

Washington County News Release + Facebook Post Writing Assignment

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Washington County Commemorates 15 Years of Environmental Stewardship with Land and Water Legacy Program

Washington County proudly marks the 15th anniversary of its Land and Water Legacy Program (LWLP), a commitment to safeguarding the beauty and fundamental elements of our environment—water, soil, wildlife, and climate—that are vital to our survival, vitality, and quality of life.

Since its inception in 2006, the LWLP has forged meaningful partnerships with landowners and organizations for the purchase and interests in land to conserve its natural condition. Through collaborative efforts, Washington County has invested a total of \$36 million across 34 projects, safeguarding over 1,100 acres of natural habitats and pristine water sources.

Of these funds, \$23 million has been contributed by the county's valued partners, with an additional \$13 million stemming from county taxpayer funds. This investment highlights the unwavering commitment of cities and residents to uphold and protect the natural landscape.

"The county extends its gratitude to the visionary landowners who have prioritized conservation by offering their properties for consideration or donating land," said June Mathiowetz, senior planner at Washington County. "Their invaluable contributions amplify the impact of the program, ensuring a lasting legacy of natural beauty, clean water, and accessible open spaces for generations to come."

She added, "The county also appreciates the pivotal role played by state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private donors in bringing these transformative projects to completion."

The LWLP's diverse initiatives include a wide spectrum of conservation objectives, from enhancing water quality in rivers, lakes, and streams to preserving vital drinking water sources. Moreover, the program champions public access to natural landscapes while protecting critical waterway corridors from encroaching development.

Reflecting on the program's impact, Katie Bloome, executive director of Belwin Conservancy, shared her pride in the ongoing preservation efforts. "Our work surpasses the present; it's about preserving our natural heritage for the perpetual benefit of future generations," Bloome emphasized. "What we protect today will evolve into an even healthier, more sustainable ecosystem in the decades and centuries to come."

Visit the [Land and Water Legacy Program page](#) to learn more about its impactful initiatives.

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Facebook Post:

Long post:

🎉 We're thrilled to announce a significant milestone for Washington County's Land and Water Legacy Program! 🎉

For 15 years, we've been dedicated to preserving the very essence of our environment—our water, soil, creatures, and climate—that are indispensable to our health and well-being. In fact, we've invested \$36 million across 34 projects, protecting over 1,100 acres of pristine natural landscapes!

This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the support of our incredible community, visionary landowners, and invaluable partnerships with state agencies, nonprofits, and private donors.

Discover the transformative work of the Land and Water Legacy Program:

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/405/Land-and-Water-Legacy-Program>

Let's continue to preserve and protect our environment for a sustainable and vibrant future!

#LandWaterLegacy #EnvironmentalStewardship #CommunityEngagement #Sustainability
#WashingtonCounty #15YearAnniversary 🌱💧🌍

Short Post:

🎉 Exciting news! Washington County's Land and Water Legacy Program is celebrating 15 years of protecting our environment. With \$36 million invested in 34 projects, we've safeguarded over 1,100 acres of natural beauty. Thank you to our partners and community for making this possible!

Learn more: <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/405/Land-and-Water-Legacy-Program>

#LandWaterLegacy #15YearAnniversary #Conservation #WashingtonCounty 🌱💧🌍