

Carver County Cost Share Program

Overview:

Carver County is funding a low-cost cost-share program to promote citizens' use of innovative Best Management Practices (BMP) to protect and restore the quality of water within Carver County.

Purpose:

BMP Cost Share funds can be used by public or private landowners within Carver County to implement projects that assist in one or all of the following:

- 1) Protect or restore quality of lakes and rivers
- 2) Protect or restore groundwater resources
- 3) Protect or restore native plant communities
- 4) Innovative approaches to treat stormwater at the source

Funding:

Funding is a 75% match of eligible expenses with a maximum level of \$5,000 per project. Applications are accepted year round. COST SHARE FUNDING IS A REIMBURSEMENT!!! After all program requirements have been met, approved of, and the project is completed, funds will be disbursed to program participant(s). Completion of project MUST be within one (1) year of approved and signed agreement, unless a written extension has been granted by Carver County. Labor done by the home owner will be reimbursed at a rate of \$12.00 per hour with a signed form of completed work. In-kind labor costs cannot exceed the cost of materials of the project.

Eligibility within Carver County Water Resource Management Area:

There will be A five year waiting period from the previous grant if the County share is between \$2,500 and \$5,000. For projects that are between \$500 and \$2,500, a three year waiting period from the previous grant. For any grants less than \$500, there will be no waiting period. If a resident that has had a successful grant moves to a new location or if a new resident moves to a location that has had a cost share project, then this requirement is waived. Below is a list of who is eligible for this program:

- Landowners
- Not-for-profit and religious organizations
- Local government agencies
- Public and private schools
- Private Businesses

Eligible Expenses

Carver County may fund partial or full amounts of the requested cost share amount. Any project that is under construction or completed at the time of approval is not eligible. All matching funds will be awarded to projects that are above and beyond Carver County Watershed Management Plan requirements. Partial list of eligible projects are below:

- Raingardens
- Shoreline restoration
- Native planting restoration
- Native buffers

Evaluation Criteria:

Carver County Staff will determine the eligibility of a project based upon an established set of criteria. The following are the priorities that are within the criteria and are based upon Carver County's Water Management Plan, in no particular order:

- Volume Control
- Rate Control
- Phosphorus Reduction
- Aesthetics
- Functionality
- Wildlife Habitat
- Public Benefit
- Collaboration
- TMDL

Submittal Requirements:

Cost share applications will have the following to be considered a complete application. A signed application form, sketch of onsite location of the project, sketch of project, line item budget including type of materials to used, and if going to bid, three separate bids from contractors. Additional information, if needed, will be requested by Carver County Staff.

Selection Process:

Staff will receive and present to the Joint Agency Members (JAM) a complete application for their review. The Joint Agency Members will review, recommend, and award cost share grants based upon the Evaluation Criteria. JAM will decide upon the final grant approval. The Carver County Cost Share Program is a competitive grant process; therefore some projects may not be funded. Incomplete applications will not be presented to JAM for review.

Cost Share Grant Agreement:

Applicants that are awarded funding will enter into an agreement with Carver County. This agreement will stipulate the responsibilities and obligations of both the grant applicant and Carver County.

Reporting Requirements:

In addition to a cost share agreement, an operation and maintenance plan will be required that stipulates responsibilities of the applicant for maintenance of the project for a period of five (5) years. To assist Carver County Staff in determining this agreement is followed, yearly reporting that consists of photo documentation will be submitted to Carver County by August 1st of each year.

Application Procedures:

Applicants are encouraged to contact Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss the potential project as the first step. Applicants that fill out the cost share application need to send it to Carver County Planning and Water Management Department, c/o Charlie Sawdey at 600 E 4th Street, Chaska, MN. Staff will contact the applicant to review the application, with the potential for a site visit. During the site visit, project location will be further evaluated to determine consistency with evaluation criteria. Carver County Staff will make a recommendation to the JAM.

Staff will contact the applicant on the approval status of the application once a decision has been reached. If the application is approved, a meeting will be scheduled to review responsibilities and sign appropriate agreements. Notification of the start date of the construction and of new major tasks is required to Carver County Staff. Upon completion of the project, the applicant must notify Carver County Staff for End of Project Review. Release of funds to the applicant will be awarded after this review.

Carver County Cost Share Application

Contact Information

Name		
Address		
City	State MN	Zip Code
Project Location (If different than above)		
Nearest Lake or Stream		
Home Phone	Work or Cell Phone	
Email Address	Other Contact Info	

Project Information (use additional sheets as necessary)

Project Description

Water Quality Issues the Project will address

Contributing Drainage Area	Maximum Size of Practice	Landuse in Drainage Area
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Cost-Share Request

Total Project Cost (Attach itemized list – required for cost share)	Cost Share Request (Max of 75%)
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Collaborators (List partners and contributing funds, if applicable)

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information included in this application is true, complete, and accurate.

Signature	Date
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Office Use Only:
Approval: _____ Date: _____

Carver County Cost Share Criteria

Criteria	Max. Points Allowed	Actual Points	Discussion
Watershed Criteria			
Project Site Location			Subwatersheds will change based upon the TMDL process through the County, MPCA, and EPA. Check with Carver County Staff to get list of affected watersheds.
Rank 1 - Site is directly within a subwatershed with approved TMDL IP	10		
Rank 2 - Site is directly within a subwatershed with approved TMDL	8		
Rank 3 - Site is directly within a subwatershed with pending TMDL	6		
Rank 4 - Site is directly within a subwatershed with an active TMDL Study	4		
Rank 5 - Site is located within non-critical waterbody	2		
Water Quality Impact Criteria			
Impact Type to Waterbody (more than 1 may apply)			Based upon what the project will improve and what is the most detrimental to the waterbody.
Phosphorus Loading	8		
Fecal (<i>E. coli</i>) Bacteria Loading	8		
Sedimentation Loading	5		
Rate Control	0-10		Points based upon % reduction discharge from site and total water volume leaving the site. Every 10% of overall reduction is within these criteria onsite is equal to one point.
Volume Control	0-10		
Ability to Monitor	0-10		Points based on both the quality of data and the number of parameters that will be monitored.
Natural Resource Criteria			
Exotic Vegetation/Aquatic Nuisance Removal	0-10		Project incorporates exotic/invasive/noxious vegetation removal. Ranking based upon overall % reduction from project area.
BMP Type			Different BMPs have varying degrees of benefit to waterbodies. The innovative BMP will be giving points based upon the level of benefit to the receiving waterbody.
Shoreline Restoration	10		
Raingarden	9		
Buffer Strip	6		
Native Restoration	5		
Innovative BMP	0-10		
Additional Criteria			
Landowner Contribution			Encouraging landowner contribution should result in better maintenance, satisfaction, ownership, & greater use of public dollars.
Cost-Share Reduction	0-5		
In-kind Contribution	0-5		
Demonstration Site	5		Site available to public without prior notification to landowner.
Educational Site	3		Available for tours with prior notification.
Community Support			Identifying broad based support is beneficial to project short and long term success.
Active Lake Association/Neighborhood	3		
2+ adjoining neighbors	3		
Other Contributions (other than Landowner)	5		Additional contributions should be encouraged to foster support, extend project dollars, and demonstrate success to additional parties. Grants and funding from outside Carver County and landowner.
Violation or Permit Requirement	0	0	Projects to repair violations or projects that are required by permit are not eligible.
TOTAL:			0