water, sediment, and fish for PFAS and microplastics to determine whether co-occurrence has an impact on bioaccumulation.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	David Duffey	Statewide
2026-331	Brookdale Park Shingle Creek Restoration and Access Improvements	\$409,000	This small-scale project will stabilize and enhance Shingle Creek at Brookdale Park to improve habitat and water quality. Complementary efforts will renovate the adjacent recreational trail to increase public access.	City of Brooklyn Park	Mitch Robinson	Metro
2026-382	Determining Fracture Characteristics for Karst Groundwater Flow Modeling	\$375,000	We use new software to identify and investigate geometric and hydraulic properties of fractured aquifers needed for accurately modeling flow and pollutant transport. This development involves artificial intelligence/machine learning.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Qizhi He	Statewide
2026-424	Restoring Wild Rice Waters: Sulfate and Mercury Treatment	\$727,000	This project tests a Biological Sulfate Reduction System (BSRS) to treat sulfate and sequester mercury, improving the health of wild rice waters and protecting aquatic ecosystems in northern Minnesota.	White Iron Chain of Lakes Association	Dave Holt	NE
2026-447	Cheap Portable Sensor to Detect PFAS in Water	\$357,000	We propose to develop a cheap, accurate, and easy-to-use sensor for detection of PFAS in water. It can be used for natural water monitoring and drinking water detection of PFAS.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Tianhong Cui	Statewide

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2026-473	Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management	\$1,275,000	Geologic atlases provide maps/databases essential for improved management of ground and surface water. This proposal will complete current projects and start new projects to equal about 4 complete atlases.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	Barbara Lusardi	Statewide
2026-486	Mitigating Short-Chain Forever Chemicals for a PFAS-Free Minnesota	\$299,000	The project addresses the remediation of short-chain PFAS that are irreversibly accumulating in water streams and are largely inadequately removed by currently implemented PFAS mitigation processes.	U of MN, College of Science and Engineering	Peter Bruggeman	Statewide
2026-542	Anoka Rum River Dam Reconstruction and Modification Project	\$3,110,000	Project includes pre-design/design for reconstruction and improvements to the Anoka Rum River Dam; restoring fish passage, recreation, pedestrian bridge, and safety near the confluence with the Mississippi River.	City of Anoka	Ben Nelson	Metro
2026-552	Lake Superior River Watch	\$404,000	Revitalize the River Watch program in the Lake Superior watershed, by engaging students, secondary to undergraduate, in water quality monitoring and analysis to support Minnesota's stewardship efforts.	Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College	Courtney Kowalczak	NE
2026-563	Red Lake Nation Long-Term Continuous Monitoring Buoys	\$993,000	Red Lake Nation will install three long-term buoys on Upper and Lower Red Lakes and Lake of the Woods to continuously monitor real-time publicly available water quality data.	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Mindy Phillips	NW
	Subtotal	\$17,014,000				
Education and Outdoor Recreation (40 Recommendations = \$37,806,000)						
2026-002	CMSM 2026 Proposal	\$300,000	The Coalition will work collaboratively to share, expand upon, and standardize existing curriculum of nature-based programming to engage children birth-10, fostering environmental stewardship, awareness of natural resources, and sustainability.	Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota	Crystal Olson	Statewide

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2026-010	Cultivate, Connect, and Train Minnesota's Young Conservation Scientists	\$538,000	Produce 2,000 young environmental scientists from diverse classrooms across MN. Create lasting appreciation for Minnesota's natural heritage through immersive leading-edge research by working with professional conservation researchers.	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	David Remucal	Statewide
2026-013	Native Fish Exhibits Transforming Aquatic Education in Minnesota	\$299,000	This project creates interactive, year-round exhibits featuring native fish species, educating Minnesotans about aquatic ecosystems. Hands-on programs emphasize conservation, empowering underserved communities and tourists to protect Minnesota's vital lake resources.	Headwaters Science Center	Lee Furuseth	NW
2026-027	Inspiring and Connecting the Next Generations with Nature	\$3,085,000	Engage 30,000 Minnesota youth in outdoor experiences that create a love for the environment.	YMCA of the North	Beth Becker	Statewide
2026-039	River Bend Nature Center's Inclusive Interpretive Plan Implementation	\$293,000	River Bend's Outdoor Diversity Initiative will incorporate multi-lingual/cultural, interactive interpretive and educational exhibits providing culturally relevant and accessible nature connections with Faribault's Somali, Latinx, and Blind & Deaf communities.	River Bend Nature Center	Brad Bourn	SE
2026-065	Fostering Environmental Stewardship through Art	\$298,000	Project will enhance environmental education to underserved youth in Northern Minnesota through art related experiences with regional artists, culture bearers, and Headwaters Science Center, delivering culturally relevant hands-on learning experiences.	Watermark Art Center	Lori Forshee-Donnay	Central, NE, NW
2026-080	Increasing Pollinator Conservation Action Through Education and Engagement	\$501,000	A comprehensive pollinator education program for volunteers, veterans, and beekeepers will increase pollinator conservation awareness and adoption of action steps. Volunteers will collect data to inform pollinator conservation recommendations.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Elaine Evans	Statewide

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2026-086	Flyway Fellows: Engaging Teachers in Bird Migration Education	\$362,000	Deliver professional development to 60 teachers across three Minnesota regions in bird monitoring practices, empowering them to engage 7,000 students in scientific research and support Mississippi Flyway conservation efforts.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Robert Blair	Statewide
2026-093	Minnesota Community Schoolyards	\$1,343,000	Minnesota Community Schoolyards will create at least 4 nature-focused habitat improvement projects at schoolyards across the state; engage students and the community in environmental stewardship; and encourage outdoor learning.	The Trust for Public Land	Anna Callahan	Statewide
2026-099	Bringing Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation to K-12 Schools	\$192,000	Osprey Wilds will educate over 7,500 K-12 students through outreach programs to K-12 schools that address LCCMR's funding priorities of resiliency, water, education and outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife, energy.	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	Bryan Wood	Statewide
2026-102	Improving Trail Accessibility for Minnesotans at Osprey Wilds	\$25,000	Osprey Wilds seeks to improve our network of 13 miles of hiking and cross country ski trails for all Minnesotans to enjoy by adding trail and interpretive signage, and Class-Five Crushed.	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	Bryan Wood	Statewide
2026-115	Duluth Traverse Accessibility and Sustainability Improvements	\$85,000	Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and preserve water quality of Knowlton Creek, a designated trout stream, by rehabilitating 6,500 feet of the Duluth Traverse to improve accessibility and address erosion.	Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores	Ansel Schimpff	Statewide
2026-141	Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Extension	\$1,244,000	Develop final design and construct the final mile of Washington County's Hardwood Creek Regional Trail, opening up 40+ continuous miles of regional trail network across three counties.	Washington County	Andrea Rehm	Metro

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2026-165	College-School Collaboration to Restore Campuses and Activate Stewardship	\$199,000	This collaboration among natural resource professionals, college, and K-12 partners activates regional restoration projects, exposes youth to outdoor experiences and environmental issues, promotes natural resource careers, and engages community.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	Kimberly Musser	SE, SW
2026-177	Urban Farming Education to Increase Urban Environmental Stewardship	\$300,000	EPNI requests funding for hands-on, environmentally-focused urban farming education to reconnect residents of a diverse, environmental justice neighborhood to the land and water, and to foster interest in environmental careers.	East Phillips Neighborhood Institute	Daniel Schmidt	Metro
2026-182	A State Trail System for 21st-Century Minnesota	\$623,000	BikeMN and statewide collaborators will promote the development and use of Minnesota's existing and planned state trail system through community and business engagement and active adult education programming.	Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota	Dan Nemes	Statewide
2026-221	Mississippi River Water Trail Access in Dayton	\$464,000	Mississippi River water trail access development, including a non-motorized boat launch and staging area, paved trail connection, parking, and natural resource restoration, on Three Rivers Park District's property in Dayton.	Three Rivers Park District	Maggie Heurung	Metro
2026-231	YES Connects Students to Outdoors for Youth-Led Sustainability	\$199,000	YES will engage and connect diverse students across Minnesota in hands-on environmental education and natural resource-based outdoor recreation to promote youth-led sustainability projects and partnerships in local schools and communities.	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Kalley Pratt	Statewide
2026-254	Sharing Minnesota's Greatest Environmental Investment Phase II	\$623,000	This project will continue the Science Museum of Minnesota's work to communicate the stories of LCCMR/ENRTF-funded work to a public audience through an online story map and video content.	Science Museum of Minnesota	Joy Hobbs	Statewide

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2026-258	Diversifying Nature Education Access	\$438,000	Diversifying nature education through outreach support, affinity group nature center events, Indigenous-led nature programming, and nature interpretive signage designed by Indigenous artists and educators.	Ramsey County Parks and Recreation	Kristopher Lencowski	Statewide
2026-260	Cultivating Conservation Leaders through Education and Wilderness Experiences	\$1,252,000	Fostering the next generation of conservation leaders and increasing access to the Boundary Waters through environmental education and immersive wilderness experiences for 12,000 students throughout Minnesota.	Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	Alison Nyenhuis	Statewide
2026-267	LHRP Natural Resources Restoration and Sustainable Trails Improvements	\$2,126,000	Lebanon Hills Regional Park Natural Resources Restoration and Sustainable Trails Improvements.	Dakota County	Tony Wotzka	Metro
2026-287	Minnesota State Trails Development	\$4,943,000	This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development of select new State Trail Segments.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Kent Skaar	Statewide
2026-288	Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement	\$3,674,000	This project proposes the replacement of the Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge, a steel truss bridge originally constructed in 1923.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Kent Skaar	Statewide
2026-293	Expanding Adaptive Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Around the BWCA	\$996,000	Our project includes lasting adaptive equipment investments, improvements to trail accessibility, and three years of robust programming to promote access to the Boundary Waters region for Minnesotans with physical disabilities.	Adaptive Wilderness Within Reach	Jill Leary	Statewide
2026-302	Engaging Saint Paul Youth in Meaningful Restoration Work	\$300,000	Urban Roots will engage underserved youth, ages 14-18 in paid, job training internships centered around environmental education and natural resource conservation.	Urban Roots MN	David Woods	Metro

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2026-304	Expanding and Enhancing Environmental Education through Partnerships	\$550,000	Belwin will expand environmental education by partnering with east metro schools and Native-led organizations to provide students with hands-on, standards-aligned, science and cultural learning at our new education center.	Belwin Conservancy	Katie Bloome	Metro
2026-306	Greater Fountain Lake Aquatic and Trail Accessibility Enhancements	\$1,162,000	This proposal requests funding the installation of features to safely improve pedestrian access to fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and public park space located along the Shell Rock River Channel.	Shell Rock River Watershed District	Courtney Phillips	SE
2026-313	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	\$3,833,000	Provide approximately 18 matching grants for local parks, trails, and acquisition of natural areas and trails to connect people safely to desirable community locations and regional or state facilities.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Jenni Bubke	Statewide
2026-348	Lake Marion Greenway – Ritter Farm to Dodd Blvd	\$1,797,000	Construction of the Lake Marion Greenway between Ritter Farm Park and Dodd Blvd in the City of Lakeville, including new trails, improvements to existing trails, trailhead facilities, and interpretive elements.	City of Lakeville	Joe Masiarchin	Metro
2026-355	Restored Bluff and Trail at Owámníyómní	\$2,385,000	Acquire, preserve, and improve land on the Central Riverfront in Minneapolis abutting the Upper Lock (but not the Lock structure itself) for conservation, natural restoration, education, and recreation.	Owámníyomni Okhódayapi	Kjersti Monson	Statewide
2026-367	Minnesota Water Education for K-5	\$295,000	We are seeking funding to provide water educational programming to under-served schools in all 87 counties of Minnesota. Schools are looking for programming like this to enhance their student's learning.	Science Museum of Minnesota	Omena Giles	Statewide
2026-436	Outdoor Learning Center and Trails	\$250,000	The project will improve and expand access to the outdoor environment, provide spaces for exploration and education through accessible trails, features, shelter, and seating for students in Cook County Schools	Cook County Schools ISD 166	Chris Lindholm	NE

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2026-450	Facility Outdoor Improvements	\$180,000	We seek to connect disabled veterans and citizens with the outdoors and BWCA through the upgrading of our facilities with the construction and improvements to our facility.	Veterans on the Lake	Eric Mayranen	Statewide
2026-519	Classrooms to Careers: Expanding Environmental STEM Pathways	\$763,000	“Classrooms to Careers” will strengthen STEM career pathways across Minnesota. This will be accomplished through both hands-on experiences for high school youth and professional development for high school teachers.	Science Museum of Minnesota	Kelsey Boeff	Statewide
2026-520	Outdoor Learning Professional Development for Educators and Administrators	\$323,000	Wolf Ridge will provide professional development for educators and administrators throughout Minnesota, enabling them to implement innovative, locally focused outdoor learning at their school.	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center	Peter Smerud	Statewide
2026-559	Emerging Conservation Leaders - Expanding the Network	\$786,000	Project will annually introduce up to 10,000 metro area youth to the outdoors and the conservation profession through the convening and facilitation of a unique network of partner organizations.	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc	Neal Feeken	Metro
2026-571	Lakewood Elementary School Trail Renewal and Community Engagement 2	\$288,000	Rehabilitate an unsafe outdoor education trail to be resilient and accessible in all 4-seasons to serve students and community users for many years to come.	Duluth School District #709 - Lakewood Elementary	Darren Sheldon	NE
2026-578	Explore Minnesota With COPAL	\$392,000	COPAL will provide outdoor programming and leadership opportunities for 600+ BIPOC families and youth, and produce a report recommending improvements to enhance natural outdoor spaces that are inclusive and accessible.	Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Accion Latina	Carolina Ortiz	Statewide
2026-584	Expanding Community Boat Building and Outdoor Experiences	\$100,000	Urban Boatbuilders will expand the Partnership Program to engage 1,000 youth in hands-on woodworking experiences to empower young people to develop technical, career-readiness, and leadership skills in nature.	Urban Boatbuilders	Gretchen Wilbrandt	Metro
	Subtotal	\$37,806,000				

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Fish and Wildlife (19 Recommendations = \$18,750,000)						
2026-049	Which Cisco are Strongest? Identifying Healthy Populations	\$674,000	Determine if Minnesota populations of cisco exhibit different tolerances to high temperatures and low oxygen conditions; assess habitat suitability for different cisco strains to protect and restore coldwater habitats.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Kenneth Zillig	Statewide
2026-074	Mapping Leech Lake Vegetation: A Closer Look	\$478,000	Survey Leech Lake's aquatic plant community to better understand changes happening across Leech Lake and create an updated data set for agencies to reference.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Raining White	Statewide
2026-089	Salvage Wildlife Phase 2: Roadkill to Scientific Records	\$673,000	We will expand and support the statewide Salvage Wildlife network, prepare dead wildlife as museum-quality specimens, and build biodiversity resources for research, education, and conservation of Minnesota's wildlife.	U of MN, Bell Museum of Natural History	Keith Barker	Statewide
2026-113	Partnership for Resilient Landscapes	\$2,638,000	Provide technical assistance to support landowners and farmers in wildlife habitat, water quality and management activities. Leverage federal CREP funding to enhance ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity amid environmental changes.	Pheasants Forever Inc	Josh Pommier	Statewide
2026-271	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza's Impacts on Minnesota Raptors	\$298,000	Continuing surveillance for current infection and past exposure to highly pathogenic avian influenza in Minnesota's wild raptors to understand population level impacts and aid the community during this ongoing outbreak.	U of MN, Raptor Center	Dana Franzen-Klein	Statewide
2026-318	United in Responding to CWD in Minnesota	\$2,200,000	For our deer and the lives they sustain: integrating and deploying multidisciplinary tools against the expanding threat of chronic wasting disease to support informed and strategic responses.	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	Tiffany Wolf	Statewide

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2026-332	Survival and Movement of Deer in Minnesota's Prairies	\$1,000,000	Monitoring GPS-collared deer and examining survival, causes of mortality, predator impacts, and disease movement in CWD positive zones is important to determine deer health and inform future management.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Tyler Obermoller	Statewide
2026-357	Uniting Minnesota's Insect Record	\$932,000	We aim to develop the first comprehensive list of Minnesota insect species, unite the state insect collection with the Bell Museum, and integrate specimen records of statewide natural history collections.	U of MN, Bell Museum of Natural History	George Weiblen	Statewide
2026-373	Lake Sturgeon Restoration at Great Lakes Aquarium	\$500,000	Great Lakes Aquarium aims to restore lake sturgeon to the St. Louis River through a new exhibit and rearing program, encouraging community involvement in conservation activities.	Lake Superior Authority	Jay Walker	NE
2026-399	Wolf Monitoring on the Leech Lake Reservation	\$295,000	We will monitor and assess wolf population dynamics to update our wolf management plan, collaborate with other agencies, and ensure the long-term survival of wolves on the Leech Lake Reservation.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tanya Roerick	Central
2026-405	Phase II Investigation of Pine and Curry Island SNA	\$539,000	The Phase II investigation of Pine and Curry Island SNA erosion aims to develop restoration solutions that protect wildlife habitat, improve water quality, enhance recreation, and strengthen long-term coastal resilience.	Lake of the Woods County	Anthony PirkI	Statewide
2026-457	Building a Future for Minnesota's At-Risk Butterflies	\$294,000	We propose to develop and delineate conservation tools to benefit multiple imperiled Minnesota butterflies, leveraging the Pawnee skipper, a species of Special Concern, as a foundational case study.	Minnesota Zoological Garden	Erik Runquist	Statewide

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2026-498	Advancing Bison Recovery and Stewardship through Statewide Partnership	\$658,000	We will promote the conservation of bison in Minnesota to better fulfill integral ecological, cultural, and economic roles by implementing the Minnesota Bison Collaborative, evaluating reintroduction sites, and building awareness.	Minnesota Zoological Garden	Seth Stapleton	Statewide
2026-499	Identifying Climate-Resilient Fisheries to Guide Minnesota Lake Management	\$643,000	We will assess factors supporting multi-species resilience to climate change, identify “bright spots” where fisheries thrive despite changing habitats, and develop decision options within the Resist-Accept-Direct framework for fisheries management.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Gretchen Hansen	Statewide
2026-500	Supporting Implementation of Large-Scale Moose Habitat Management	\$1,054,000	Provide the capacity needed to support and monitor the implementation phase of an effort undertaken to identify challenges, develop strategies, and conduct large-scale moose habitat management across diverse land ownerships.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Lindsey Shartell	Statewide
2026-501	Evaluating Forward-Facing Sonar Impacts on Minnesota Fish	\$676,000	Evaluating the impact of forward-facing sonar on angler catch rates and fish mortality across multiple species and lake types to inform sustainable management of Minnesota freshwater fish populations.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Gretchen Hansen	Statewide
2026-506	Incidence of Avian Influenza in Minnesota Forest Birds	\$234,000	Avian influenza is a virus threatening poultry, livestock, wildlife, and humans. Prevalence in wild birds is unknown. Information on present and past infections or coinfections in wild birds is needed.	U of MN, Duluth	Mark Clark	Statewide
2026-532	Regarding Native Fish: Outreach, Engagement, and Citizen Science	\$270,000	This study will directly address native fish knowledge gaps in combination with implementing native fish educational, outreach, and citizen scientist activities as prioritized by MNDNR and LCCMR.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Solomon David	Statewide
2026-590	Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center	\$4,694,000	The Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) requests \$6,435,000 for up to eighteen new research projects to protect wildlife and plants from high-priority invasive species.	U of MN, MITPPC	Robert Venette	Statewide

M.L. 2026 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2027 with Summary

Proposal ID	Project Title	Amount Recommended	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
	Subtotal	\$18,750,000				
Energy (2 Recommendations = \$773,000)						
2026-529	Minnesota Chiller Energy Efficiency and Onsite Energy Generation	\$298,000	Project seeks to decrease carbon emissions through technical assistance aimed at cost-effective strategies to reduce energy use in chiller systems and identify onsite energy solutions that promote decarbonization and resilience.	U of MN, School of Public Health	Kelsey Klucas	Statewide
2026-540	Novel Piezoelectric Energy Converters for Minnesota Waters	\$475,000	This project will model and evaluate an innovative renewable energy approach—an underwater piezoelectric filament canopy—to sustainably harness the untapped wave energy resources of Lake Superior and similar regions.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	Lian Shen	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$773,000				
Land (17 Recommendations = \$17,964,000)						
2026-035	Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Restoration	\$392,000	Funds will support land restoration and invasive species mitigation, including efforts to address EAB, in alignment with recommendations from the LMRP Natural Resource Management Plan (May 2024).	Carver County	Martin Walsh	Metro
2026-043	Adopt a Flyway: Enhancing Minnesota's Migratory Bird Pitstops	\$840,000	The Adopt a Flyway pilot will incentivize habitat restoration and enhancement of Minnesota's Mississippi Flyway to support native birds full life cycles. Audubon ecologists will guide participants through bird-friendly practices.	Audubon Upper Mississippi River	Sarah Hewitt	Statewide
2026-078	Utilizing Wood Waste and Biochar for Mineland Reclamation	\$358,000	We propose to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and expand markets for Minnesota wood waste by developing guidelines for utilizing wood waste and biochar as topsoil amendments for mineland reclamation.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Matthew Aro	Statewide
2026-143	Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Curriculum Development and Pilot	\$454,000	Increasing access to safe, effective prescribed fire statewide through design and delivery of a Minnesota Certified Prescribed Burn Manager program to improve the collective competence of non-agency prescribed fire practitioners.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Eli Sagor	Statewide

**M.L. 2026 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2027 with Summary**

Proposal ID	Project Title	Amount Recommended	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
2026-166	Updating Land Cover Maps for Enhanced Natural Systems	\$298,000	Land cover information for Minnesota's most populous counties is outdated. These were last updated in 2016. We will update land cover data using new LiDAR and aerial imagery.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Bryan Runck	Statewide
2026-190	Pollinator Central V: Habitat Improvement with Public Engagement	\$750,000	Continuing pollinator habitat creation and enhancement on 10 sites from Mankato to Little Falls, with public engagement and education centered on native pollinators and community participation in natural resource stewardship.	Great River Greening	Rebecca Tucker	Central, Metro, SE
2026-200	Evaluating Soil Health Benefits of Controlled Agricultural Drainage	\$249,000	This multi-year project compares changes to soil health over time for cultivated croplands in soybean-corn rotation with controlled and uncontrolled tile drainage installed.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Minnesota State University Mankato	Mark Bowen	Statewide
2026-223	Oak Savanna Restoration for Living Landscapes	\$1,944,000	This pilot program will restore and enhance oak savannas on local public lands and permanently protected conservation lands strategically located across Minnesota's Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Dan Shaw	Central, Metro, NW, SE
2026-235	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition Phase 9	\$2,414,000	Acquire properties with high-quality natural resources or natural resources restoration potential for the metropolitan Regional Parks System. This project will be matched over 100% with Council and local Agency funds.	Metropolitan Council	Jessica Lee	Metro
2026-276	SNA Habitat Enhancement, Public Engagement and Biodiversity Protection	\$3,996,000	Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) habitat enhancement (~2,400 acres), increased public involvement, and strategic acquisition (~170 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique and rare resources for everyone's benefit.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Judy Elbert	Statewide
2026-292	Lake Brophy Park Trail Armoring and Trail Improvements	\$70,000	Trail armoring of the skills area at Lake Brophy Park. Revision of technical features on the Bomber Trail. Adding features to existing trails.	Big Ole Bike Club	Jefferson Brand	Statewide

M.L. 2026 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2027 with Summary

Proposal ID	Project Title	Amount Recommended	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
2026-300	Sustainable Land Use on Small-Farms through Collaborative Robots	\$524,000	Working with the Hmong American Farmers Association, this project will customize robotic technologies for use on small farms and train farmers to incorporate these robots into their traditional agricultural practices.	U of MN, College of Design	Ji Youn Shin	Statewide
2026-307	Managing Minnesota's Forests for Carbon: Tradeoffs and Synergies	\$300,000	Forests mitigate climate change by removing carbon from the atmosphere. Managing forests for carbon credits might impact other forest management objectives. Identifying tradeoffs and synergies across objectives is key.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Irene De Pellegrin Llorente	Statewide
2026-339	Native Prairie Bank-Private Native Prairie Conservation and Outreach	\$1,758,000	Native Prairie Bank (NPB) will help landowners conserve native prairie through multiple outreach methods, restoration and enhancement of 600 acres, and protection of 140 acres through conservation easements.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Heidi Wolf	Statewide
2026-384	Alleviating PFAS Impacts of Biosolids on Agricultural Lands	\$300,000	This project aims to monitor the impacts of PFAS-containing biosolids on farmland health and beneficial agricultural microbial species and develop a cost-effective PFAS bio-treatment method for remediating affected agricultural soil.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Jiwei Zhang	Central, Metro
2026-396	Southeast Minnesota Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative	\$2,817,000	To collaboratively address rising nitrate trends in groundwater on a regional scale by implementing soil health practices on private land in southeastern Minnesota where groundwater is susceptible to contamination.	Olmsted County	Skip Langer	SE
2026-581	Living with Fire in Minnesota Forests	\$500,000	This project will restore and enhance lands by growing the pace and scale of prescribed burning on public and tribal lands and educating landowners to promote application of beneficial practices.	The Nature Conservancy	Robert Bale	Central, NE
	Subtotal	\$17,964,000				
Administration (1 Recommendation + Commission Buffer = \$378,000)						

**M.L. 2026 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2027 with Summary**

Proposal ID	Project Title	Amount Recommended	30 Word Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
2026-497	2026 Contract Agreement Reimbursement	\$340,000	Provide contract management to ENRTF pass-through appropriation recipients for approximately 115 open grants. Ensure funds are expended in compliance with appropriation law, state statute, grants policies, and approved work plans.	MN DNR, Grants Unit	Katherine Sherman-HoeHN	Statewide
	Commission Buffer	\$38,000	The buffer is for mistakes made during the allocation process. If the buffer is not needed, the commission may either allocate it to another proposal or it will be allocated to the Emerging Issues Account later this year.	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	Becca Nash	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$378,000				
	Total	\$103,326,000				

*Region designated in the State include Statewide, Central, Metro, NE, NW, SE, SW. Metro region includes the 11 counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright.