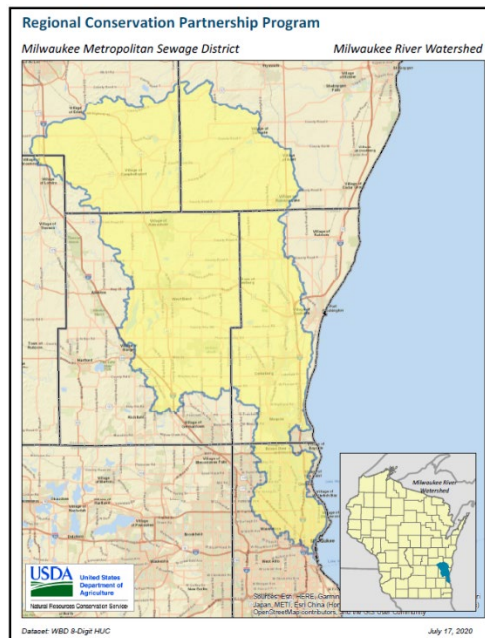


Milwaukee River Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD): Milwaukee River Watershed Conservation Partnership – 2018 FB RCPP Project #1854 (CCA)

Project Description/Summary:

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partnership that leverages capabilities and resources, targets assistance where it is most needed, cooperatively engages project partners, and works collaboratively with agriculture producers, forest land managers, and Tribes. This project will innovate and adopt conservation for the objectives of improving water quality, soil quality, and habitat on agricultural lands. The Milwaukee River discharges to Lake Michigan, which provides drinking water for 1 million people and is plagued with high levels of phosphorous and sediment-laden runoff. MMSD, as a regional government agency, provides water reclamation and flood management services to 1.1 million people. MMSD leads a diverse coalition, including 12 federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit organizations. Partner goals and RCPP activities include utilizing Entity Held Easements to permanently protect over 1,500 acres of farmland in rapidly urbanizing areas to protect floodplain storage and strengthen agricultural viability. The projects working lands will utilize RCPP Land Management and Rental producer contracts to promote innovative grass-based practices for phosphorus reduction, establish perennial landcover to seek water quality improvement, and focus outreach to historically underserved producers. The project will also quantify and document conservation investments and outcomes, and monitor and report on a 20,000 lbs. phosphorus reduction across 14,500 acres. Partnership engaged across the urban-rural watershed and prioritizing investments will achieve measurable agriculture conservation outcomes.

Approved project scope (Milwaukee River 8-digit HUC):



Eligible Land Management and Rental Producer Contract Land Uses:

Crop, Forest, Pasture, and Associated Ag Land

Milwaukee River Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD): Milwaukee River Watershed Conservation Partnership – 2018 FB RCPP Project #1854 (CCA)

Eligible Resource Concern Categories:

Aquatic Habitat, Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss, Long Term Protection of Land, Soil Quality Limitations, Terrestrial Habitat, Weather Resilience, and Wind and Water Erosion

Eligible Land Management and Rental Practices:

The Schedule of Operations must include at least one of the applicable core practices, or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already implemented on the land proposed in the application and identified in the CART assessment.

Practice Code and Name	Priority and Core, Core, or Supporting Practice
110 Grazing Management CPA	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
327 Conservation Cover	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
332 Contour Buffer Strips	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
342 Critical Area Planting	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
386 Field Borders	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
391 Riparian Forested Buffer	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
393 Filter Strips	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
420 Wildlife Habitat Planting	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
512 Forage and Biomass Planting	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
604 Saturated Buffer	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
657 Wetland Restoration (cropland conversion)	Priority and eligible for Rental Activity (RFRN)
329 Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	Priority Practice
340 Cover Crop	Priority Practice
528 Prescribed Grazing	Priority Practice
362 Diversion	Core Practice
328 Conservation Crop Rotation	Core Practice
410 Grade Stabilization Structure	Core Practice
412 Grassed Waterway	Core Practice
468 Lined Waterway or Outlet	Core Practice
580 Streamline and Shoreline Protection	Core Practice
587 Structure for Water Control	Core Practice
590 Nutrient Management (LDMA only)	Core Practice
638 Water and Sediment Control Basin	Core Practice
782 Phosphorus Removal System	Core Practice
326 Clearing and Snagging	Supporting Practice
382 Fence	Supporting Practice
484 Mulching	Supporting Practice
500 Obstruction Removal	Supporting Practice
516 Livestock Pipeline	Supporting Practice
561 Heavy Use Protection	Supporting Practice
572 Spoil Spreading	Supporting Practice
575 Animal Trails and Walkways	Supporting Practice
578 Stream Crossing	Supporting Practice
606 Subsurface Drain	Supporting Practice

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614 Watering Facility	Supporting Practice
620 Underground Outlet	Supporting Practice
642 Water Well	Supporting Practice

Rental Activity Payments:

The RCPP Rental Activity Worksheet for RFRN will be completed and followed for eligible rental practices. All eligible rental practice can be planned for up to five years (*new in 2023*).

Application Processing:

RCPP is a stand-alone program and requires its own NRCS-1200 application separate from other NRCS FA programs. All 2018 Farm Bill (FB) RCPP applications will be continuously accepted and signup cut off dates will be publicly announced each year. For Land Management and Rental producer contracts the NRCS-1200 Application for Assistance will be marked "RCPP".

For NRCS-CPA-1200s version 10/2021 follow NB 300-22-8 write in box 2a "1854 LMR"

2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) | |

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

1854 LMR or MMSD 1854 LMR

2018 FB RCPP applications will be managed through Conservation Desktop, not ProTracts. Follow additional guidance and process step documents. USDA Financial Assistance Eligibility will need to be determined manually with the Farm Service Agency's Subsidiary Report.

Workload Prioritization:

Follow the approved Workload Prioritization Tool for the MMSD RCPP #1854 project. All High Priority applications will be ranked. Medium Priority applications may be ranked, depending upon funding and the desire of the project partners.

Ranking Criteria:

Milwaukee River Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD): Milwaukee River Watershed Conservation Partnership – 2018 FB RCPP Project #1854 (CCA)

Section: Program - WI - 1854 MMSD RCPP v23		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
PQ1: This application includes 2 or more priority practices (see hover text) and addresses;	4 or more Priority Resource Concern Categories	52
	3 Priority Resource Concern Categories	42
	2 Priority Resource Concern Categories	32
	1 Priority Resource Concern Category	0
	None of the above.	0
PQ2: The applicant has marked on the NRCS-CPA-1200 that they are a Historically Underserved participant.	YES	50
	NO	0
PQ3: Did the applicant self-certify as a Veteran farmer or rancher on the NRCS-CPA-1200 "Conservation Program Application"?	YES	22
	NO	0
PQ4: The applicant has worked with a conservation planner through the conservation process to the extent that;	all implementation requirements or designs for all activities included in the application are complete and final.	24
	at least 1 practice in the application has an implementation requirement or design that is complete and final.	7
	no implementation requirements or designs are complete and final.	0
PQ5: Where is the participant's progress in obtaining permits to complete the project?	The project does not require permits.	12
	The project requires permits and the participant has all final permits in hand.	12
	The project requires permits and the participant has applied for all required permits.	6
	The project requires permits and the participant has not applied for all required permits.	0

Milwaukee River Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD): Milwaukee River Watershed Conservation Partnership – 2018 FB RCPP Project #1854 (CCA)

Section: Resource - WI - 1854 MMSD - RCPP v23		
Question	Answer Choices	Points
RQ1: 1. The application contains a newly established grass-based practice.	YES	50
	NO	0
RQ2: The application contains over 4 acres of newly established grass-based practice(s) that will be maintained for a minimum of a four-year contract period.	YES	25
	NO	0
RQ3: A majority of the application area is located in a phosphorus priority watershed.	at least 50% of the PLUs are within the Priority Phosphorus Watersheds.	25
	Otherwise	0
RQ4: The application includes practices applied to agricultural land that will reduce impacts from sediment and nutrients. Practices must include at least two of the following practices: 110 Grazing Management CPA, 327 Conservation Cover, 328 Crop Rotation, 329 Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till, 332 Contour Buffer Strips, 386 Field Border, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 393 Filter Strip, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 528 Prescribed Grazing, or 604 Saturated Buffer. *	YES	25
	NO	0
RQ5: The application contains over two acres of any combination of the following practices that establish pollinator habitat; 332 Contour Buffer Strips, 386 Field Border, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 393 Filter Strip, 420 Wildlife Habitat, or 657 Wetland Restoration.	YES	25
	NO	0
RQ6: The application includes practices applied to agricultural lands of a farm participating in a Milwaukee River RCPP soil health project.	YES	50
	NO	0

RCPP-MMSD Project Contacts:

RCPP Project Coordinator: Ryan Gerlich, (608) 662-4422, ext 227, ryan.gerlich@usda.gov

Lead Partner with MMSD: Kristin Schultheis, (414) 225-2276, kschultheis@mmsd.com