



Des Moines River Watershed Partnership

2740 22nd Street – Slayton, MN 56172

[Des Moines River Watershed One Partnership \(murraycountymn.com\)](http://murraycountymn.com)
or type murraycountymn.com/desmoinesriver into your web browser.



Recap of 2024

2024 was a year of new opportunities for the Des Moines River Watershed Partnership. It was our first full year of implementing projects using our first implementation grant. Many projects were designed and installed. By the end of December, we had expended almost half of this grant with the majority funds being spent on agricultural practices such as grassed waterways and water and sediment control basins and cover crops, a non-structural management practice.

The Des Moines River Watershed Partnership also received two additional grants this year. In September, we received a conservation reserve program (CRP) incentive grant totaling \$100,000 and a second implementation grant totaling \$1,736,891.00. The Partnership expanded their cost-share opportunities for their second implementation grant.



A grassed waterway in Martin County.

FY23–25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (1.0)

Remaining Cost-Share Opportunities:

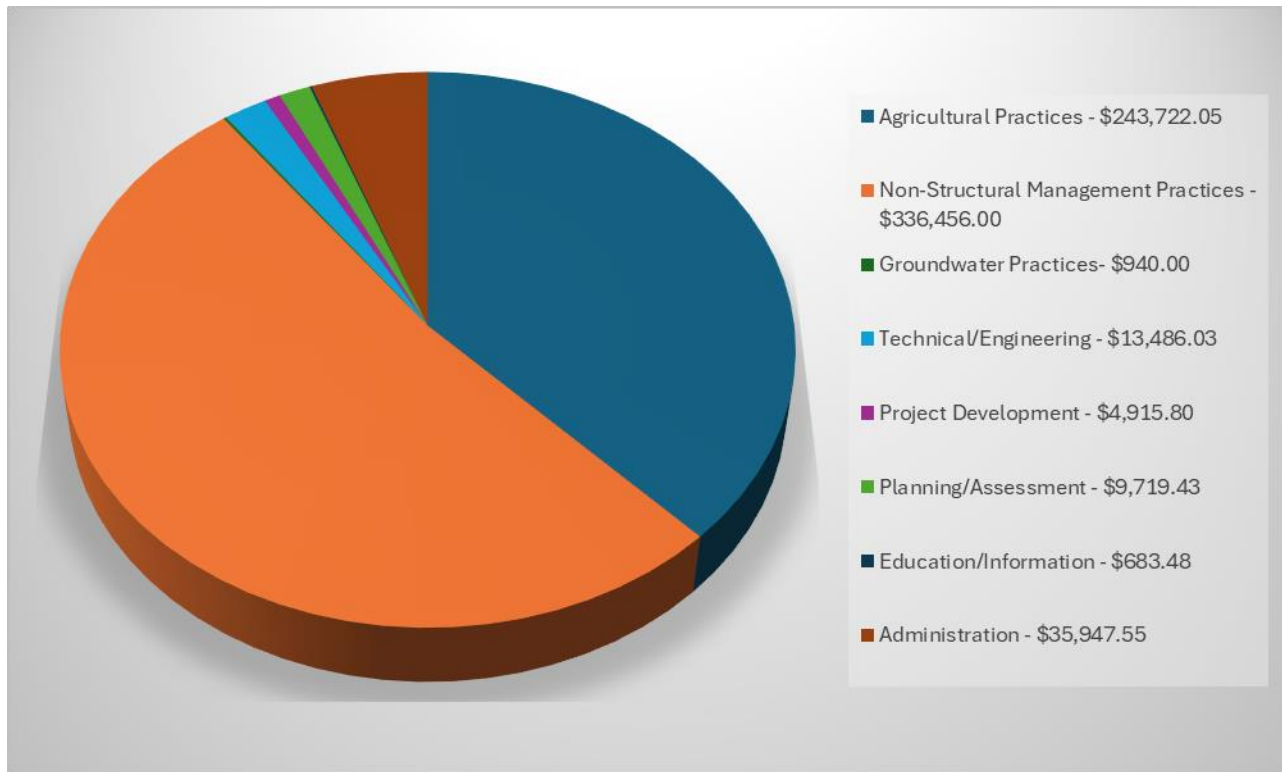
1. Agricultural Practices
85% – 95% cost share
Some examples include grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, and grade stabilization structures.
2. Shoreland Protection
85% – 95% cost share with a \$10,000 limit per project
Some examples include conservation cover, riparian herbaceous cover, critical area planting, and streambank & shoreline protection.
3. Well Decommissioning
50% cost share with a \$1,000 limit per project

4. Urban Practices

85% cost share with a \$5,000 limit per project

Some examples include rain gardens, vegetative swales, and vegetative management.

2024 Funds Expended



Outcomes:

11 grassed waterways installed

11 water and sediment control basins installed

2,751 acres of cover crops installed for a 3-year term

1 well sealed

1 mailing reaching 320 landowners about cost share opportunities

Collaborated with other entities in sponsoring a soil health field day

FY25-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (2.0)

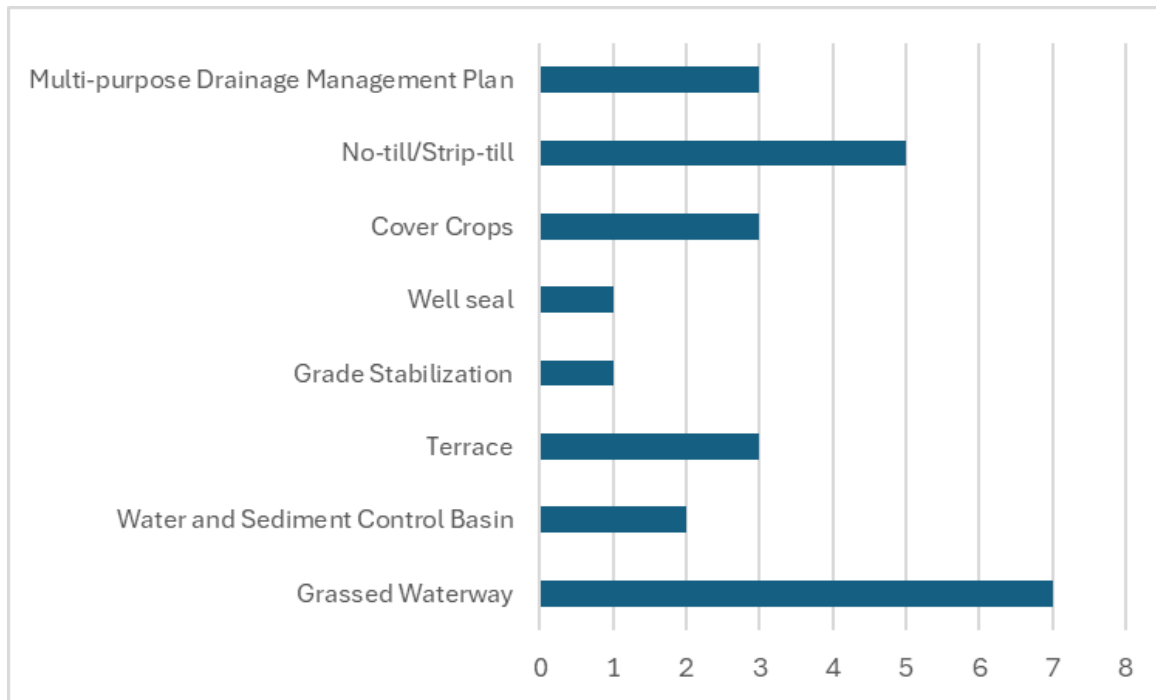
Cost-Share Opportunities

1. Agricultural Practices
85% – 100% cost-share*
*Please note that 100% cost-share is only available for projects that meet specific criteria. Some examples include grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, and grade stabilization structures.
2. Non-Structural Management Practices
Cover crops:
Single species mix – \$35/acre/year; Multi species mix \$45/acre/year
No-till/Strip-till: \$30/acre/year
3. Shoreland Protection
85% – 95% cost share with a \$10,000 limit per project
Some examples include conservation cover, riparian herbaceous cover, critical area planting, and streambank & shoreline protection.
4. Well Decommissioning
50% cost share with a \$1,000 limit per project
5. Urban Practices
85% cost share with a \$5,000 limit per project
Some examples include rain gardens, vegetative swales, and vegetative management.
6. Urban forestry for urban tree practices
85% cost share with a \$5,000 limit per project
7. Septic System incentives
\$5,000 per septic system**
**Based on income, classification of failing septic system, and distance from water bodies.

FY25 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Incentive Funding

We are offering a CRP incentive of \$50/acre/year with a \$10,000 maximum per contract.

Expected projects for 2025



2024 Progress toward our Actions

Projects & Practices Actions

1. Structural conservation practices
 - Headwaters planning region:
 - 146.34 tons per year of sediment reduced*
 - 25.46 lbs. per year of phosphorus reduced*
 - 336.73 lbs. per year of nitrogen reduced*
 - Lime Creek–Upper Des Moines planning region:
 - 67.85 tons per year of sediment reduced*
 - 11.43 lbs. per year of phosphorus reduced*
 - 158.59 lbs. per year of nitrogen reduced*
 - 0.7 acre-feet of storage*
 - Main Stem Des Moines planning region:
 - 3.3 lbs. per year of phosphorus reduced*
 - 3.3 lbs. per year of nitrogen reduced*
 - East Fork Des Moines planning region:
 - 26.85 tons per year of sediment reduced*
 - 3.29 lbs. per year of phosphorus reduced*
 - 58.36 lbs. per year of nitrogen reduced*

0.02 acre-feet of storage

2. Non-structural soil management practices
 - Headwaters planning region:
436 acres treated
554 tons per year of sediment reduced
99 lbs. per year of phosphorus reduced
1,995 lbs. per year of nitrogen reduced
 - Heron Lake Watershed District planning region:
152.7 acres treated
 - Main Stem Des Moines planning region:
72.11 acres treated
 - East Fork Des Moines planning region:
2,712 acres treated
3,018 tons per year of sediment reduced
602 lbs. per year of phosphorus reduced
12,093 lbs. per year of nitrogen reduced
3. Provide cost share to well owners for sealing of unsealed, abandoned wells
25 wells sealed
4. Fix/address non-compliant septic systems
68 septic systems replaced or abandoned
5. Buffer and streambed enhancements with consideration for fish barriers
 - Headwaters planning region:
0.05 miles of stream channel enhanced
 - Main Stem Des Moines planning region:
0.68 miles of stream channel enhanced
6. Bacteria management practices
7. Urban best management practices
 - Main Stem Des Moines planning region:
0.2 acres treated
8. Shoreline restoration and enhancements
 - Headwaters planning region:
0.3 acres of shoreline protected
9. Restore wetlands
 - Lime Creek – Upper Des Moines planning region:
1.4 acres restored
 - East Fork Des Moines planning region:
8 acres restored
0.13 acre-feet of water storage

10. Re-enroll private lands in temporary easements or land rental with local incentives
 - Headwaters planning region:
113.4 acres re-enrolled
 - East Fork Des Moines planning region:
7 acres re-enrolled
11. Obtain perpetual easements and protected areas
 - Lime Creek – Upper Des Moines planning region:
217.6 acres protected
 - Heron Lake Watershed District planning region:
123 acres protected
 - Main Stem Des Moines planning region:
74.8 acres protected

Education & Outreach actions

1. Continue and expand general education and outreach activities to local partners and landowners by jurisdictional area
34 outreach efforts on 4 topics (Surface Water, Groundwater, Habitat, and Land Stewardship) reaching approximately 22,921 people
2. Make information available to private well users about local drinking water quality and well testing
2 outreach efforts focused on groundwater reaching approximately 3,826 people
26 wells tested for nitrates
3. Encourage landowners to report unused or abandoned wells and educate on cost share opportunities
2 outreach efforts completed distributing information to approximately 4,120 people
4. Provide education on water conservation practices that can be adopted in people's homes and businesses
5. Education of lakeshore owners about shoreland development impacts
1 outreach effort held about surface water reaching approximately 108 landowners
6. Highlight projects on high visibility shorelines near towns and/or parks and provide communication resources on the economic and environmental benefits of projects
7. Work with lake associations and sportsman's clubs to improve lake education
3 outreach efforts (1 meeting; 2 mailings) completed reaching approximately 276 people
8. Expand "score the shore" with lake associations

9. Education to homeowners on proper grass clipping/leaf management
10. Education on baseline water quality levels, education on urban and agricultural BMPs, and what is being done to regulate runoff
1 outreach effort focused on land stewardship reaching approximately 20 people
11. Define leadership "point person" to improve local partner and community discussion around water quality
1 leadership group of approximately 60 people created to address a water quantity and quality issue
12. Collaborate with local partners, community leaders, state agency staff, and local business partners to develop new funding opportunities
13. Improve program offerings and efficiencies to attract additional landowners and alleviate restrictions
1 meeting held reaching approximately 10 people to identify landowner barriers to program offerings, alleviate restrictions, and improve efficiencies when combining federal and state sources for projects
14. Conduct field days and/or workshops for nutrient management, manure management, and cover crops for agronomists and landowners to communicate economic and environmental benefits of projects
1 field day held reaching approximately 14 people
15. Education on altered hydrology, drought management, and water storage
16. Education and outreach on stream health issues
17. Strengthening ties with agronomists and conservation partnerships – inclusive of staff time and field days
5 outreach efforts held reaching approximately 204 people
18. General education about local ordinances for shoreland, feedlots, stormwater, etc.
1 outreach effort held reaching approximately 24 people



A Soil Health event in Martin County.

2024 Progress toward our Plan goals

- 3,813.04 tons per year of sediment reduced toward our ten-year goal of 155,000 tons per year.
- 744.48 lbs. per year of phosphorus reduced toward our ten-year goal of 13,564 lbs. per year.
- 14,644.98 lbs. per year of nitrogen reduced toward our ten-year goal of 246,000 lbs. per year.
- 0.85 acre-feet of water storage added toward our ten-year goal of 39,000 acre-feet of storage.
- 25 wells sealed toward our ten-year goal of 260 wells sealed.
- 68 septic systems replaced or abandoned toward our ten-year goal of 260 septic systems replaced or abandoned.
- 3,372.81 acres managed with soil health practices toward our ten-year goal of 24,000 acres of farmable land managed with soil management practices.
- 0.73 miles of stream channel was protected toward our ten-year goal of 5 miles of prioritized stream channels are enhanced or protected.
- 0.2 acres was treated toward our ten-year goal of treating 300 acres of contributing urban area.
- 0.3 acres of shoreline were protected toward our ten-year goal of protecting 2 acres of shoreline on developed lakes.
- 9.4 acres of wetlands restored toward our ten-year goal of 1,550 acres of wetlands restored.
- 120.4 acres re-enrolled in protection programs toward our ten-year goal of 12,000 acres re-enrolled.
- 415.4 acres protected toward our ten-year goal of 1,940 acres in permanent protection.

Total Progress toward our Plan goals

As of March 4, 2025

