

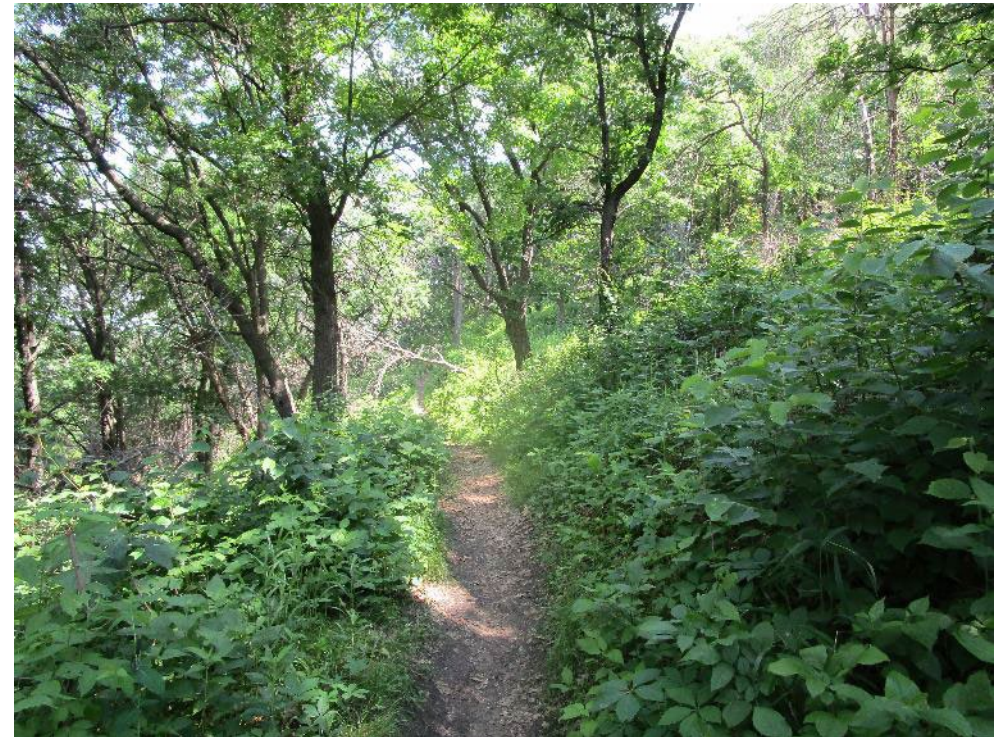


Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

David Stein | CPL Coordinator

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL)

- Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment
- Legislation requires a conservation partners program to encourage and support local conservation efforts.
 - To provide matching grants for restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forest and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife



Traditional and Metro Cycles

- Grant requests \$5,000- \$500,000
- Total project cost cannot exceed \$1 Million
- \$2.5 Million available for each
- Restoration, enhancement, or acquisition projects
- Projects on public land or land protected under a permanent conservation easement
- Metro projects must occur within the 7-county metro area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott & Washington) or within the city limits of Duluth, St. Cloud or Rochester



NEW FOR FY2024: New Applicant Round

- Grant requests \$5,000- \$500,000
- Total project cost cannot exceed \$1 Million
- \$3 Million available
- Restoration, enhancement, or acquisition projects
- Projects on public land or land protected under a permanent conservation easement
- Only applicants who have never received CPL or OHF funds are eligible.
- Can occur within Metro or Greater Minnesota
- Partnerships are encouraged



Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP)

- Grant requests \$5,000- \$50,000
 - Restoration or Enhancement projects only
 - Work can be done only on public land
 - List of eligible activities (www.mndnr.gov/ecp)
- \$1 Million available
- Continuous application cycle, funding awarded up to 5 times per fiscal year



Expedited Conservation Projects: Forests

- Expedited Conservation Projects

Forest habitat:

- Winter (thermal) cover
- Tree planting
- Promotion of natural regeneration
- Bud capping
- Rx burning within BMP prescription, including aerial support



Expedited Conservation Projects: Prairies

- Expedited Conservation Projects

Prairie habitat:

- Establish new prairie/grassland
- Seed purchase of *native* species
- Rx burning within BMP prescription
- Mowing/herbicide for invasive species control
- Tree removal/woody encroachment management
- Interseeding of monoculture/low biodiversity sites



Expedited Conservation Projects: Wetlands

- Expedited Conservation Projects

Wetland/water habitat:

- Water level control structures
- Fish Barriers
- Upland vegetation enhancement
- Tile breaks/ditch blocks



Expedited Conservation Projects: Fish, Game, and Wildlife

- Expedited Conservation Projects

Fish, Game, and Wildlife habitat:

- Brushland shearing
- Dam removal/modification
- In-stream habitat modification
- Trout stream restoration/habitat improvement
- Site prep for habitat enhancement



Match & Eligibility

- 10% match required, in-kind or cash
- Match must be non-state in origin
- Grant funds cannot supplant/replace budgets
- Grant funds cannot be used for overhead costs or to hire new staff
- Only nonprofit organizations and government agencies may apply
- Projects must be on permanently protected lands
- Individuals are not eligible
- Partnerships are encouraged!



- Online Application System
 - System opens August 1st
- Traditional, Metro, and New Applicant
 - Awards announced in early December
 - Contracts set up December/January
- ECP
 - Open continuously, funds awarded every other month, up to 5 rounds
 - Awards announced 4 weeks after round closes
- Up to 3 years to complete projects



Application Review

Traditional, Metro, and New Applicant Review

Technical Review Committee

DNR Division Directors

DNR Commissioner

ECP Review

DNR Habitat Team

FAW Division Director



Evaluation Criteria

- Overall Project Value- habitat quality/quantity
- Applicant Performance- local support, collaboration
- Project Benefits- habitat benefits
- Public Benefits- public access
- Financial Assessment- cost effectiveness, budget
- Urgency

What about Unused Funds?

- Unused funds from CPL Program
 - Re-open for future applicants
 - Used over the next 2 years for short-term projects
- Unused funds from applicants
 - Re-open for future applicants or return to LSOHC
- Acquisitions fell through
- Cost of acquisitions lower than anticipated.
- Contract bids lower than expected
- Covid-19
- Severe weather and drought
- Contractor/CCMI cancellation

What's new for this year? (CPL R&D)

- Publication of CPL applicant best practices document.
- Publication of updated ECP guidelines.
- New application questions directly related to wildlife.
- Direct outreach to unserved and underserved entities.
- Direct outreach to the general public.



CPL Best Practices

- Highlight clear project goal(s).
- List a seed/species list.
- Highlight benefits to specific species of wildlife.
- Justify high costs/acre.
- Make a detailed budget.



Grant Monitoring Requirements

- All Traditional/ Metro Projects above \$50,000 need to be monitored
 - \$50,000-250,000: Projects Monitored Once
 - \$250,000-\$500,000: Projects Monitored Annually
- Monitoring will be done on-site or virtually by CPL or other DNR staff.
 - Questionnaire
 - Site photos



Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Washington Co.



166 acre savanna
restoration
completed by
Washington County
using \$390,000 CPL
funding



Restoring Fish Passage in Keene Creek, St. Louis Co.



Culvert removal and replacement in the City of Duluth by the South St. Louis SWCD in partnership with St. Louis County using \$205,000 CPL funding

Wetland Enhancement for Migratory Birds, Sherburne Co.



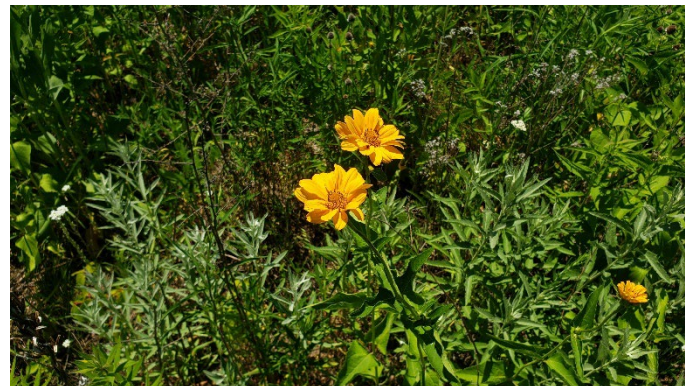
Water control structure installed in Sherburne NWR by Sherburne County in partnership with USFWS using \$110,000 CPL funding



Lake Pepin Prairie Restoration, Goodhue Co.

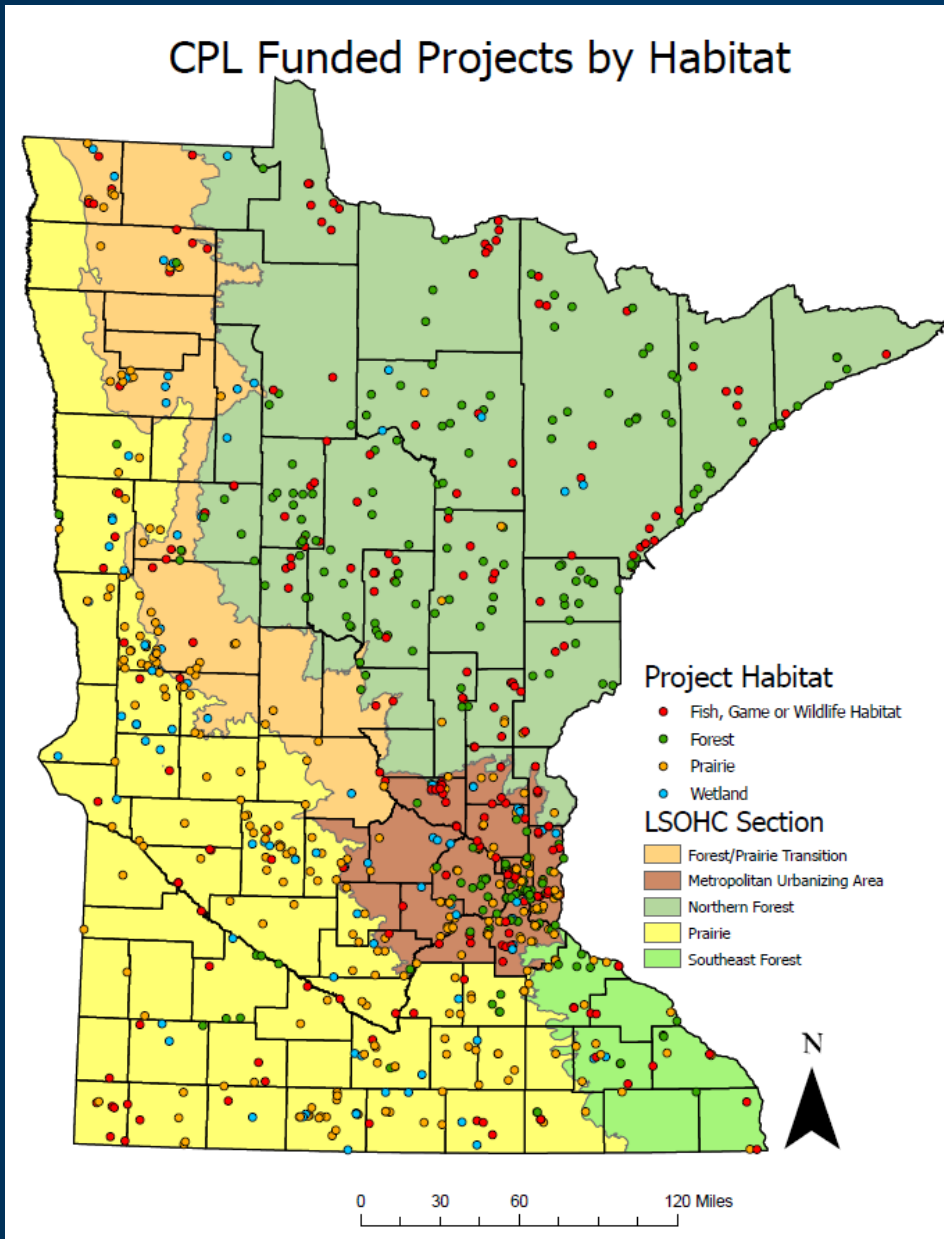


135 acre prairie restoration completed
by Minnesota Land Trust using
\$184,000 CPL funding



CPL projects 2010-2023

- Over 950 projects funded from 2010-2023
- Through more than 250 government and non-profit organizations



Thank You!

David Stein

David.stein@state.mn.us

651-259-5375