

Native Buffer Cost Share Grant Guidelines



The Anoka Conservation District, in conjunction with the State of Minnesota, is offering grants for projects that establish healthy native buffers around valuable water resources within Anoka County.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Projects are reviewed by ACD staff and grant decisions are made by the ACD Board of Supervisors.
- A detailed project plan must be developed including the relevant components: site prep, installation, establishment and long-term maintenance.
- Grants are reimbursement grants. Successful applicants must submit receipts for eligible expenses to the Anoka Conservation District. Reimbursement checks will be issued within four weeks.
- The ACD reserves full discretion to fund or not fund projects or portions of projects. Grants are available on a first come-first serve basis and availability is limited.
- Applicants may apply for other grant programs in addition to the Native Buffer grant, but the ACD will not provide grants such that total funding from public sources exceeds 50% of eligible project expenses.

POLICIES

- Projects must be sustained for a minimum of 15 years.
- Buffer depth must be 5-35 feet with an average buffer depth of 25 feet or greater.
- An attempt must be made to find local ecotype seed. If a project cannot go forward due to a lack of local geographic area seed or unreasonable costs, the Anoka Conservation District may approve using seed from the next local geographic area according to the following sequence:
 1. The same county or within 25 miles of the county's border but not across an ecotype region boundary
 2. Anywhere within the local ecotype region
 3. Neighboring ecotype region or county
 4. All prairie eco-type regions in Minnesota
 5. Prairie eco-type regions in neighboring states within 25 miles of MN boundary
- The seed source shall be verified by the Anoka Conservation District. Yellow tag certified seed is recommended to aid in the verification of source.
- Cultivars are discouraged.
- Project must have a goal of 25 species within the project site.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Projects meeting the grant requirements are eligible for up to \$500 per 1,000 ft² of established buffer. Cost-share amounts above or below this amount may be approved at the discretion of the ACD Board of Supervisors. The following items can be submitted for cost-share approval:

Materials

- Native plants/seed (approved by the ACD)
- Herbicide
- Tool or machine rental
- Others as approved by the ACD Board of Supervisors

Labor

- Professional herbicide application, soil amendments, seeding, controlled burns or mowing
- Others as approved by the ACD Board of Supervisors

**Expenses incurred before the grant is approved are not eligible.*

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications are accepted at any time; however funds are limited and awarded first-come, first-serve.

To apply, complete the Anoka Conservation District's "Native Buffer Cost Share Application." The grant recipient must enter into a contract with the State of Minnesota to maintain the project for no less than 15 years.

Questions should be directed to Nate Zwonitzer, Conservation Technician at 763-434-2030 or nate.zwonitzer@anokaswcd.org

ASSISTANCE:

Anoka Conservation District staff are available to assist landowners with project advice, design, and cost estimation.