



LCCMR 2024 Strategic Planning: ENRTF Strategies

June 20, 2024



Recommended Vision and Mission Statement



Vision

Minnesota's lands, waters, fish, and wildlife are plentiful, healthy, resilient, and appreciated for their intrinsic value as well as the benefits they provide us all.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is to fund environmental and natural resource projects that best protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

Adopted by the LCCMR Subcommittee on Strategic Planning on June 10, 2024.

What is a Goal versus a Strategy?



- **Goals:** What you want to accomplish (over the next 6 years).
- **Strategies:** How will you seek to accomplish each goal (over the next 6 years).

Activities and Public Survey Results



Answer Choices	Score	Ranking
Restore and enhance land and water.	5.15	1
Develop plans and designs for protecting, conserving, preserving, and enhancing natural resources, the environment, and outdoor recreation.	4.7	2
Acquire land for preservation, conservation, or outdoor recreation.	4.02	3
Increase education and public awareness.	3.93	4
Conduct research to better understand issues, measure progress on achieving outcomes, and develop new tools, practices, or solutions.	3.89	5
Ensure equitable funding distribution across all communities.	3.38	6
Construct facilities and other infrastructure like trails, fishing piers, campgrounds, and solar panels.	2.93	7

Considerations/Questions



- What do you think are the most important strategies to address the stated goal?
- Are there any strategies that you think are missing?
- Are there any strategies that you think should be removed?
- Do the strategies address all the relevant potential actions for the ENRTF to fund?
- Are the strategies specific enough or too specific?
- Are there strategies you think could be merged with another strategy?
- What do you like or dislike about the current working strategies?

Subject Matter Expert Survey Questions



Which of the following strategies do you think is most important or would be the most effective to achieve the following goal? Please select no more than 2 options.

Is there another strategy you think would be key to achieving this goal? Strategies could include things like research, education, measurement, demonstration, or developing something in particular related to the goal.

Water



Goal 1: Minnesota’s water resources are better managed for both water quantity and quality, as a result of better understanding of the connections between surface water and groundwater.

Strategy	Selected	Rank
1. Research impacts of nutrients, agricultural runoff, and urban stormwater on surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, as well as opportunities to mitigate those impacts.	43.1%	1
2. Research and demonstrate innovative, market-based policies and partnerships that solve local water issues in both forest-based regions and agriculture-based regions.	28.1%	2
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of current management practices and past investments to improve water resources.	23.1%	3
4. Educate local officials on how to improve and protect water resources, including model projects and policies that can be emulated at all scales.	20.3%	4
5. Increase understanding of current and future weather and climate patterns, and how these align with anticipated water needs across Minnesota.	19.9%	5
6. Research, implement demonstrations, and develop incentives and policies related to holding back water and increasing evapotranspiration opportunities to prevent water pollution.	15.3%	6

Resiliency



Goal 2: Minnesota’s environment, natural resources, and communities are resilient in the face of climate change, land use changes, and extreme weather events.

Strategy	Selected	Rank
1. Support cities, counties, and watershed districts with developing climate resiliency and adaptation plans, and processes for funding and implementing those plans.	33.2%	1
2. Identify and promote workable, holistic, multi-benefit, diverse, and viable (e.g., economically and socially) solutions for storing more water on the land, through both engineered and natural solutions targeted at critical areas.	31.4%	2
3. Research effective water use scenarios – including modeling water scenarios, managing water on land, optimizing use to prevent overuse of groundwater, and improving water reuse and wastewater management – to identify improvements needed to ensure the state’s water resiliency and sustainability.	27.7%	3
4. Research and demonstrate market-based policies that are economically viable and help pay for the land use, conservation, and other practices needed to achieve climate resiliency and water resources protection, especially in agricultural areas.	26.6%	4
5. Compile existing research, identify gaps, and develop research to quantify land use and land cover changes, in order to identify restoration and protection needs to achieve sustainable natural systems.	24.8%	5
6. Use public open space to demonstrate climate change adaptation, mitigation, and prevention.	10.6%	6

Fish and Wildlife (Species)



Goal 3: Minnesota has healthy and diverse wildlife and plant populations that sustain and enhance the state's environment, economy, and quality of life.

Strategy	Selected	Rank
1. Research and manage species and ecosystems to effectively maintain, protect, and restore habitats and populations.	34.3%	93
2. Support and provide technical assistance to private landowners on cost-effective ways to develop and restore diverse, native habitat.	28.8%	78
3. Conserve additional lands and support management of currently protected lands.	27.3%	74
4. Monitor the biologic and environmental health of systems through high-quality research to support management of lands and waters.	22.1%	60
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of current management practices and past investments to sustain and enhance wildlife and native plant populations.	18.8%	51
6. Research plant, fish, and wildlife communities to inform management in relation to climate change.	10.0%	27
7. Research key issues and develop strategies to combat them (e.g., bird/insect crash).	7.8%	21

Lands



Goal 4: Minnesota’s public and private lands, including forests, grasslands, and agricultural lands, provide long-term benefits to fish, wildlife, and people.

Strategy	Selected	Rank
1. Promote, research, and evaluate best management practices (BMPs) on public and private lands, in order to provide long-term benefits to fish and wildlife.	26.2%	1
2. Research, develop, and demonstrate agricultural production processes and systems that are significantly less carbon-intensive and decrease the loss of nutrients into ground water and surface water.	20.3%	2
3. Enhance education and public outreach to change landscape and ecosystem norms.	17.3%	3
4. Develop innovative, market-based policies to make substantive conservation efforts financially feasible.	17.0%	4
5. Improve and demonstrate how working lands can be economically productive and good habitat.	15.1%	5
6. Preserve and protect the watersheds that are already in good shape.	14.4%	6
7. Research and demonstrate the practical value of regenerative agriculture.	13.3%	7
8. Develop and implement agricultural cropping systems with diverse crops that provide multiple benefits, including exploring markets and supply chain.	13.3%	7
9. Educate people through demonstration on the opportunity for public and private lands to slow and store water for multiple benefits (e.g., water quality, habitat, flood mitigation) as well as for carbon sequestration.	12.6%	9
10. Encourage landscape-level and eco-type planning, instead of parcel-level.	12.2%	10
11. Implement conservation actions that prioritize the needs of vulnerable, declining, poorly understood, and sensitive species.	11.8%	11
12. Prioritize projects that enlist the support of multiple agencies and organizations.	9.2%	12
13. Increase understanding and assessment of tradeoffs among different environmental and societal goals to improve decisions on public and private lands.	8.9%	13
14. Identify high-quality habitat, recreation open spaces, and other high-priority areas for action.	7.8%	14
15. Evaluate, prioritize, and demonstrate how working lands and renewable energy can be mutually beneficial.	7.0%	15

Access and Opportunities



Goal 5: All Minnesotans, especially young people, have access to and take advantage of opportunities for culturally relevant and innovative connections to the lands and waters of Minnesota.

Strategy	Selected	Rank
1. Through partnerships between schools, environmental learning centers, and other community resources, provide evidence-based, engaging programs to bring students to outdoor experiences.	43.5%	117
2. Through collaborative efforts, provide curriculum, programs, and outdoor environmental events that teach K–12 students what public lands are, introduces them to public lands nearby, and encourages them to explore local public lands.	33.5%	90
3. Address the social, economic, and physical barriers to outdoor recreation through programs that encourage inclusivity and address inequities.	30.1%	81
4. Implement capital projects that develop culturally relevant, accessible, and resilient outdoor recreation facilities, infrastructure, and equipment rental programs that create innovative experiences (e.g., parks, trails, fishing piers, shoreline fishing areas, birding trails, shelters).	24.2%	65
5. Research people’s interests in outdoor recreation and understand barriers to participation.	13.4%	36
6. Assess programs, activities, and physical spaces for their accessibility and effectiveness; support changes to adapt and retrofit to welcome more people.	6.3%	17

Energy



Goal 6: Minnesota achieves reliance on nonpolluting, renewable energy in all sectors (including transportation, building, industry, agriculture, and others).

Strategy	Selected	Rank
1. Incentivize the use of nonpolluting renewable energy in agriculture, industries, and commercial transportation.	37.7%	1
2. Demonstrate the ability and statewide potential to generate solar energy on perennially vegetated lands, reducing CO2 and water runoff, while making the enterprise economically viable.	28.4%	2
3. Fund energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy for rental properties, small businesses, and schools.	22.4%	3
4. Demonstrate community-scale, net-zero renewable energy systems.	21.3%	4
5. Encourage bundling renewable energy production and battery storage.	13.4%	5

Emerging Issues



Goal 7: Minnesota responds quickly and proactively to emerging environmental and natural resources issues.