

Conservation Projects



The following information summarizes ways to incorporate pollinator habitat in Minnesota conservation programs (note: there may be changes to some federal programs with the new 2014 Farm Bill)

Program Categories	Program	Program Goals	How to Incorporate Pollinator Habitat	Contacts
State Soil and Water Conservation Programs	<i>Clean Water Fund (BWSR)</i>	<i>Protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.</i>	Projects need to address water quality issues but plantings done as part of projects, such as rain gardens, can include species beneficial to pollinators. Visit the following website to view current application periods. http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/	Your Local Soil and Water Conservation District Office http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/directories/SWC_D_Dir.pdf
	<i>State Cost-Share (BWSR)</i>	To provide grants for installing conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.	A one-time cost share payment covering up to 75% of the eligible costs. This program is focused on soil stabilization and water quality but plantings done as part of projects can include species beneficial to pollinators. Website: http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grantscostshare/	Your Local Soil and Water Conservation District Office http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/directories/SWC_D_Dir.pdf
Federal Soil and Water Conservation Programs	<i>Conservation Reserve Program CRP and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program CREP (NRCS)</i>	Land retirement programs to convert highly erodible cropland and other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover.	A one-time cost-share payment covers 50% of the cost of eligible products and services necessary to establish and maintain the practice, such as seed purchase and site preparation. Pollinator projects (using practice standard CP42) require 3 species from each bloom period (9 minimum) and a minimum 75% forbs.	Your Local USDA Service Center www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov
	<i>Environmental Quality Incentive Program EQIP (NRCS)</i>	Promotes agricultural production and environmental quality practices as compatible.	Financial assistance is provided for the establishment of permanent cover. A minimum of 15 species and a minimum of 50% forbs, as well as species selected from each flowering group for spring, summer and fall are required. No minimum acreage requirement.	Your Local USDA Service Center www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov
	<i>Conservation Stewardship Program CSP (NRCS)</i>	Voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner.	A minimum of 15 species and a minimum of 50% forbs, as well as species selected from each flowering group of spring, summer and fall are required.	Your Local USDA Service Center www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov
	<i>Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ACEP (NRCS)</i>	Voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and restoration and protection of grasslands under threat of conversion to other uses.	<p>Agricultural Lands Easements (ALE) - the purposes of protecting natural resources and the agricultural nature of the land, and permits the landowner the right to continue agricultural production and related uses subject to an agricultural land easement plan. Participants may conduct fire breaks, and prescribed fire, and construct fences. A grazing management plan is required for participants and can address management for pollinator species.</p> <p>Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) - provides assistance to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands and adjacent upland through wetland reserve easements and related wetland reserve easement plans. Enrollment options include 30 year or permanent easements. A restoration plan is required for participants and can address management for pollinator species.</p>	Your Local USDA Service Center www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov

State Habitat Establishment Programs	<i>Reinvest in Minnesota RIM (BWSR)</i>	Restore certain marginal and environmentally sensitive agricultural land to protect soil and water quality and restore fish and wildlife habitat.	The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) acquires conservation easements to permanently protect, restore and manage critical natural resources without owning the land outright. The land remains in private ownership and the landowner retains responsibility for maintenance and paying applicable real estate taxes and assessments. Planting diverse mixes that provide pollinator habitat is promoted. 3 acre minimum requirement.	Your Local Soil and Water Conservation District Office http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/directories/SWC_D_Dir.pdf
	<i>Roadsides for Wildlife (MDNR)</i>	Reduce the disturbance (hay) of roadside vegetative cover until after August 1; Incorporate native prairie species in roadside plantings; Explain the benefits of a diverse and undisturbed roadside environment.	Currently funding is not available for this program but the following things can be done to promote roadside habitat for pollinators: If you're a rural landowner, consider how you can improve management of your adjacent roadsides for wildlife. Encourage other landowners and local road authorities to reduce mowing and haying during the nesting season. Offer local road authorities cost share assistance and/or management assistance in the incorporation of new or re-vegetated roadsides projects in your organization's area. Invite local road authorities to organization events and discuss roadside management plans and opportunities to partner on roadside projects.	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources info.dnr@state.mn.us (651) 296-6157
	<i>Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program CPL (MDNR)</i>	To enhance, restore, or protect the forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota.	Competitive grants from \$5,000 to \$400,000 are provided to local, regional, state, and national nonprofit organizations, including government entities. There are two types of applications, one for \$25,000 or less, and one for \$25,000 or more. Applications are accepted online 2 times per fiscal year (if funding remains available for a second round). Expedited Conservation Project (ECP) funds are available every other month for projects between \$5,000 and \$50,000 on public lands or lands open to hunting and fishing. All projects have a 10% non-state match requirement that must be identified at the time of application submission. Website: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources LSCLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us (651) 296-6157
Federal Habitat Establishment Programs	<i>Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP (NRCS)</i>	A voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on tribal and private lands. It provides both technical assistance and financial assistance.	NRCS provides the technical assistance and financial assistance to establish, maintain, or replace wildlife habitat practices (1-10 year practices). State wildlife agencies or private organizations may provide additional funding or expertise to help complete the project. Under the agreement, the landowner agrees to maintain the practices such as pollinator habitat and allow NRCS access to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the practices. No minimum acreage requirement.	Your Local USDA Service Center www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov