

# Cost share for conservation



Common practices to reduce erosion, improve soil health and water quality.



# Projects eligible for cost share funding

## Grassed waterway

A wide, constructed channel that is gently sloped and planted with grass. The grass helps slow the flow of water and reduce erosion while conveying the water safely towards an outlet.

## Water and sediment control basin (WASCOB)

A small, constructed embankment (hill) that helps form a depression in the landscape. The depression helps temporarily hold water, which allows sediment to settle and water to slowly drain through a piped outlet.

## Alternative tile intakes (ATIs)



ATIs are modified inlets for underground tile drainage systems. They are typically added to depressions or areas where water accumulates and can help slow the flow of water while filtering out sediment.

*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)*

## Grade and channel stabilization

Stabilizing a channel typically involves gently re-sloping the eroding areas and using riprap (rocks) or plants to protect ditch or stream banks.

## Manure bunker

A mostly enclosed structure typically built on top of a pad of concrete that you can use to pile up manure and keep it dry. Storing manure can be useful if you want to use it later for fertilizer or compost.

## Livestock exclusion fencing and rotational grazing



Fences keep livestock out of water bodies, which can prevent bank erosion, reduce direct manure inputs to water, and potentially reduce livestock injury. Fencing can also be used for rotational grazing, which reduces grazing pressures and keeps pastures healthy. Livestock waterers are

sometimes included in a fencing project if they're necessary to keep animals out of a stream or other body of water.

## What is Cost Share for Conservation?

Hennepin County partners with watershed organizations, cities, and the state of Minnesota to offer technical and financial assistance for projects on private property that help residents address erosion, soil health, and sources of water pollution on their property.

### Are renters eligible to apply for cost share funding?

Yes. If you rent your land, you can still do cost share projects as long as you work with your landlord.



### Cover crops



These types of crops help armor the soil against erosion and improve soil health. They are typically

seeded in the fall, mature through winter, and killed before planting season in the spring.

### Alternative, conservation, and no-till practices

To keep soil healthy and productive, you can implement soil health practices like reducing tillage. Over time, this can lead to benefits like increasing organic matter, making nutrients more available to crops, reducing compaction, improving drainage, and other benefits.

### Perennial crops and extended crop rotations

Planting a limited variety of crops and using the same crop rotation for an extended period of time can reduce the available nutrients in soil and reduce yields. Introducing other perennial crops (such as alfalfa) into your rotation and extending the duration of crop rotations can vastly improve soil health, increase yields, and reduce pest pressures.

Have other natural resource concerns? Talk to one of our staff members!

# Get cost share funding for your project

All projects and practices listed in this brochure are eligible for cost share funding. Here are some basic details about the cost share process:

1. Contact us about a potential natural resource concern on your property
2. Hennepin County staff will perform a site visit and work with you to determine what projects could be viable and effective
3. If interested in moving forward, you enter into a contract with Hennepin County and pay a contractor up front to do the project
4. After the project is done, Hennepin County reimburses you for a percentage of the project cost

Note: If your property is located in an area that is a priority for water quality improvement (also known as a priority subwatershed), you are eligible for up to 90% cost share on a project.

5. Ongoing maintenance: Staff will come out to inspect your project at the one-, five-, and nine-year marks

Questions about conservation practices? Contact:

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