

Water Storage and Treatment

Establishes a program to provide financial assistance for water storage projects to protect streams, rivers, lakes and infrastructure from extreme weather events and related climate change impacts.

Challenges on the landscape

Minnesota is experiencing larger and more frequent and intense rainfall events, resulting in negative impacts to agriculture and infrastructure, significant erosion along riverbanks and declining water quality.

What is water storage and treatment?

Water storage projects are engineered to slow down or temporarily hold back water from reentering a stream or river. For example, during a storm, water is directed into a wetland, holding basin, or soil in a farm field and then is slowly released downstream. This action provides water quality treatment by allowing sediment to settle out. It also reduces the water volume and speed leaving our landscape, which in turn reduces erosion along river banks and the amount of sediment entering Minnesota's streams, lakes and rivers.



L to R: water and sediment control basin in crop field is empty in dry conditions but holds water temporarily after heavy rains; landowners pose by construction of storage basin in Pope county ag field; grass back sediment control basin slows runoff.

Protecting Minnesota Landscapes

Water storage provides the following benefits:

- reducing runoff which decreases erosion and nutrient loss from working lands
- mitigating climate change impacts by slowing flowing water from severe weather events
- protecting infrastructure from flood damage
- preparing agricultural lands to withstand more intense rainfall events
- improving downstream water quality

2021 Budget Proposal (HF932/SF1037)

Governor Walz recommends \$3 million to develop a statewide program that leverages local, federal, and private sector funds to address two important needs: water quality and climate resiliency. Putting more water storage on our landscape will address these needs and create a more resilient landscape for Minnesota's future.

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