

M.L. 2027 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2028

Overall Topic Area	\$ Recommended	Percentage of Total Recommended	Number Recommended	Percentage of Number Recommended
Resiliency	\$7,865,000	6.07%	9	7.76%
Water	\$15,695,000	12.11%	17	14.66%
Education and Outdoor Recreation	\$56,104,000	43.29%	50	43.10%
Fish and Wildlife	\$22,995,000	17.74%	23	19.83%
Energy	\$1,017,000	0.78%	1	0.86%
Land	\$21,131,000	16.31%	13	11.21%
Administration	\$4,788,000	3.69%	3	2.59%
Total	\$129,595,000	100.00%	116	100.00%

Fund Source	\$ Amount
FY2028 - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund	\$ 127,469,000
Unspent Funds from FY 2025 and FY 2026 Emerging Issues Account	\$ 2,126,000
Total \$	\$ 129,595,000

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LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2028 without Summary

As of July 30, 2026, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has selected 116 proposals totaling \$129,595,000 to recommend to the 2027 Minnesota Legislature for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). \$127,510,000 is available for appropriation from the ENRTF for FY 2028. The LCCMR is also recommending using \$2,126,000 of unspent funds from previous appropriations. In response to LCCMR's 2027 Request for Proposal (RFP), 434 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$375 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	Title	Amount Recommended	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
A. Resiliency					
(9 Recommendations = \$7,865,000)					
2027-141	Measuring Enhanced Greenhouse Gas Capture by Restored Peatlands	\$1,072,000	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Mark Green	NE
2027-154	Restoring Prairies, Supporting Communities	\$296,000	West Central Initiative	Cedar Walters	Central, NW
2027-157	Evaluating Native Prairie Willow for Managed Landscape Applications	\$75,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Brandon Miller	Statewide
2027-160	Scandia Cemetery Shoreline Restoration Project	\$1,510,000	St. Louis County	Rachel Gregg	NE
2027-235	Building Resilient Urban Forests for Climate Change 2	\$820,000	Great River Greening	Katie Edmond	Central, Metro, SE, NW
2027-242	Developing Biological Benchmarks for Resilient Lakes	\$342,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Tyler Butts	Statewide
2027-347	Wildfire Early Detection and Prescribed-Burn Management Using Drones	\$823,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Ce Yang	Statewide
2027-435	TickWise Minnesota: A First-Of-Its-Kind Minnesota Lyme Disease Forecast	\$501,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Ryan Harp	Statewide
2027-558	Gap-Filling Weather Data to Improve Watersheds/Community Resilience	\$2,426,000	Kandiyohi County	Ace Bonnema	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$7,865,000			
Water					
(17 Recommendations = \$15,695,000)					
2027-006	Freeing Minnesota Biosolids of Their PFAS Burden	\$799,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Matt Simcik	Statewide

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2027-035	Mapping Southwest Minnesota's Hidden Aquifers	\$606,000	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	Aaron Hirsch	SW
2027-057	Reduction of Persistent Industrial Chemicals in Minnesota's Water	\$209,000	U of MN, School of Public Health	Kelsey Klucas	Central, SW, SE, Metro, NW, NE
2027-073	Hybrid Deconstruction of Persistent PFAS Toward Complete Mineralization	\$452,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Xiaowen Chen	Statewide
2027-075	A Comprehensive Approach to Advancing Forever Green Agriculture	\$3,806,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Mitchell Hunter	Statewide
2027-121	Strengthening the Lake Steward Program: It's Shore Important!	\$204,000	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Protection and Education	Lily Carr	Statewide
2027-170	Mississippi Riverwalk Restoration and Public Access Enhancement Project	\$1,714,000	City of St. Cloud	Luke Langner	Central
2027-178	Biochar Applications for Stormwater Pond Management and Remediation	\$574,000	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Lea Pollack	Statewide
2027-227	Evaluating Sulfate, Chloride, and PFAS Wastewater Treatment Technologies	\$570,000	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Ashley Kneemueller	Statewide
2027-288	Novel Algae Based Sustainable Bioproducts from Mining Wastewater	\$300,000	U of MN, WCROC	Veluchamy Chitraichamy	Statewide
2027-293	Impacts of Winter Angling on Tribal Water Quality	\$455,000	U of MN, Water Resources Center	Bonnie Keeler	Statewide
2027-332	Minnesota River Basin Water Storage BMP Prioritization	\$468,000	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Rita Weaver	Central, SE, SW, Metro
2027-362	DNR County Groundwater Atlas	\$3,012,000	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Vanessa Baratta-Person	Statewide
2027-418	Water Education and Well Testing for Karst Communities	\$295,000	Science Museum of Minnesota	Andy Chambers	SE
2027-432	Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management-FY27	\$1,297,000	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	Barbara Lusardi	Statewide
2027-455	Inventory Aquatic Resources in Minnesota's Scientific/Natural Areas	\$635,000	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	Mark Edlund	Statewide

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2027-492	HAB Early Warning Using Imaging Triggered eDNA Analysis	\$299,000	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	Jiarong Hong	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$15,695,000			
Education and Outdoor Recreation (50 Recommendations = \$56,104,000)					
2027-083	Developing Leadership Pipeline for Minnesota's Natural Environment	\$941,000	Camp Fire Minnesota	Sara Lemke	Metro
2027-088	Minnesota Sustainable Foraging: Participant Research and Educational Outreach	\$649,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Ingrid Schneider	Statewide
2027-092	Caring for Minnesota's Premier Hiking Trail	\$627,000	Superior Hiking Trail Association	Lisa Luokkala	NE
2027-115	Minnesota State Trails Development	\$7,250,000	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Kent Skaar	Statewide
2027-120	Native American Veterans Memorial Plaza and Shoreline Restoration	\$466,000	Dakota County	Tony Wotzka	Metro
2027-124	Indigenous Practice, Modern Threat: Brain-Tanning and CWD	\$389,000	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	Tiffany Wolf	Statewide
2027-125	CP Rail Regional Trail - South Segment Construction	\$1,932,000	Three Rivers Park District	Maggie Heurung	Metro
2027-139	Mississippi River Learning Center - Peninsula Restoration	\$2,802,000	City of St. Paul	Anne Gardner	Statewide
2027-151	Increasing Education and Outdoor Recreation Camps for Youth and Families	\$199,000	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	Bryan Wood	Statewide
2027-152	The Boundary Waters Is Our Backyard	\$616,000	Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	Alison Nyenhuis	NE
2027-166	Improving Access to Recreational Trails at Eagle Bluff	\$32,000	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Colleen Foehrenbacher	Statewide
2027-175	Two Harbors Waterfront: Enhancing the North Shore Experience	\$1,479,000	City of Two Harbors	Kjersti Monson	NE

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2027-184	Minnesota Master Naturalist Teacher Institute	\$399,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Robert Blair	Statewide
2027-192	Mikinaake: Connecting Indigenous Youth to Land-Based Learning	\$749,000	Belwin Conservancy	Hannah Brithón	Metro
2027-193	Revitalizing Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping in White Earth	\$530,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Marissa Milstein	Statewide
2027-209	Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Trail Development	\$2,167,000	City of Blaine	Brent Larson	Metro
2027-231	The Living Lab: A Science and Art Experience	\$178,000	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Jennifer Maki	Statewide
2027-236	Mobile Nature Center Serving Southwest Minnesota	\$258,000	Wild Compass Environmental Education	Alisha Paplow	Statewide
2027-238	Future Stewards: Expanding Native Habitat and Outdoor Education	\$299,000	Great River Greening	Brennan Blue	Central, Metro, SE, SW
2027-285	Casting Lines, Growing Habitat, Connecting Community	\$501,000	City of Hutchinson	Michael Stifter	Central
2027-307	Braiding Knowledge for Biodiversity Conservation	\$589,000	Science Museum of Minnesota	Catherine Early	Statewide
2027-310	Season Watch: Nature for Every Generation	\$201,000	Northern Community Radio, Inc.	Sarah Bignall	Statewide
2027-312	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	\$4,365,000	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Jenni Bubke	Statewide
2027-341	Mesabi Trail Multiple Segments Eveleth, Gilbert, and Tower	\$1,515,000	St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority	Sarah Ciochetto	NE
2027-372	Restoration of the Historic Laurentian Environmental Center's Mission	\$160,000	Northeast Service Cooperative	Paul Brinkman	Statewide
2027-387	Leveraging Nature for Mental Health	\$300,000	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Arielle Courtney	Statewide
2027-425	Bugs Below Zero: Engaging Communities with Winter Science	\$404,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Rebecca Swenson	Statewide

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2027-426	Increasing Access to Outdoor Recreation for 21,000 Minnesotans	\$1,501,000	Wilderness Inquiry	Nell Holden	Statewide
2027-428	Glacial Edge Regional Trail - Cabbage Hill Segment	\$1,683,000	Otter Tail County	Kevin Fellbaum	Central
2027-429	Lake Elmo Park Reserve - Single Track Trail	\$1,413,000	Washington County	Andrea Rehm	Metro
2027-480	Nature for New Minnesotans: Expanding Inclusive Environmental Education	\$300,000	U of MN, Bell Museum	Natalie Kennedy	Statewide
2027-485	Expanding Fishing Education and Shore Fishing Opportunities.	\$3,851,000	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Brian Nerbonne	Statewide
2027-499	Accessible Tree Canopy Walk at Eloise Butler Garden	\$644,000	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Adam Arvidson	Metro
2027-505	Voyageurs Dark Sky Science and Stewardship Education	\$959,000	Voyageurs Conservancy	Breanna Trygg	Statewide
2027-508	River Bend Nature Center Outdoor Diversity Initiative Expansion	\$296,000	River Bend Nature Center	Brad Bourn	SE
2027-511	Southwest Chaska Park - Phase 1 Improvements	\$3,047,000	City of Chaska	Ashley Cauley	Metro
2027-540	Fergus Falls Multiuse Recreational Building	\$1,624,000	City of Fergus Falls	Klara Beck	NW
2027-546	Expanding Conservation Education Access in Northeast MN	\$270,000	Arrowhead Zoological Society	Sarah Wilcox	NE
2027-551	Agriculture–Energy Innovation Talent Development Camp (Morris, MN)	\$391,000	U of MN, Morris	Clement Loo	Statewide
2027-555	Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement	\$4,262,000	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Scott Haugen	Statewide
2027-565	Connecting Minnesota Youth to the Lake Superior Watershed	\$444,000	Hartley Nature Center	Amy Demmer	NE, NW, Central
2027-566	Pathways to Environmental Careers	\$858,000	MN DNR, Operational Services Division	May Yang-Lee	Statewide

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2027-575	Field Township Northwoods Nature Pedestrian Trail	\$797,000	Field Township	Pat Chapman	NE
2027-582	Building Climate-Resilient Conservation Leadership in Minnesota	\$538,000	Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Accion Latina	Geanella Ochoa	Statewide
2027-584	Growing Environmental Stewardship Through Trout in the Classroom	\$295,000	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	John Lenczewski	Statewide
2027-586	Expanding Outdoor Leadership Through Minnesota's Natural Resources	\$350,000	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	Anna Carlson	NW, NE, Central
2027-598	Watershed Resilience: Youth, Science, and Dakota Cultural Knowledge	\$300,000	Izaak Walton League of America, Will Dilg Chapter	Anne Conway	SE
2027-604	Asian Youth Arts and Environmental Leadership	\$921,000	Asian Economic Development Association	VaMegh Thoj	Metro
2027-609	Sudheimer Park Project	\$983,000	City of Waconia	Casey Byers	Metro
2027-611	Mobile Water Safety Education	\$380,000	Three Rivers Park District	Jason McGrew-King	Metro
	Subtotal	\$56,104,000			
Fish and Wildlife					
(23 Recommendations = \$22,995,000)					
2027-031	Recovering and Restoring Rare Native Minnesota Eastern Hemlocks	\$170,000	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	David Remucal	NE
2027-041	Fond du Lac Deer Study - Phase 2	\$2,164,000	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	Jacob Haus	NE
2027-109	Critical Information for Science-Based Management of Minnesota's Wolves	\$2,339,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Joseph Bump	Statewide
2027-111	Building a Superior Understanding of Minnesota's Small Mammals	\$632,000	Science Museum of Minnesota	Dakota Rowsey	Statewide
2027-136	Enhancing Fisher Management with Population and Health Data	\$785,000	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Michael Joyce	Statewide

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2027-194	Advancing Bioacoustics Beyond Species Detection in Minnesota	\$299,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Elena West	Statewide
2027-280	Expanding MN Prescribed Fire Implementation and Landowner Education	\$1,564,000	The Nature Conservancy	Liz Beery	NW, Central, SW
2027-284	Moose Pathogen Surveillance and Genotyping Using Engorged Ticks	\$129,000	U of MN, School of Public Health	Jonathan Oliver	Statewide
2027-303	Lake Sturgeon Restoration at Great Lakes Aquarium	\$130,000	Lake Superior Authority	Jay Walker	NE
2027-329	Minnesota Mammal Atlas	\$294,000	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Ron Moen	Statewide
2027-345	Status of Mollusks in the Minnesota River Watershed	\$685,000	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Kathryn Holcomb	Statewide
2027-360	Health Assessment, Tracking, and Conservation of Wild Turkeys	\$1,582,000	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Elizabeth Baker	Statewide
2027-402	Investigating Social Interactions and Relationships of Urban Coyotes	\$672,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Geoffrey Miller	Metro, Central, NE, SE
2027-403	Integrating Biodiversity Data to Improve Conservation Decisions	\$1,709,000	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Holly Bernardo	Statewide
2027-409	Invasive Carp Tagging, Tracking and Removal	\$1,035,000	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Brian Nerbonne	Central, SW, SE
2027-417	Evaluating American Kestrel Declines to Inform Conservation Action	\$424,000	Minnesota Zoological Board	Tricia Markle	Statewide
2027-442	Saving Common Terns: Decoding Drivers of Population Decline	\$290,000	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Annie Bracey	Statewide
2027-451	Protect and Sustain Red Lake's Fisheries and Peatlands	\$1,206,000	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	Mark Edlund	Statewide
2027-456	AIS Solutions for Minnesota - Innovation, Translation, Leadership	\$5,186,000	U of MN, MAISRC	Nicholas Phelps	Statewide
2027-483	Moose Monitoring on the Leech Lake Reservation	\$597,000	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tanya Roerick	Statewide

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2027-528	Assessing Recruitment Threats for Imperiled Blanding's Turtles	\$308,000	Department of Military Affairs	Josh Pennington	Statewide
2027-574	Understanding Minnesota's Migratory Bats to Advance Conservation	\$478,000	Minnesota Zoological Board	Mary Mallinger	Statewide
2027-600	Aerial Infrared Surveys of Sharp-Tailed Grouse and Prairie-Chickens	\$317,000	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Charlotte Roy	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$22,995,000			
Energy (1 Recommendation = \$1,017,000)					
2027-412	Minnesota Solar for Soil, Water, and Wildlife	\$1,017,000	U of MN, Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships	Melissa Birch	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$1,017,000			
Land (13 Recommendations = \$21,131,000)					
2027-051	Precision Grazing – Virtual Grazing for Ecological Outcomes	\$618,000	Pheasants Forever Inc	Josh Pommier	Statewide
2027-181	Engaging Landowners in Conservation Easement Stewardship	\$1,156,000	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Sara Reagan	Statewide
2027-276	Northern Minnesota Integrated Reforestation and Climate Resilience Initiative	\$1,359,000	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	James Harding	NW
2027-309	Integrated PFAS Capture and Destruction on Tribal Lands	\$579,000	Prairie Island Indian Community	Rylee Hince	Statewide
2027-334	Expanding Minnesota Grazing for Resilient Landscapes	\$2,733,000	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Megan Lennon	Statewide
2027-336	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition Phase 10	\$2,749,000	Metropolitan Council	Jessica Lee	Metro
2027-349	Minnesota Public Lands Conservation Grazing Coordination	\$3,601,000	Ducks Unlimited Inc	Logan Shoup	NW, Central, SW
2027-361	Protecting the Future of the Superior Hiking Trail	\$200,000	Superior Hiking Trail Association	Lisa Luokkala	NE

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2027-363	Native Prairie Bank-Private Native Prairie Conservation and Outreach	\$2,248,000	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Heidi Wolf	Statewide
2027-371	SNA Habitat Enhancement, Public Engagement, and Biodiversity Protection	\$4,514,000	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Judy Elbert	Statewide
2027-408	Minneapolis Urban Forest Ecology Restoration, Phase 1	\$300,000	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	James Shaffer	Metro
2027-498	Ecological Riverbank Restoration at St. Anthony Falls	\$290,000	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Adam Arvidson	Metro
2027-541	Conservation Finance on School Trust Peatlands	\$784,000	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Colleen Miller	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$21,131,000			
Administration (3 Recommendations = \$4,788,000)					
2027-001	LCCMR Administrative Budget FY2028 & FY2029	\$4,375,000	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	LCCMR Universal Account	Statewide
2027-002	LCC Legacy Website 2027	\$3,000	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	LCCMR Universal Account	Statewide
2027-214	2027 Contract Agreement Reimbursement	\$410,000	MN DNR, Grants Unit	Katherine Sherman-Hoehn	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$4,788,000			
	Total	\$129,595,000			