



REPORT

TO: County Commissioners
FROM: Robert Hass
DATE: March 10, 2026
SUBJECT: LCCMR Grant Application for BioChar Trailer Purchase

DESCRIPTION:

LCCMR Grant Application for BioChar Trailer Purchase

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve resolution of support to submit proposal of BioChar trailer purchase with LCCMR funds.

SUMMARY:

The attached project proposal would purchase a biochar trailer to aid in invasive species management for \$69,000. The trailer includes a small kiln that would create biochar on-site from invasive species that have been treated and dried. The product would be then used on site to remediate the treated area. The trailer would fold into the existing capital equipment plan with a 20-year life (similar to our other trailers).

ATTACHMENTS:

Cook County LCCMR Capital Equip Justification and Payback Acknowledgement, Cook County LCCMR Proposal, 2027 LCCMR RFP, LCCMR Proposal Map, Resolution for BioChair Trailer, Letter of Support (Cook County Board of Commissioners)



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-232

Proposal Title: Mobile Biochar for Invasive Plant Disposal and Suppression

Project Manager Information

Name: Tia Parks

Organization: Cook County

Office Telephone: (218) 264-9774

Email: tia.parks@cookcountymn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Purchase a mobile biochar kiln that will be used for the innovative disposal and suppression of invasive plants on public, private, local, state, tribal, and federal lands in Cook County.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$69,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Fish and Wildlife (D)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): NE

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Cook County faces unique issues in accessing legal disposal sites for state regulated invasive species due to its remote location in the far northeastern corner of Minnesota, on the shore of Lake Superior and the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. A legal disposal site is a compost facility that has been approved by the state to accept invasive plants, and the closest one to Cook County is at least 80 miles away. Invasives species such as knotweeds, purple loosestrife, common tansy, wild parsnip, garden valerian, and more create large quantities of biomass making site access difficult, revegetation and restoration seemingly impossible, and decrease visual aesthetic and economic value of property. Several of the species we manage are extremely aggressive and known to have the ability to propagate from small stem and root fragments, even when brown and seemingly unviable. All stated regulated invasive plants cannot be removed from a site without a state permit, and the Department of Agriculture highly suggests leaving invasive species on the site where they originated to avoid further spread. It is difficult to impossible to move forward with management sites where the soil is inaccessible due to slowly decaying biomass.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Our solution to the issue of invasive species disposal is to acquire a mobile biochar kiln. The county ag inspector would mobilize the kiln to management sites (85 sites from 300 sq ft to 1 acre and multiple miles) for biomass disposal, site preparation, and further suppression. The mobility of the kiln helps eliminate the threat of invasive plants spreading from the site to new areas from human transport. Converting the biomass into biochar creates material that can be spread over the disturbed area to aid in suppression of target species'. Use of biochar in the soil can aid in soil remediation post invasion which can ultimately help prepare the site for re-vegetation using native species. Restoration is not the goal of the project, but rather we plan to improve the site by revegetating with native species that thrive in the new soil type. The project has potential to expand beyond the initial use, as the team can consider creating a drop-off location for the public or by mobilizing the kiln for private property where we do not have a current project. Target species include knotweeds, purple loosestrife, wild parsnip, garden valerian, buckthorn, barberry, dalmatian toadflax, and several others.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The project outcomes directly relate to protecting and improving the natural resources on Cook County public and private lands that are not yet or minimally affected by invasive plants. We manage 85 sites ranging from 300sq ft to 1 acre to multiple miles that will benefit from this project. The county thrives on our unique natural resources that must be protected. Biomass disposal and revegetating will greatly boost our ability to enhance the quality of native biodiversity on each site, while not restoring the site but by improving the soil and resources for site specific native revegetation.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Purchase Mobile Biochar Kiln and Begin Use on Project Sites

Activity Budget: \$68,999

Activity Description:

The biochar will be purchased as soon as funding is awarded for use. The team will be trained in use of the system on one of our target sites. We will mobilize the kiln to two project sites before the end of fall. Site documentation will take place immediately at the end of processing and will continue twice annually through the following years.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Purchase and receive all equipment and supplies including the kiln system, PPE, and accessories.	September 30, 2027
Receive in-house training from Mobile Biochar Systems/Maine Kilns at one of our projects.	October 31, 2027
Start by completing 2 knotweed sites.	November 30, 2027
Process photos collected before, during, and after the process.	November 30, 2027

Activity 2: Kiln Use Continues, Findings are Documented, and Sites Assessed for Revegetation

Activity Budget: \$1

Activity Description:

10 invasive species sites will be managed using the kiln system. Invasive species sites that have undergone biochar conversion will be observed, photographed, and findings will be documented for sharing. Observations will occur in June and August annually. Sites will be assessed for revegetation at the end of year 3.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Complete biochar conversion at 10 invasive species sites.	November 30, 2029
Invasive species sites using biochar conversion observed, photographed, and findings documented for sharing.	June 30, 2030
Observations occur in June and August annually. New growth of invasive species treated, funded separately.	June 30, 2030
Findings compiled for sharing.	June 30, 2030
Sites assessed for revegetation.	June 30, 2030

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Tia Parks - Coordinator	Cook County Invasives Team	Collaborative Partner, Education, Sharing	No
Monika Chandler	Minnesota Department of Agriculture- Noxious and Invasive Weed Program	Dissemination of information gathered from the project to distribute findings to professionals and entities around the state and neighboring states.	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines. Findings will be presented to Cook County Invasives Team partners in our regular meetings. They will specifically be shared with the department of agriculture who can share further through the state and can request presentation to Minnesota Association of County Agriculture Inspectors. Presentations may be prepared for the public and/or demonstrations may be performed.

We will acknowledge the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications and outreach.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

This project will have long-lasting effects on the team's ability to manage invasive species sites and will become a staple in our best management practices. The findings will be documented through observation, annual photography, and written documentation. Results will be shared with partner agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, who can share the results across the state. If capacity allows, this resource will eventually become available to the public as a drop-off location where they can exchange invasive species for biochar to use and will be funded by Cook County.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Tia Parks

Job Title: Cook County Agricultural Inspector and Cook County Invasives Team (CCIT) Coordinator.

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

As Ag Inspector, I enforce the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and manage invasive terrestrial species across all jurisdictions in the county including private, local, state, federal, and tribal lands. I also create and manage invasive species programs, provide resources for professionals and the public, administer pesticide applicator testing, and deliver outreach programs and events.

The Cook County Invasives Team is a Cooperative Weed Management Association (CWMA). As the coordinator, I initiate

and implement collaborative invasive species management and outreach efforts among multiple agencies which include but are not limited to, the Superior National Forest, DNR, MDA, Grand Portage Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa, MN Department of Transportation, and Cook County SWCD.

Organization: Cook County

Organization Description:

Cook County Government is a county governing body and serves as the fiscal agent of the CCIT and houses the County Ag Inspector.

The purpose of the CCIT is to encourage and formalize the cooperative relationship necessary for effective management, coordination, and implementation of invasive species programs among interested parties. The CCIT works to enhance invasive management programs in the region by encouraging sharing of resources, information, expertise, and effort on both public and private lands. Organizations such as the CCIT can also apply for funding for invasive management. The CCIT is a formal Cooperative Weed Management Association (CWMA).

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Equipment								
		Mobile Biochar Kiln System	The kiln system will be used to innovatively dispose and suppress invasive species on 85 project sites in Cook County where no legal disposal site exists within 80 miles one way and decomposition is far slower or not achieved. All jurisdictions and property types across the county benefit from this project through collaborative use and knowledge sharing.	X				\$69,000
							Sub Total	\$69,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside								

Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$69,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Equipment		Mobile Biochar Kiln System	<p>Justifications and payback acknowledgement attached.</p> <p>Additional Explanation : The sole purpose of this purchase is to use the biochar kiln for disposal and suppression of invasive plants in Cook County. The use of the kiln for this purpose will continue through the life of the system, and we intend for it to become part of our best management practices.</p>

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
In-Kind	County Regular Funding	The county pays the salaries of the county ag inspector and environmental technician who will be using the kiln for invasive species management. The county will pay kiln maintenance and the fuel to haul the system. The county will also pay for revegetation efforts that come after the project. The amount accounts for the 3 year project period.	Secured	\$800,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$800,000
			Funds Total	\$800,000

Total Project Cost: \$869,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [2427b6a5-888.docx](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The attachment depicts a map of invasive species project sites managed by the ag inspector across Cook County. Picture shows biomass waste that is left behind from knotweed invasions....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Cook County Most Recent Audit Report	b45785f8-176.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Cook County Capital Equipment Justification and Payback Acknowledgement	17aed737-a14.docx

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, Cook County

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Tia Parks Cook County

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

N/A

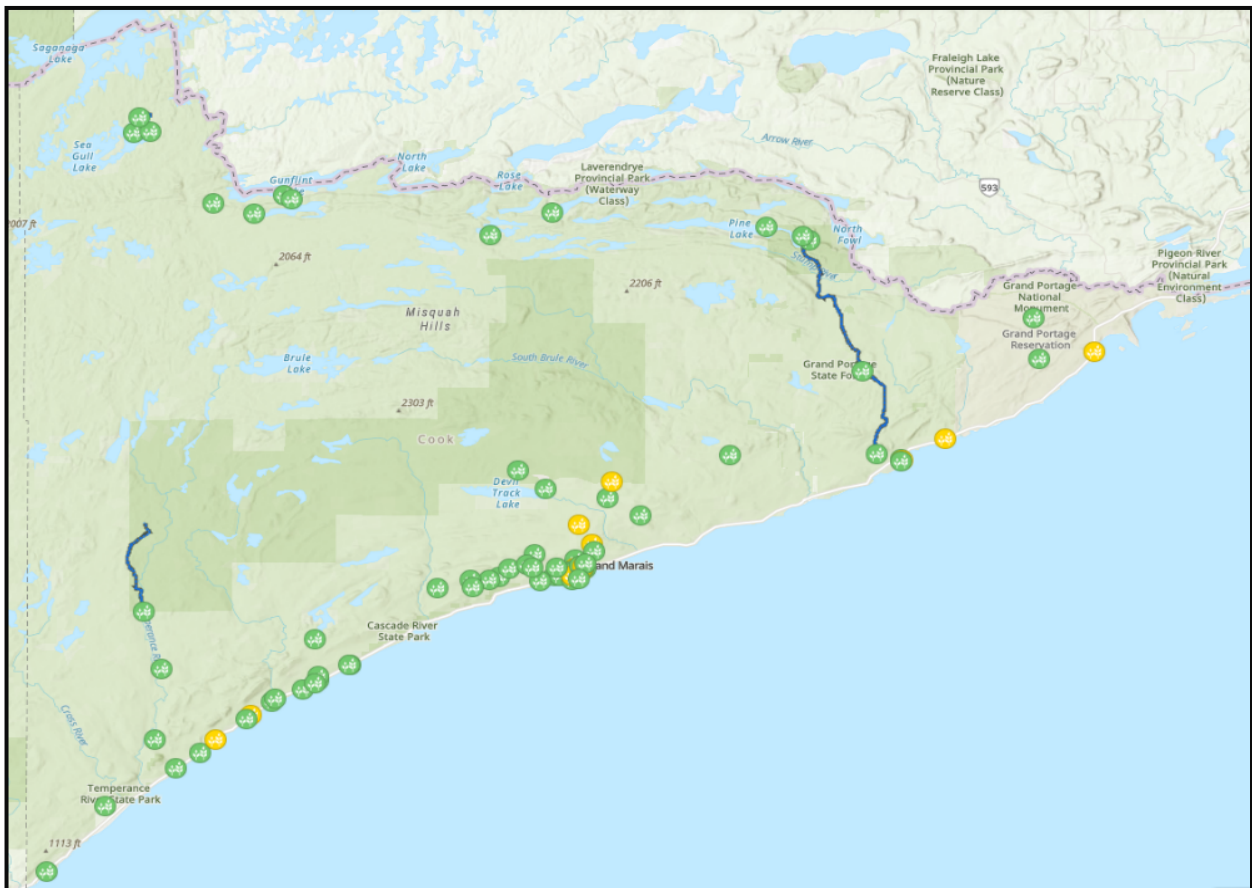
Mobile Biochar Kiln for Invasive Plant Disposal and Suppression in Cook County

Synopsis: The proposed project is in Cook County and will take place on invasive species sites that are managed by the County Ag Inspector and the Cook County Invasives Team.

There is no legal disposal site for invasive species within 80 miles of the county. A mobile biochar kiln would allow us to dispose of invasive species on sites and use the char to suppress the growth of the species. Cook County is one of the state's leaders in natural resource tourism because it hosts unique ecosystems and opportunities. The remoteness of the area requires our work to be innovative when creating solutions. Mobile biochar is the answer for Cook County.



The figure above shows invasive knotweed stems leaving large amounts of biomass leaving revegetation impossible.



Inspector manages. Sites are on private, local, state, federal and tribal lands. Species managed that will benefit from the project are knotweeds, purple loosestrife, common tansy, wild parsnip, common buckthorn, Japanese barberry, wild carrot, dalmatian toadflax, and others.

Large quantities of knotted stems block the ground making access

COUNTY OF COOK)

I, Braidy Powers, County Auditor, Cook County, Minnesota, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly passed, adopted and approved by the County Board of Commissioners on the ___ of March, 2026, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness by hand and seal this ____ day of March, 2026

Braidy Powers, Cook County Auditor-Treasurer

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

2027 ENRTF Request for Proposal



Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec.14: "The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources."

Summary

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) welcomes proposals for projects of all sizes that address the priorities and requirements described within this Request for Proposal (RFP) and that aim to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The LCCMR reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Approximately \$121 million is anticipated to be available from the Trust Fund through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2027. The standard project length is three years, but shorter and longer projects will also be considered. Proposals must be submitted online at lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn by March 18, 2026.

Funding Available

Approximately \$121 million is anticipated to be available through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2027. The LCCMR makes recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Recommended projects must be approved by the 2027 Legislature through an appropriations bill, signed into law by the governor, and have a work plan approved by the LCCMR before funds can be spent. For non-state entities, payment is made by [reimbursement](#) for expenses incurred, and fiscal oversight is provided through a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Final reimbursement is contingent on final report approval by the LCCMR at the end of the project. The standard project length is three years, but shorter and longer projects will also be considered.

Amount of Request

There is no minimum or maximum request amount. All proposals should strive to maximize efficiency and return on investment for the proposed expenditures.

Applicant Eligibility

The RFP is open to all who want to apply and who have demonstrated financial capacity. Applicants must be available to make a formal presentation to the LCCMR if selected and to respond to staff or commission member questions.

Online Proposal System

All proposals must be submitted through the LCCMR's [online proposal submission system](#). Early account registrations and proposal submissions are strongly encouraged.

Deadline for Submission

Final proposals must be submitted online by March 18, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

Information from this document may be copied and distributed to others. This publication can be made available in alternate formats, such as large print or audio format, upon request.

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources
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Issued January 7, 2026

Proposal and Appropriation Timeline

LCCMR Members

as of 11/19/2025

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Sen. Fong Hawj
Rep. Sydney Jordan

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Up-to-date information on deadlines and meetings can be found on the [meeting schedule page](#) of our website.

November 19, 2025	Funding priorities determined and 2027 RFP adopted.
January 7, 2026	2027 RFP issued.
March 18, 2026	Final submission deadline for proposals responding to 2027 RFP
May 2026	All submitted proposals distributed to LCCMR members for evaluation (Evaluation #1)
June 9, 2026	Member Evaluation #1 deadline
June 17, 2026	A subset of high-ranking proposals selected for further consideration are invited to give presentations before the LCCMR.
June 29-30 and July 1-2, 2026	Selected proposals present before the LCCMR. LCCMR members begin further evaluation of selected proposals (Evaluation #2).
July 15, 2026	Member Evaluation #2 deadline
July 30, 2026	Subset of proposals selected for recommendation to the Legislature for funding
August–December 2026	Projects recommended for funding begin submitting work plans for LCCMR staff review, and research projects recommended for funding undergo peer review.
December 16, 2026	Funding recommendations are adopted by the LCCMR in legislative bill format, as they will be presented to the Legislature.
January–May 2027	LCCMR recommendations presented to the Legislature for consideration via introduction as an appropriations bill. Bill is considered and acted upon by the Minnesota House and Senate. Upon passage, the bill goes before the governor to be signed into law.
June 2027	LCCMR approves work plans for projects funded.
July 1, 2027	Money from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund becomes available for expenditure, and projects with an approved work plan may begin.
July–September 2027	Minnesota DNR conducts fiscal capacity reviews and sends grant agreements to non-state entities receiving ENRTF funds.

About the LCCMR

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is made up of 17 members: five Senators, five Representatives, five citizens appointed by the governor, one citizen appointed by the Senate, and one citizen appointed by the House. The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

2027 Funding Priorities

All proposals must meet the constitutional aim to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, especially those that may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state.

Proposals should address one or more of the priorities described in the categories below, with a priority on proposals that meet the purposes of the Reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in [M.S. 84.95, Subd 2](#). However, proposals pertaining to environmental or natural resource issues not directly addressed below may also be considered. Categories and priorities are not listed in order of importance.

Proposals that address prevention strategies for protecting natural resources, that include citizen and community involvement in scientific efforts, or that implement or identify clear strategies for implementing research results are strongly encouraged.

Proposals will not be considered for:

- Construction of buildings or building infrastructure for environmental education or renewable energy purposes, unless for research or demonstration.
- Development of new school curriculum, except to allow new modules within existing curriculum or update existing curriculum to reflect current state of knowledge or art.

Please make sure you are familiar with all requirements (see pages 8-9) before you begin your proposal, particularly if your proposal will include fee title land acquisition, easement acquisition, restoration, or capital construction.

A. Resiliency

Proposals that help Minnesota's environment, natural resources, and communities achieve resilience in the face of climate change, land use changes, and extreme weather events. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Identify, assess, and/or prioritize potential threats to the environment and natural resources.
2. Research, demonstrate, and/or promote comprehensive and viable solutions for reducing the impacts of climate change, land use changes, or extreme weather events on the environment and natural resources, through both engineered and natural solutions targeted at critical areas.
3. Research and/or develop technologies and measures to detect or address emerging or emergency threats to the environment and natural resources.
4. Broaden understanding and implementation of effective climate adaptation management practices for natural resources among public and private landowners through education, outreach, technical assistance, and/or the development of collaborations and networks to share and learn about new and innovative practices.
5. Support the development of local climate resiliency and adaptation plans for natural resources.
6. Create collaborations and build partnerships among all parties – including academic institutions, government agencies, non-government organizations, communities, and the private sector – to foster innovation and leverage resources and expertise to better address emerging threats to the environment and natural resources.
7. Enhance coordination and interagency collaboration among federal, state, tribal, and local governments to ensure a unified response to emerging environmental or natural resource issues.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

8. Implement proactive measures to prevent or minimize the impacts from emerging environmental or natural resource issues.
9. Implement land and water management practices and/or protect and restore wetlands, forests, prairies, and other critical systems to enhance biodiversity and provide multiple community resilience benefits.

B. Water

Proposals that help ensure Minnesota's waters are better managed for both water quantity and quality to support aquatic life, drinking water, recreation, and other uses. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Research impacts of runoff, stormwater, or contaminants on surface water or groundwater quality and develop practical solutions to prevent or address these impacts.
2. Research current and future water supply and use to support planning efforts and implementation of best management practices and ensure the state's water resiliency and sustainability.
3. Increase understanding and awareness of weather and climate patterns and their potential impact on water resources.
4. Demonstrate innovative practices, strategies, and/or partnerships that prevent or reduce water issues in urban, suburban, or rural regions.
5. Implement measures to improve water quality and/or restore or enhance habitats, shoreline, or natural hydrology in lakes, rivers, wetlands, and other surface waters, with an emphasis on efforts that incorporate coordination and collaboration among tribal, state, and local agencies and community partners.
6. Provide educational opportunities or technical assistance programs for teachers, students, state and local decision-makers, landowners, or the public on how to improve and protect water resources, including groundwater, surface water, and stormwater systems.
7. Monitor and assess the condition of groundwater or surface water, including lakes, rivers, and wetlands, on a regular cycle and provide a long-term data set to support decision-making and evaluate efforts.

C. Education and Outdoor Recreation

Proposals that contribute to all Minnesotans, especially young people, having access to and taking advantage of opportunities to connect to the lands and waters of Minnesota, including through culturally relevant and innovative approaches.* The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Address social, economic, or physical barriers to natural resources-based outdoor recreation through programs that encourage inclusivity and address inequities so that public lands and waters are accessible to all.
2. Assess programs, activities, or physical spaces for their accessibility and effectiveness and/or implement changes to adapt and retrofit them to welcome more people.
3. Provide evidence-based, hands-on, and engaging curriculum, programs, or natural-resource-based outdoor events to bring a diversity of students and/or adults to outdoor experiences.
4. Create mentorship programs, leadership opportunities, and/or learning experiences for a diversity of young people to explore and pursue careers in the environment and natural resources.
5. Enhance environmental education initiatives by integrating diverse cultural perspectives, experiences, and partnerships that foster environmental stewardship in all communities.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

6. Develop local or regional plans to enhance natural resources-based outdoor recreational opportunities in communities across the state.
 7. Collaborate or partner with indigenous, local, BIPOC, or underserved communities to develop culturally relevant, inclusive, and accessible environmental, natural resource, or natural resources-based outdoor recreation programs, practices, curriculum, or facilities.
 8. Design and/or develop culturally relevant, accessible, and resilient outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure – including recreation areas, parks, trails, fishing piers, or shelters – that create new natural resources-based experiences.
 9. Expand networks of trails, parks, or natural areas to protect and connect green spaces seamlessly, improve accessibility and safety, and/or encourage all Minnesotans to recreate and engage with nature.
- * Generally, only elements of baseball fields, basketball courts, splash pads, playground equipment, and other recreational facilities and infrastructure that improve or enhance natural resources or users' experience with natural resources are eligible.

D. Fish and Wildlife

Proposals that help ensure Minnesota has healthy and diverse aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and plants that sustain and enhance the state's environment, economy, and quality of life. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Research species or ecosystems and develop strategies to effectively manage, maintain, protect, and restore healthy habitats and populations.*
 2. Monitor the health of natural systems to support and improve species management and conservation strategies.
 3. Support and provide technical assistance and/or planning support to private landowners on cost-effective, proven strategies and technologies to develop and restore diverse, native habitat.
 4. Promote public awareness on the importance of diverse wildlife and plant populations through comprehensive education programs.
 5. Prevent the introduction, reduce the spread, or develop and demonstrate alternative control techniques for invasive species.* Standard control, removal, and maintenance activities of invasive species will not be considered.
 6. Develop plans and/or implement conservation actions to protect, conserve, or restore species, with a priority on efforts that maintain or create connected, continuous habitat or address the needs of vulnerable, declining, poorly understood, or sensitive species.
 7. Evaluate the effectiveness of current management practices and past investments to sustain and enhance wildlife and native plant populations.
- * All proposals related to invasive species research must consider the research priorities established by the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center or Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. All research proposals should be submitted to the Centers when applicable. The Centers will keep the LCCMR updated on the status of proposals received.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

E. Energy

Proposals that move Minnesota forward towards achieving reliance on renewable energy in all sectors, including transportation, building, industry, and agriculture. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Research and develop new and innovative renewable energy or fuel technologies along with environmental considerations, including biofuels, e-fuels, sustainable aviation fuels, and energy storage.
2. Evaluate, demonstrate, and/or assess renewable energy systems or fuels for economic viability, compatibility with other land uses, and environmental and natural resource impacts over the full lifecycle of the technology.
3. Develop and/or implement plans that identify, prioritize, and coordinate efforts to reduce energy consumption and to transition to renewable energy through land use planning, infrastructure, education and awareness, and other methods.
4. Encourage and support the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in agriculture, mining, industry, utilities, transportation, homes, or businesses.
5. Ensure equitable access to renewable energy and/or energy efficiency programs in all communities.
6. Provide inclusive education and experiential learning programs to build a skilled and diverse workforce for the renewable energy sector.

F. Land

Proposals that help ensure Minnesota's public and private lands – including forests, grasslands, wetlands, and agricultural lands – provide long-term benefits to fish, wildlife, and people. The LCCMR seeks projects proposing to do one or more of the following:

1. Develop, demonstrate, and/or evaluate new and innovative practices and processes on public and private lands, including agricultural and forest land, that provide multiple, long-term environmental benefits, including benefits related to habitat, water quality and quantity, soil health, and carbon sequestration, and take into account economic considerations.
2. Enhance education, technical assistance, or public outreach to promote the application of practices beneficial to the environment, natural resources, and all Minnesotans.
3. Acquire and conserve minimally disturbed lands that provide the greatest capacity for multiple conservation benefits to humans, fish, wildlife, and water resources.
4. Restore and enhance lands to provide high-quality natural resource, ecological, or recreational value.
5. Implement natural resource corrective actions where delay will be detrimental to the environment and natural resources.
6. Foster collaboration among diverse groups, demonstrate the support of multiple stakeholders, and/or incorporate outreach to local and tribal communities to better protect lands.

2027 Funding Priorities (Continued)

G. Small Projects

The LCCMR seeks and encourages proposals for projects under \$300,000, especially from political subdivisions and non-profits, to quickly and efficiently provide environmental and natural resource benefits in Minnesota. Proposals should address one or more of the priorities listed in the above categories A through F.

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals must be eligible for funding, as defined by law (see page 11) and as indicated in this RFP, and clearly articulate how the project will meet the constitutional purpose of protecting, conserving, preserving, or enhancing the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, or other natural resources. The following criteria are considered in evaluating and selecting individual proposals to recommend for funding:

Funding Priorities: The proposal responds to RFP funding priorities.

Environmental or Natural Resource Benefits: The extent to which the project will benefit Minnesota's environment, natural resources, or how Minnesotans experience them relative to the amount requested.

Outcomes/Results: The proposal clearly identifies the work that will be done, and the specific outputs, results, and likely outcomes that will benefit the environment and natural resources, or how Minnesotans experience them.

Capacity: The proposal and past performance demonstrate the applicant's administrative, financial, professional, scientific, and/or technical capacity to manage the project and deliver on proposed outputs and results in a timely, accountable, and effective manner.

Completeness and Clarity: The proposal is clear, sufficiently detailed, and includes all required information and attachments needed to fully evaluate the proposal.

Additional factors may also be considered, as applicable, in evaluating and selecting proposals, including but not limited to:

Information and Dissemination: The project will contribute to the knowledge base *and* disseminate that information so that it can be used to benefit efforts to protect, conserve, restore, enhance, or manage the environment and natural resources.

Innovation: The project will employ or demonstrate innovative approaches to more effectively and efficiently solve specific environmental and natural resource issues.

Timeliness and Readiness: The proposal includes work that is urgent or would significantly benefit from funding in the current cycle *and* demonstrates readiness for that work to begin as soon as funds are available.

Leverage: The project will leverage additional efforts, resources, or non-state funds.

Collaboration/Coordination: The project will use a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach with project partners from a diversity of agencies, organizations, or communities and/or will include meaningful engagement with those entities in completing the proposed work.

Finally, the commission may consider how the selected proposals as a whole provide benefits to and address needs in all areas and communities of the state.

Requirements

Project Requirements

All projects must comply with [Article XI, Section 14 of the Minnesota Constitution](#), [Minnesota Statute 116P](#), and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) [General Project Requirements](#) and [Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines](#).

Work Plan and Progress Reports

Project managers of recommended projects must submit a work plan. Successfully funded projects must have an approved work plan, and no funds may be spent until the work plan has been approved. The project manager must submit annual or semiannual progress reports, and modifications to the approved work plan and budget expenditures must be made through the LCCMR amendment process.

Financial Capacity

A pre-award financial capacity assessment is required for all non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, and political subdivisions. To help us evaluate financial capacity, the following must be submitted with your proposal. Additional information may be required at later stages in the grant proposal process.

Non-profit organizations

- Most recently filed IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ.
- If exempt from 990 requirements: a copy of your IRS determination letter and your most recent board- or managing group-reviewed financial statements.
- Most recent audited financial statements if you had \$750,000 or more in revenue in the last fiscal year and were required to have an audit (see [current non-profit audit revenue thresholds](#)).
- Evidence of good standing with the Secretary of State.

For-profit organizations

- Your most recently filed federal and state tax returns. This information will be considered non-public data.
- If exempt from tax return requirements: your most recent financial statements, including balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows. This information will be considered non-public data.
- Evidence of good standing with the Secretary of State.
- Disclosure of any liens on assets filed with the Secretary of State or county recorder, or if no liens, a signed statement that no current liens are filed.

Political subdivision

- Most recent audit report (if required; see [current political subdivision audit revenue thresholds](#)).

Additional Requirements for Capital Construction Projects

All applicants requesting funds for predesign, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other long-lived (10 years or more) fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more must read and understand the following summary document regarding a **25% non-ENRTF match** and other requirements:

- ENRTF [Capital Construction Project Requirements](#)

A completed [Capital Construction Project Questionnaire](#), [Budget Addendum](#), and aerial map must be submitted with your proposal. The map must include location within the state, parcel boundaries, and clearly delineate what will be constructed using the requested funds. Further instructions on required map elements are provided in the LCCMR Proposal and Grant Management System. Any concept plans or completed designs should also be attached if available.

Please be aware that if the Commission determines that readiness is not sufficiently demonstrated, it may recommend funding only the planning, predesign, or design portion of a proposal. Applicants may reapply for subsequent phases.

Requirements (continued)

Construction, Service Contracts, and Purchasing

State contracting and competitive bidding requirements apply, including but not limited to, prevailing wage and targeted group purchasing requirements. More information on requirements for non-state organizations may be found in the [DNR Pass-Through Grants Reimbursement Manual](#).

Additional Requirements for Land Acquisitions, Easements, and Restorations

All fee title and conservation easement acquisition proposals must include funding for development and implementation of a management and restoration plan. If no funding is requested, your proposal must address why funding for this work is not needed to achieve a high quality restoration.

Largescale stream or wetland restoration projects and land acquisitions for the purpose of capital construction are also subject to a **25% non-ENRTF match** and other capital construction requirements. See the summary documents below for more information.

All acquisition and restoration applicants must read and understand the following summary documents:

- ENRTF [Fee Title Acquisition Project Requirements](#)
- **UPDATED** - ENRTF [Easement Acquisition Project Requirements](#)
- ENRTF [Restoration Project Requirements](#)

Aerial maps of each of the proposed acquisition or restoration parcels must be submitted with your proposal. The maps must include location within the state and parcel boundaries. If all parcels have not yet been identified, a single map showing the approximate locations is sufficient. Further instructions on required map elements are provided in the LCCMR Proposal and Grant Management System.

A parcel list must also be included in your proposal that identifies all parcels you are considering for acquisition (fee title or easement) or restoration with the requested funds by parcel name, estimated cost, county, site significance, proposed number of acres, proposed shoreline or trail miles, type of landowner, and (if applicable) proposed title/easement holder. This list may include more parcels than you end up acquiring or restoring with the requested funds.

Guidance on Allowable Expenses

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses mean those expenses solely incurred through project activities that are directly related to and necessary for producing the project outcomes described in the proposal. All proposed expenses must be specified in the proposal submitted. Please note that for non-state organizations all funds are awarded on a reimbursement basis, unless otherwise authorized, and all eligible expenses will need to be documented. Eligible expenses are:

- a. Eligible expenditures incurred only after the effective date as approved by the LCCMR.
- b. Wages and expenses of salaried recipient employees if specified, documented, and approved. For state agencies: use of unclassified staff only OR request approval for the use of classified staff accompanied by an explanation of how the agency will backfill that part of the classified staff salary proposed to be paid for with these funds. This is subject to specific discussion and approval by the LCCMR.
- c. Fringe benefit expenses, such as FICA/Medicare, retirement, and health insurance of recipient's employees, if specified.
- d. Services and contracts (including for construction) specified in the approved work plan that are rendered by individuals or organizations not a part of the recipient; no contractor is approved unless it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the [DNR's reimbursement manual](#) for non-state organizations. These rules include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements.
- e. Sub-awards as approved in the work plan. ENRTF spending requirements and, for non-state ENRTF recipients, grant agreement requirements flow down to the sub-award recipients.
- f. Equipment, tools, materials, and supplies specific to the project and incoming freight charges for them. State procurement requirements apply and may include targeted group purchasing provisions.
- g. Capital equipment (i.e., expenditures greater than \$5,000 per unit for equipment or tools) individually itemized as capital equipment in the approved work plan. For each item, the recipient must provide an explanation of how the equipment or tool purchased will continue to be used for the same program through its useful life, or if the use changes, a commitment to pay back to the ENRTF an amount equal to either the cash value received or a residual value approved by the director of the LCCMR if it is not sold.
- h. Publication and printing/copying expenses necessary for contract administration, work products production, and semi-annual reports relating to accomplishments.
- i. In-state transportation and travel expenses, such as lodging, meals, and mileage, for employees directly involved in the project in the same manner and in no greater amount than provided for in the current "[Commissioner's Plan](#)" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget and as provided by the LCCMR or, for University of Minnesota projects, the [University of Minnesota plan](#).

Generally Ineligible Expenses—Unless Explicitly Approved

Generally ineligible expenses mean all expenses not defined as eligible expenses, but for which an explicit exception can be sought from the LCCMR if the expenses can be clearly justified and individually documented as directly related to and necessary for a project. No broad allocations for costs in either dollars or percentages are allowed. In deciding whether to seek exception for these costs consider that cash and in-kind leverage are factors considered in proposal evaluation. Generally ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- a. General operations, overhead, and other indirect expenses, including office maintenance, office utility expenses, and office materials and supplies.
- b. Office rental fees (including storage space rental).
- c. Communication expenses incurred for telephone calls, web access, postage, and similar services.
- d. Insurance, except title insurance.
- e. Attorney fees, except to acquire and clear title to land.
- f. Purchase of communication devices such as pagers, cell phones, or smart phones.
- g. Purchase of computers, tablets, or audiovisual equipment.
- h. Generally available food and refreshments.
- i. Conference attendance and associated costs and fees, except if to participate in formal presentation of project findings.
- j. Out-of-state expenses, including transportation, travel, and contracting.
- k. Transportation and travel expenses, such as lodging, meals, and mileage, for non-employees.

Prohibited Expenses

Prohibited expenses mean all expenses indicated below, including but not limited to:

- a. Any expenses incurred before the project is authorized: before July 1, 2027, or before LCCMR work plan approval—whichever is latest.
- b. Fundraising.
- c. Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services.
- d. Lobbyists or political contributions.
- e. Organization advertising and marketing expenses.
- f. Loans, grants, or subsidies to persons or entities for development.
- g. Bad debts, late payment fees, or finance charges.
- h. Interest or investment management fees.
- i. Board of directors' or officers' salaries.
- j. Merit awards and bonuses.
- k. Memberships (including subscriptions and dues).
- l. Publications, periodicals, and subscriptions.
- m. Employee workplace parking.
- n. Entertainment, decorations, gifts, and prizes.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund: MN Constitution and Statutory Expenditures

[Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec. 14](#) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Established

A permanent environment and natural resources trust fund is established in the state treasury. The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The assets of the fund shall not be used to pay the principal or interest of any bonds. The assets of the fund shall not be used to pay for any costs related to the construction, repair, improvement, or operation of any facility or system that processes wastewater, but may be used to pay for research related to wastewater. The amount appropriated each year of a biennium, commencing on July 1 in each odd-numbered year and ending on and including June 30 in the next odd-numbered year, may be up to 7 percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year before the start of the biennium. Not less than 40 percent of the net proceeds from any state-operated lottery must be credited to the fund through December 31, 2050. [Adopted, November 8, 1988; Amended, November 6, 1990; November 3, 1998; November 5, 2024]

[M.S. 116P.08](#) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Expenditures and Exceptions

Subdivision 1. **Expenditures.** (a) Money in the trust fund may be spent only for:

- (1) the reinvest in Minnesota program as provided in section 84.95, subd. 2;
 - (2) research that contributes to increasing the effectiveness of protecting or managing the state's environment or natural resources;
 - (3) collection and analysis of information that assists in developing the state's environmental and natural resources policies;
 - (4) enhancement of public education, awareness, and understanding necessary for the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancement of air, land, water, forests, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources;
 - (5) capital projects for the preservation and protection of unique natural resources;
 - (6) activities that preserve or enhance fish, wildlife, land, air, water, and other natural resources that otherwise may be substantially impaired or destroyed in any area of the state;
 - (7) administrative and investment expenses incurred by the state board of investment in investing deposits to the trust fund; and
 - (8) administrative expenses subject to the limits in section 116P.09.
- (b) In making recommendations for expenditures from the trust fund, the commission shall give priority to funding programs and projects under paragraph (a), clause (1) and (6). Any request for proposals issued by the commission shall clearly indicate these priorities.

Subdivision 2. **Exceptions.** Money from the trust fund may not be spent for:

- (1) purposes of environmental compensation and liability under chapter 115B and response action under chapter 115C;
- (2) purposes of municipal water pollution control in municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more under the authority of chapters 115 and 116;
- (3) costs associated with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants;
- (4) hazardous waste disposal facilities;
- (5) solid waste disposal facilities;
- (6) projects or purposes inconsistent with the strategic plan; or
- (7) acquiring property by eminent domain, unless the owner requests that the owner's property be acquired by eminent domain.

How To Apply

Proposals due by March 18, 2026, at 4:30 PM

1. Register for an account on the [LCCMR Proposal and Grant Management System](#).
2. Login and click “Create a New Proposal”.
3. Follow the instructions for completing your proposal.
4. Upload your completed attachments as required:
 - A. Visual component (1 page limit) or map. Attach a map, graphic, table, photo(s), or figure to help illustrate or elaborate on your project. Land acquisition, restoration, and capital construction projects must attach maps, and the maps may be more than 1 page to show multiple parcels.
 - B. A resolution or letter from your governing board authorizing submission of the proposal, using [these templates](#). This is required for non-state entities, including non-profits, for-profits, tribes, political subdivisions, and federal agencies. University of Minnesota entities may use their own template.
 - C. Documents described under the Financial Capacity requirements on page 8.
 - D. If you will have a third-party (external) fiscal agent, a letter or resolution from your fiscal agent acknowledging acceptance of the fiscal agent role for your project, using [these templates](#).
 - E. A completed [Capital Construction Project Questionnaire](#) and [Budget Addendum](#) for proposals for predesign, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other long-lived (10 years or more) fixed asset costing \$10,000 or more, including largescale stream or wetland restoration, or for land acquisitions for purposes of capital construction.
5. Review all information and attachments.
6. Click “Submit”.
7. Save or print the confirmation email. Please check your junk mail folder if the confirmation email does not appear in your inbox. Contact the LCCMR if you do not receive a confirmation email or if your proposal status does not appear as “Final Submitted” on your dashboard.

Additional Resources and Questions

Visit our [2027 Proposal & Funding Process page](#) for additional resources to assist you with completing your proposal and to follow along with the 2027 funding process. This page also provides guidance on how to submit questions and request meetings to discuss your draft proposal.

Cook County Capital Equipment Justification and Payback Acknowledgement

The capital equipment purchase of a mobile biochar kiln is justified by its environmental impacts on invasive species management, providing efficiency in best management practices, minimizing the use of contractors, and minimizing the spread of invasive species through human transport to new places and cost incurred.

A mobile biochar kiln allows on-site processing of highly aggressive noxious weeds such as knotweed which creates large quantities of biomass making site access difficult, revegetation and restoration seemingly impossible, and decreases visual aesthetic and economic value of property. Knotweed can propagate from small stem and root fragments, even when brown and seemingly unviable. Like all noxious weeds, knotweed cannot be removed from a site without a state permit, and the Department of Agriculture highly suggests leaving invasive species on the site where they originated to avoid further spread.

There are legal, designated disposal sites in Minnesota for noxious weeds, but there is no existing site within at minimum 80 miles of Cook County. Transporting species does not only go against best management practices, but it would also come at a great cost to our county and may start new populations along the way. Cost that the county would accrue for transporting noxious weeds would be operation of a tandem dump truck, fuel for multiple trips back and forth 2 hours each way, personnel time for driving at a heavy equipment rate, and drop-off costs. The cost for one round trip would be approximately \$700 which includes the driver and the cost of a tandem dump truck per 4.5 hours. Multiple trips can be assumed for large project sites.

Another option for removal could be a contractor. There are no invasive species management or removal contractors within 2.5 hours drive from Cook County. A comparable price for when contractors are hired to manage sites using herbicides has been quoted to us at \$4,500 per day of work. Removing knotweed from all 13 sites would take approximately 4-5 days. The timeline would put us right around \$20,000 in costs which doesn't include multiple trips back and forth or overnight stays for contractors. There is a total of 83 sites just under the Ag Inspector that can benefit from disposal.

Moving invasive species from the site they inhabit to a new one is not best management practice. The costs to prevent invasive species invasions are known to be far less than the amount spent managing an existing infestation. For example, our team manages a quarter acre sized population of knotweed that has grown on top of a septic mound on private property. The knotweed roots have grown far and deep enough into the septic system to render it unusable. The property owner now faces the cost of a complete septic removal and new installation which runs around \$60k in our remote corner of the state. The cost to manage the knotweed on site will run at approximately \$1,000 a year for up to 3 years just to get the initial population under control.

Cook County Capital Equipment Justification and Payback Acknowledgement

Management will have to continue for a minimum of 10 years, and an unwalkable, gaping hole will be left on the property from knotweed stems. Revegetation will be nearly impossible without cleaning up. The potentially greater issue posed is knotweed spread on the property or to new sites from heavy equipment disturbance and removal of the septic system.

If biochar were to be used from elsewhere to help with suppression of invasives and soil remediation, it would cost \$9 per cubic foot if bought commercially or \$20 per 0.5 cubic feet bought in retail. If we create biochar in 16 barrels that are 55 gallons each, we will create 16 cubic feet or more of biochar easily in one day. Numbers originate from the estimate of barrels we would receive from purchase of the kiln system. Even at the bulk lower rate, we would create \$352 worth biochar from just 16 barrels.

A mobile biochar system would solve the problem of not having a legal disposal site nearby, minimize the spread of invasive species to new areas, aid in preventing high management costs for homeowners, create a usable soil remediator, serve as a suppressant for new growth of invasives, and lower the production of green gasses produced from open flame burning of plant matter. By documenting the process and aftereffects, we may help set new standards for invasive species management and education. There is endless potential to put this system to work on our projects.

The specific system we have chosen is well catered to the size of our operation and is cost effective compared to other options. For example, mobile systems that we have looked at prior cost \$100,000 or more, and they must be hauled by a licensed CDL holder. This system will cost initially \$69,000 with minimal maintenance and can be hauled by a half ton pickup truck.

The payback period can be estimated by the cost comparisons provided above. If we base it on the price of biochar and amount, we can produce in a day, the payback period would come to over 196 days of use if burning just 16 barrels a day. If we base it on money saved by not transporting it to far away disposal sites, the amount would be recovered in a couple years. This project is a highly efficient and cost-effective solution to the large gap our county experiences in invasive species disposal and management.

Pricing information for biochar was collected from the Great Lakes Biochar Network. Information regarding the cost of invasive species management contractors was gathered from communications with Prairie Restorations. Prices of delivering biomass to a legal disposal site was obtained from the Cook County Highway Department. Information on the effects of biocontrol on invasive species sites was gathered through communication with Mobile Biochar Systems/Maine Kilns, research from Clemson University titled *Effect of soil carbon amendments in reversing the legacy effect of plant invasion*, research from Taizhou University titled *Biochar produced from*

Cook County Capital Equipment Justification and Payback Acknowledgement

diverse invasive species improves remediation of cadmium-contaminated soils,
Environet Plant Specialists in the UK, and research from Universiti Brunei Darussalam
and Imperial College London titled *Investigation of carbonization process parameters to
manage Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica) in the UK.*



March 10, 2026

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
Centennial Office Building, 1st Floor
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for Cook County Government and Cook County Invasives Team's Request for Grant Funding to Purchase a Mobile Biochar Kiln for Invasive Plant Disposal and Suppression in Cook County

To the Members of the LCCMR:

I am writing on behalf of the Cook County Board of Commissioners in support of the grant proposal submitted by the Cook County Government and Cook County Invasives Team titled 'Mobile Biochar for Invasive Plant Disposal and Suppression.'

The Cook County Board of Commissioners serves as the governing body responsible for overseeing county operations, protecting public health and safety, and stewarding the natural resources that make our region unique. As a remote northeastern Minnesota county spanning forests, shorelines, and wilderness areas, Cook County faces distinct environmental challenges, including limited access to state-approved disposal sites for noxious weed materials and the increasing spread of invasive plant species such as Japanese knotweed. Our board prioritizes collaborative, effective, and science-based approaches that sustain the health of our lands, waters, and communities.

The Commissioners strongly support this project because it provides an urgently needed, innovative solution to a long-standing regional problem. Cook County currently lacks any legal noxious weed disposal site within at least 80 miles, creating significant logistical, environmental, and financial barriers to effective weed management. The proposed mobile biochar kiln would allow the Cook County Invasives Team to process invasive plant biomass directly on-site, eliminating the risk of spreading reproductive plant fragments during transport, reducing contractor and haul costs, and enabling more efficient restoration of affected locations. The ability to generate and apply biochar at treatment sites also supports soil remediation and may help suppress regrowth of aggressive species including knotweed, as documented in scientific literature and field observations. This project fills a critical gap in regional invasive species management and will benefit local, state, federal, and tribal partners engaged in coordinated land stewardship across Cook County.

If you require more information about the Cook County Board of Commissioners, please contact us via our county website or by phone or email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginny Storlie".

Ginny Storlie
Board Chair, Cook County Board of Commissioners
ginny.storlie@cookcountymn.gov | 218-370-9167