



Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Educator Mini-Grant Program

As part of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District's (LMRWD) 2022 Public Education and Outreach Plan, this Educator Mini-Grant Program (the "Program") is designed to assist local educators and further the LMRWD's mission and goals of water quality restoration, groundwater conservation, and wildlife connectivity, while increasing public awareness of the Minnesota River and its unique natural resources. The Program, as designed, streamlines outreach and evaluation of funding requests from schools and nonprofits. The Program directly aligns with LMRWD watershed management plan Goal 9, Policy 9.1, Strategy 9.1.2, which specifies the development of an educational outreach program to familiarize the public with LMRWD activities.

The Program provides grants annually up to \$500 to help offset the cost of materials and programming that focuses on water resource themes. Grants are awarded as a refund for purchases made. Receipts and a project report must be provided for refund. Eligibility to receive funding will be based on the following:

- The applicant must be located within the LMRWD or a member city
- Activities and projects must have a water resources or wildlife habitat component
- Recipients are eligible for only one grant per academic year
- Receipts and a project report must be provided for refund

Grant examples include, but are not limited to, equipment, supplies and in-class materials, field trips and transportation, guest speakers, teacher training, and program sponsorship funding. Examples of activities **not** eligible for funding include marketing materials for self-promotion, staff payroll, and funding for future undetermined activities and projects.

Deadlines to Apply for a Grant

Grant funds are available for the 2022–2023 academic year. The application will be released twice during the academic year with deadlines on October 21, 2022, and February 3, 2023, by 4 p.m. Applications are awarded on a competitive basis while funds last.

How it works

1. Develop your activity or project idea, complete the Program application, and submit it to the LMRWD per the instructions on or before the specified deadlines.
2. The application materials will be reviewed and evaluated. Applicants will be called or emailed with questions. A timely response to inquiries is required for consideration.
3. Applicants will be contacted via email; preliminary board recommendations will be shared with them, and they will be extended an invitation to attend the board meeting where their application will be considered by the LMRWD board.

4. Following consideration by the LMRWD board, the applicant will be emailed the decision of the LMRWD board.
5. If successful, complete the proposed activity or project, remembering to take lots of photos and save receipts.
6. Complete and submit the reimbursement and reporting request form.
7. Following a review of the project report and reimbursement request material, the applicant will be contacted if information is missing. Once all requirements are satisfied, payment will be transmitted.

For questions or more information, contact info@lowermnriverwd.org.