

# Recommended Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Strategies (As of July 31, 2024)

## RESILIENCY

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**GOAL 1: MINNESOTA’S ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND COMMUNITIES ARE RESILIENT IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, LAND USE CHANGES, AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS.**

*Strategies:*

Fund projects that:

1. Research, demonstrate, and/or promote comprehensive and viable solutions for reducing the impacts of climate change, land use changes, or extreme weather events on the environment and natural resources, through both engineered and natural solutions targeted at critical areas.
2. Broaden understanding and implementation of effective climate adaptation management practices for natural resources among landowners through education, outreach, technical assistance, and/or the development of collaborations and networks to share and learn about new and innovative practices.
3. Support the development of local climate resiliency and adaptation plans for natural resources.
4. Implement land and water management practices and/or protect and restore wetlands, forests, prairies, and other critical systems to enhance biodiversity and provide multiple community resilience benefits.

*Adopted by the LCCMR Subcommittee on Strategic Planning on July 31, 2024.*

## WATER

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**GOAL 2: MINNESOTA’S WATER RESOURCES ARE BETTER MANAGED FOR BOTH WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO SUPPORT AQUATIC LIFE, DRINKING WATER, RECREATION, AND OTHER USES.**

*Strategies:*

Fund projects that:

1. Research impacts of runoff, stormwater, or contaminants on surface water or groundwater quality and develop practical solutions to prevent or address these impacts.
2. Research current and future water supply and use to support planning efforts and implementation of best management practices and ensure the state’s water resiliency and sustainability.
3. Increase understanding and awareness of weather and climate patterns and their potential impact on water resources.

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4. Demonstrate innovative practices, strategies, and/or partnerships that prevent or reduce water issues in urban, suburban, or rural regions.
5. Implement measures to improve water quality and/or restore or enhance habitats, shoreline, or natural hydrology in lakes, rivers, wetlands, and other surface waters, with an emphasis on efforts that incorporate coordination and collaboration among tribal, state, and local agencies and community partners.
6. Provide educational opportunities or technical assistance programs for teachers, students, state and local decision-makers, landowners, or the public on how to improve and protect water resources, including groundwater, surface water, and stormwater systems.
7. Monitor and assess the condition of groundwater or surface water, including lakes, rivers, and wetlands, on a regular cycle and provide a long-term data set to support decision-making and evaluate efforts.

*Adopted by the LCCMR Subcommittee on Strategic Planning on July 31, 2024.*

### FISH AND WILDLIFE (SPECIES)

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**GOAL 3: MINNESOTA HAS HEALTHY AND DIVERSE AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE AND PLANT POPULATIONS THAT SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND QUALITY OF LIFE.**

### LAND

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**GOAL 4: MINNESOTA'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS – INCLUDING FORESTS, GRASSLANDS, WETLANDS, AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS – PROVIDE LONG-TERM BENEFITS TO FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PEOPLE.**

*Strategies:*

Fund projects that:

1. Develop, demonstrate, and/or evaluate new and innovative practices and processes on public and private lands, including agricultural and forest land, that provide multiple, long-term environmental benefits and economic considerations, including benefits related to habitat, water quality and quantity, soil health, and carbon sequestration.
2. Enhance education, technical assistance, or public outreach to promote the application of practices beneficial to the environment, natural resources, and all Minnesotans.

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3. Acquire and conserve minimally disturbed lands that provide the greatest capacity for multiple conservation benefits to humans, fish, wildlife, and water resources.
4. Restore and enhance lands to provide high-quality natural resource, ecological, or recreational value.
5. Foster collaboration among diverse groups, demonstrate the support of multiple stakeholders, and/or incorporate outreach to local and tribal communities to better protect lands.

*Adopted by the LCCMR Subcommittee on Strategic Planning on July 31, 2024.*

### EMERGING ISSUES

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#### **GOAL 5: MINNESOTA RESPONDS QUICKLY AND PROACTIVELY TO EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES.**

##### *Strategies:*

Fund projects that:

1. Identify, assess, and/or prioritize potential threats to the environment and natural resources.
2. Research and/or develop technologies and measures to detect or address emerging or emergency threats to the environment and natural resources.
3. Create collaborations and build partnerships among all parties – including academic institutions, government agencies, non-government organizations, communities, and the private sector – to foster innovation and leverage resources and expertise to better address emerging threats to the environment and natural resources.
4. Enhance coordination and interagency collaboration among federal, state, tribal, and local governments to ensure a unified response.
5. Implement proactive measures to prevent or minimize the impacts from emerging environmental or natural resource issues.
6. Implement natural resource corrective actions where delay will be detrimental to the environment and natural resources.
7. Restore impacted ecosystems to minimize the loss of benefits provided by these systems to people, fish, plants, and wildlife.

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The LCCMR:

1. Explores revised processes for requesting, evaluating, and awarding funds for emerging issues to ensure funds are available on a timely basis throughout the year.

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## ENERGY

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### **GOAL 6: MINNESOTA ACHIEVES RELIANCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY IN ALL SECTORS, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, BUILDING, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND OTHERS.**

*Strategies:*

Fund projects that:

1. Research and develop new and innovative renewable energy or fuel technologies with environmental considerations, including biofuels, e-fuels, sustainable aviation fuels, and energy storage.
2. Evaluate, demonstrate, and/or assess renewable energy systems or fuels for economic viability, compatibility with other land uses, and environmental and natural resource impacts over the full lifecycle of the technology.
3. Develop and/or implement plans that identify, prioritize, and coordinate efforts to reduce energy consumption and to transition to renewable energy through land use planning, infrastructure, education and awareness, and other methods.
4. Encourage and support the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in agriculture, mining, industry, utilities, transportation, homes, or businesses.
5. Ensure equitable access to renewable energy and/or energy efficiency programs in all communities.
6. Provide inclusive education and experiential learning programs to build a skilled and diverse workforce for the renewable energy sector.

*Adopted by the LCCMR Subcommittee on Strategic Planning on July 31, 2024.*

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## ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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**GOAL 7: ALL MINNESOTANS, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, HAVE ACCESS TO AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT TO THE LANDS AND WATERS OF MINNESOTA, INCLUDING CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.**

### *Strategies:*

Fund projects that:

1. Address social, economic, or physical barriers to natural resource-based outdoor recreation through programs that encourage inclusivity and address inequities so that public lands and waters are accessible to all.
2. Assess programs, activities, or physical spaces for their accessibility and effectiveness and/or implement changes to adapt and retrofit them to welcome more people.
3. Provide evidence-based, hands-on, and engaging curriculum, programs, or natural resource-based outdoor events to bring a diversity of students and/or adults to outdoor experiences.
4. Create mentorship programs, leadership opportunities, and/or learning experiences for a diversity of young people to explore and pursue careers in the environment and natural resources.
5. Enhance environmental education initiatives by integrating diverse cultural perspectives, experiences, and partnerships that foster environmental stewardship in all communities.
6. Develop local or regional plans to enhance natural resources-based outdoor recreational opportunities in communities across the state.
7. Collaborate or partner with indigenous, local, BIPOC, or underserved communities to develop culturally relevant, inclusive, and accessible environmental, natural resource, or natural resource-based outdoor recreation programs, practices, curriculum, or facilities.
8. Design and/or develop culturally relevant, accessible, resilient, and environmentally friendly outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure – including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters – that create new natural resources-based experiences.
9. Expand networks of trails, parks, or natural areas to protect and connect green spaces seamlessly, improve accessibility and safety, and/or encourage all Minnesotans to recreate in and engage with nature.

*Adopted by the LCCMR Subcommittee on Strategic Planning on July 31, 2024.*