

# DNR Surface Water Grant Deadlines Approaching



Are you interested in conservation work on Wisconsin lakes, rivers, or wetlands? Do you belong to a lake district, river management group, or lake association that is looking for project funding? The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides more than \$6 million each year for projects that protect and restore surface waters. The deadline for planning projects is December 10, and the deadline for management projects is February 1, 2020.

“The surface water grant program can help you carry out projects that make lakes, wetlands, and rivers healthier. From low-cost projects aimed at the DIY landowner, to large-scale projects for shoreland restoration and aquatic invasive species control, there is likely a grant program out there that fits your needs,” said Alison Mikulyuk, DNR’s Lakes and Rivers Team Leader, who coordinates the grant effort. “The first step is to determine your eligibility and goals. Your local lakes, rivers, or AIS coordinator can help you take those important first steps.”

Department funds may be granted to lake and river associations, units of local government, school districts, and qualified nonprofits. If you are an individual, you should find a local organization willing to sponsor your project. After you establish your eligibility, the next step is to decide what grant program is right for you. Note that granted funds must be cost-shared, so local entities must contribute money or donate value to the project. The state typically covers 75 percent or 67 percent of project costs up to a maximum amount specified by subprogram.

## Which grant program should you choose?



### Best for first-time participants

If you or your organization has never received a grant before, Healthy Lakes is a great place to start. The program promotes five simple and

inexpensive best practices, providing up to \$1,000 per practice installed. Landowners can ask their lake association or county conservationist to sponsor an application. The more landowners you can recruit to participate with you, the healthier your lake will be.



### Best for those who want a comprehensive plan for the future

If you need a strategic management plan to help guide your work, consider a lake management planning or river

management planning grant. These funds can be used to develop or update a comprehensive management plan that will take a hard look at the waterbody to determine its condition and quality. Plans help to identify the cause of any problems and provide strategic direction to guide future management. The plan will also strive to understand the community and its goals, then it will suggest actions to accomplish them. Many consultants and planning commissions around the state offer planning services that may be paid for with grant dollars.