Innovation Grant History
FY 2006-2018

The Iron Range Resources Innovation Grant Program is designed to implement Laurentian Vision Partnership’s mission of “transforming pits and piles into living lakes and landscapes…our legacy for the future.”

FY06 - Mountain Iron Economic Development Authority: Mesabi Mountain Wind Coalition
The grant was to identify and develop renewable wind generation across the Iron Range at various mining sites.

Grant Amount: $139,000
Total Project: $389,467

FY07 - MN Extension Service: Biomass Fiber Production for Energy/Fuel on Mine Land Reclamation at United Taconite
The project grew switch grass on a tailings basin to provide an alternative source of biomass for the green energy industry.

Grant Amount: $53,531
Total Project: $158,099
Project Contributors: MN Extension Service, United Taconite

FY08 – MN Department of Natural Resources: Underground Mine Mapping
The Underground Mine Mapping Project graphically documented the extensive network of subsurface mines across the Iron Range.

Grant Amount: $150,000
Total Project: $300,000
Project Contributors: ArcelorMittal, USS Mintac, Cliffs Natural Resources, MNDOT, St. Louis County

FY 09 - University of Minnesota School of Landscape Architecture: United Taconite Stockpile #1406
The United Taconite project innovatively shaped and vegetated a surface overburden stockpile adjacent to the heavily traveled Highway 53 corridor.

Grant Amount: $72,150
Total Project: $98,870
Project Contributors: U or M School of Landscape Architecture, Cliffs Natural Resources, MNDNR Lands and Minerals.

May 2019
**FY 09 - University of Minnesota School of Landscape Architecture: Keetac Stockpile #43**
The project will shape and vegetate a rock stockpile. Rock stockpiles are significantly more challenging to contour and vegetate than overburden stockpiles.

Grant Amount: $51,490  
Total Project $82,440  
Project Contributors: U of M School of Landscape Architecture, Cliffs Natural Resources, MNDNR Lands and Minerals.

**FY10 - City of Hibbing: Hibbing Taconite: In-Pit Shoreland Development Project**
The project will design and build new mine pit lake shoreline, shallow pit lake areas suitable for aquatic life, fish spawning areas, islands and usable upland areas.

Grant Amount: $100,000  
Total Project $107,920  

**FY 10 - University of Minnesota School of Landscape Architecture: Hibbing Taconite - Stockpiles 4090 and 5012**
The project will build, reshape, and vegetate two stockpiles adjacent to Kleffman Road, a busy county road three miles east of Hibbing and one mile north of Kelly Lake.

Grant Amount: $100,000  
Total Project: $341,210 (Project totals includes FY 10 and FY 11)  
Project Contributors: U of M School of Landscape Architecture, Cliffs Natural Resources, MNDNR Lands and Minerals.

**FY 11 – City of Hibbing: Hibbing Taconite – In-Pit Shoreland Development Project Phase II – Redevelopment through Reclamation Site Selection Project**
The grant is for two separate projects. One involves the implementation of the vegetation plan through the installation of vegetation materials on the In-Pit Shoreland site. The second involves identifying in-pit and stockpile mining sites for reclamation and near-term development across the Iron Range.

Grant Amount: $99,200  
Total Project: $164,200  

May 2019
**FY 11 - University of Minnesota School of Landscape Architecture: Hibbing Taconite Stockpiles 4090 and 5012 Phase II**
The project involves monitoring, evaluating and recording Phase I of the project. It also includes developing land-shaping templates for use by mining engineers.

Grant Amount: $50,400
Total Project: $341,210 (Project totals includes FY 10 and FY 11)
Project Contributors: U of M School of Landscape Architecture, Cliffs Natural Resources, MNDNR Lands and Minerals.

**FY 11 - University of Minnesota School of Landscape Architecture: Northshore Mining: Peter Mitchell pit Master Landscape Concept Plan. Phase I**
The master plan for Northshore Mining's Peter Mitchell Mine for future uses and multiple landscape opportunities for the mine once closed, including vegetation enhancement, littoral zones, islands, wetlands, and shoreland.

Grant Amount: $100,400
Total: $178,560
Project Contributors: U of M School of Landscape Architecture, City of Babbitt, Cliffs Natural Resources, MNDNR Lands and Minerals.

**FY 12 - City of Hibbing: Redevelop a Rock Stockpile into an International Mountain Bike Association Designed Mountain Bike Park. (WITHDRAWN)**
The project will transform a 116 acre parcel of mining disturbed land into a city mountain bike park that will both serve community residents and act as a tourist destination.

Grant Amount: $250,000
Total Project: $275,000
Project Contributors: City of Hibbing, Cliffs Natural Resources, International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), Barr Engineering, Architectural Resources, Inc.,

**FY 13 - University of Minnesota School of Landscape Architecture: Northshore Mining: Peter Mitchell pit Master Landscape Concept Plan Phase II**
The project will use the concepts from Phase I and produce the preferred working schematic plans for implementation by mine engineers.

Grant Amount: $75,000
Total Project: $254,100
Project Contributors: U of M School of Landscape Architecture, City of Babbitt, Cliffs Natural Resources, MNDNR Lands and Minerals.
FY 13 – East Range Joint Powers Board – Sulfate Reducing Bioreactor
The project is to conduct an on-site field test to evaluate whether a biological sulfate reduction system could be designed and deployed to address the volume of sulfate reduction deeded at an economically viable cost.

Grant Amount: $125,000  
Total Project: $369,500  
Project Contributors: East Joint Powers Board, Clearwater Layline LLC, Cliffs Natural Resources, PolyMet Mining, NRRI, Lemna Technologies, Premier Plastics, Apex Engineering

FY 14 – East Range Joint Powers Board – Sulfate Reducing Bioreactor Phase II
The project is to conduct continued field testing of the floating sulfate reducing bioreactor to prove the performance and scalability of this concept for large scale sulfate reduction in mining impaired waters.

Grant Amount: $70,000  
Total Project: $390,000  
Project Contributors: East Joint Powers Board, NRRI, PolyMet Mining, Cliffs Natural Resources, Clearwater Layline LLC.

FY 14 – City of Eveleth – United Taconite Spruce Stockpile and Truck Shop Embankment
This is for two separate mineland reclamation projects at the Cliffs Natural Resources Taconite Mine in Eveleth, MN. The Spruce Surface Stockpile project would entail preparing a grading plan that naturally contours the stockpile as well as preparation of a planting plan that enhances the appearance of the stockpile. The Truck Shop Embankment project is for a planting design that will create a more natural, pleasing landscape that will screen some of the mining operations from the nearby neighborhood.

Grant Amount: $83,280  
Total Project: $158,285  
Project Contributors: City of Eveleth, United Taconite, MnDNR Mineland Reclamation, LVP, Prairie Restorations, LLC, Architectural Resources

FY 15 – City of Silver Bay – Black Beach Public Beach Area
The project is to prepare 31.6 acres of beach and park area for public use and to delineate boundary limits. The funding is used to install fencing, signage, picnic site areas, public lavatory vaults, campground planning, parking and pathway areas.

Grant Amount: $125,000  
Total Project: $1,143,100  
Project Contributors: City of Silver Bay, Northshore Mining Company, MN Department of Natural Resources

May 2019
**FY 15 – City of Hibbing – Scram Tailings Mineland Reclamation Study**
This project is a collaboration between SEH and Mining Resources, LLC to develop an innovative research program to investigate and determine successful reclamation strategies to reclaim scram mining tailings.

Grant Amount: $60,000  
Total Project: $76,200  
Project Contributors: Mining Resources, LLC, City of Hibbing, Prairie Restorations Inc., SEH

**FY 17 – City of Buhl – Judson Mine Recreation Project**
The project will transform mine lands into living recreational landscapes. The project entails development of low maintenance, all-season, multi-use recreational facilities. Plans include a championship caliber 18-hole disc golf course, hiking trails, cross country and snowshoeing trails, and mountain biking opportunities adjacent to the Mesabi Trail.

Grant Amount: $38,250  
Total Project: $76,500  
Project Contributors: City of Buhl, MN Department of Corrections, Sentence to Service Program, Local Logger/Woodworker, Hibbing Disc Golf Association, Construction/Concrete Contractors, Mining Company, Airborn Disc Golf

**FY 17 – City of Virginia – UTAC Barrier Berm**
The project is for the design and installation of two barrier berms, approximately 16 acres total, along the abandoned TH Hwy 53 corridor. United Taconite is planning to construct the berms to serve as a barrier between the mine and community to provide noise relief and create a visually appealing landscape along the new TH Hwy 53. The berms will be near the community of Midway and also at the intersection of Virginia’s 2nd Avenue entrance.

Grant Amount: $112,250  
Total Project: $353,725  
Project Contributors: United Taconite LLC, City of Virginia, RGGS, Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH), Prairie Restorations, Inc. (PRI), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Lands & Minerals

**FY 18 – Iron Range Tourism Bureau – Bridge View Park**
This project will result in a “Bridge View” pocket park along the Mesabi Trail in Virginia overlooking Rouchleau mine pit. It will be one of the few places to view the new Highway 53 bridge in its entirety.

Grant Amount: $14,500  
Total Project: $46,000  
Project Contributors: Iron Range Tourism Bureau, ReVive Virginia, Lake and St. Louis County Regional Railroad Authority (Mesabi Trail), City of Virginia

May 2019
FY 18 – City of Chisholm – Planning and Design for the Redhead Mountain Bike Park
The Redhead Mountain Bike Park project will transform an inactive iron mine pit and surrounding property covering approximately 650 or more acres near Chisholm into a municipally sanctioned mountain bike park that will both serve community residents and act as tourist destination.

Grant Amount: $28,900
Total Project: $376,765
Project Contributors: City of Chisholm, St. Louis County Land Department, Mesabi Trail/St. Louis and Lake County Regional Rail Authority, Minnesota Discovery Center, Barr Engineering Company, Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, Professional Trail Design-Build Contractor, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC, Chisholm Community Foundation, Independent Contractor, Iron Range Off-Road Cyclists (IROC), Hibbing Community College

FY 18 – City of Cohasset – Tioga Mountain Bike Park and Recreational Area
This grant will leverage other funding to construct Mt. biking trails, improvements to parking, a swimming beach, fishing pier, signage, development of a trailhead, a day use area, and bike repair station.

Grant Amount: $25,000
Total Project: $1,250,000

FY 18 – City of Hibbing – Tails Reclamation Study, Phase II – Year 3 Extension
This grant gives the opportunity to complete a final year of data collection for monitoring of native vegetation. This third year of data collection and monitoring would model the state’s minimum vegetation establishment standards for achieving 90 percent vegetative cover within three (3) years of a site’s facility, infrastructure, surface areas, or other mine site elements that are no longer scheduled to be disturbed or used in a way that would disrupt vegetation establishment.

Grant Amount: $10,375.00
Total Project: $12,375.00
Project Contributors: Mining Resources

May 2019
**FY 18 – City of Nashwauk – Nashwauk Disc Golf**
This grant will pay for the design and installation of an 18-hole disc golf course in the City of Nashwauk, located on City land overlooking the Larue Mine Pit.

Grant Amount: $13,475.00  
Total Project: $23,950.00  
Project Contributors: Nashwauk, various sponsorships

**FY 18 – Chisholm Beautification Association – Bruce Mine Park**
This grant will pay for the design and first phase of development the “Bruce Mine Park” in Chisholm. It is a memorial park to recognize the sacrifice, dedication and loyalty to the United States by the thousands of immigrant miners.

Grant Amount: $99,700.00  
Total Project: $108,325.00  
Project Contributors: Chisholm Community Foundation, Gornick Family Fund, Bruce Quick

**FY 19 – City of Hibbing – Hibbing Mine View Phase II**
This grant will pay for phase II of the relocation of the Hibbing Mine View. This will consist of foundation and infrastructure costs, electrical and solar power along with a ramp to the buildings.

Grant Amount: $150,000.00  
Total Project: $1,190,197.00  
Project Contributors: Cleveland Cliffs, The City of Hibbing, Komatsu Mining Corporation

**FY 19 – City of Mountain Iron – Northern Sun Solar Project Phase I**
This grant will utilize a mine tailings basin in the City of Mountain Iron. A renewable energy solar development will be constructed along with a walking trail for education purposes. This grant will pay for the site design, engineering and planning for the project.

Grant Amount: $50,000.00  
Total Project: $495,255.00  
Project Contributors: City of Mountain Iron