



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

### Agenda Item

**Item 5. E. – Authorize partial payment for Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature Cost Share Project**

### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

### Summary

In June 2023, the Lower Minnesota River Board of Managers approved a Cost Share application for Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature (BNNN) to restore a wetland at Olson Middle School. BNNN is requesting partial reimbursement for expenses incurred by the project so far.

The Applicant requested \$7,444 at the time of the grant application. BNNN is now requesting reimbursement of \$3,137.97, which is the total spent on plant materials so far. BNNN has submitted pictures of the project, so manager can judge the amount of work contributed by volunteers clearing invasives, preparing the area and planting.

### Attachments

Cost Share Application from Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature

Excerpts from April 2024 and June 2024 LMRWD meeting minutes approving the Cost Share Application

Cost Share Agreement between BNNN and the LMRWD

Email from BNNN requesting reimbursement and receipts

Photos

### Recommended Action

Motion to authorize partial reimbursement for the grant for Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature

A. Bloomington Neighbors  
Nurturing Nature 2023 Cost  
Share Application





LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Cost Share Grant Application 2023

**Application type (check one)**  Homeowner  Non-profit - 501(c)(3)  School

Business or corporation  Public agency or local government unit

**Project type (check all that apply)**  Raingarden  Vegetated Swale  Infiltration Basin

Wetland restoration  Buffer/shoreline restoration  Conservation practice  Habitat restoration

Pervious hard surface  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Applicant Information

Name of organization or individual applying for grant (to be named as grantee):

Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature

Address (street, city and ZIP code):

10125 Drew Ave S

Phone:

612-222-8580

Email address:

dan.j.niziolek@gmail.com

### Primary Contact (if different from above)

Name of organization or individual applying for grant (to be named as grantee):

Address (street, city and ZIP code):

Phone:

Email address:

### Project location

Address (street, city and ZIP code):

4551 102nd Street West

Property Identification Number (PID)

1902724120004

Property owners:

(Bloomington) Independent School District 271

### Project Summary

Title Olson Natural Area Wetland Restoration

Total project cost \$16,789

Grant amount requested \$7,444

Estimated start date When grant contracted

Estimated completion date June 2025 (or sooner if grant requires)

Is project tributary to a water body?  No, water remains on site  Yes, indirectly  Yes, directly adjacent



Is this work required as part of a permit?  No  Yes  
(If yes; describe how the project provides water quality treatment beyond permit requirement on a separate page.)

## Project Details

**Checklist** To be considered complete the following must be included with the application.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> location map                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> project timeline  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site plan & design schematic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> proof of property ownership                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> contracted items                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant list & planting plan (if project includes plants) |

**Project description** Describe the project, current site conditions, as well as site history, and past management. Note any potential impacts to neighboring properties.

The Olson Natural Area Wetland Restoration Project is a multiphase restoration and environmental education project to be conducted by a community-public school partnership that is lead by Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature (BNNN). The end goal is the restoration of a natural wetland that will serve as a centerpiece of environmental education for the Olson Middle and Elementary Schools. Phase 1 (the basis of this grant request) will restore a native shoreline buffer/habitat, native emergents, and upland habitat, as well as start water sampling and create initial environmental education features. Future phases will address storm water system inflows to support the full restoration of the wetland. In addition, additional environmental education features will be created.

Currently, the 3 acre site is overrun with invasive plants (e.g. purple loosestrife, buckthorn, and honeysuckle) and unmanaged prolific trees (e.g. ash and basswood) as well as lacks appropriate native vegetation. This results in significant erosion issues, lack of habitat, and excessive nutrient flow into the wetland. There are remnant native plants, including pagoda dogwood, Solomon's Seal, and sedges. The wetland has 2 storm water inflows (which will be addressed in future phase) that deposit sediment, vegetation debris, chemicals, and garbage. There is a rustic school amphitheater on one side of the wetland and a primitive dirt path that goes around the upland edge of the wetland.

All historical photos and maps indicate the wetland was/is natural. Sometime in the past, the wetland was integrated into the city storm sewer infrastructure. In addition, the school property parking lot drains into the wetland. The site receives minimal maintenance, generally in the form of mowing and brush removal along the exterior edge. The site is currently used by Olson teachers for limited environmental education. The city currently does not collect water samples from the wetland/storm pond, but is willing to assist and support future water sampling, including involving students.

The wetland is designated by the **Nine Mile Creek Watershed** as a High Priority Wetland – Protection.

**What are the project objectives and expected outcomes? Give any additional project details.**

**Project Goal:**  
Restore degraded wetland and create an environmental education resource for Bloomington Public Schools. Restoration will 1) improve water quality, 2) decrease shoreline erosion, 3) remove invasive plants, 4) reestablish native vegetation to support pollinators, wildlife, and sustainable landscaping, and 5) increase environmental education opportunities for public school students.

**Grant Objectives:**

- Decrease non-native species on site -  
- Success will be measured by a 75% decrease in buckthorn and non-native species in 2 1/2 years.
- Increase native species on site -  
- Success will be measured by an increase in native vegetation by 200% in 2 1/2 years.
- Increase in habitat -  
- 3 acres restored in 2 1/2 years

**Improved environmental education and water resources awareness -**

- Success will be measured by completion of three new environmental education features, including the initiation of regular water sampling
- Increased water resources education and involvement in the restoration project by students, teachers, and community members.
- Success will be measured by the involvement of more than 50 individual resident volunteers in 2 1/2 years.

**Grant Details**

- Restoration and Environmental Education Design Plan - Meet with teachers and District staff to record teachers' current environmental education on the site and identify new features
- Remove buckthorn, invasive vegetation, and inappropriate densities (overpopulated) of trees to: 1) support native vegetation, 2) reduce plant matter levels entering wetland, 3) reduce shoreline erosion, and 4) reduce deterioration of habitat. Techniques will be non-chemical and prevent erosion during the project. Removal will include hand tool plant removal, occupation, buckthorn bagging, and potentially biological (beetles) control of purple loosestrife. The former strategies have proven successful in other restoration efforts.
- Plant Native Vegetation - plant location-appropriate native vegetation to 1) create natural shoreline buffer strip to decrease shore land erosion and excessive plant matter entering pond and 2) create appropriate vegetation throughout the site to support a healthy ecosystem and habitat for pollinators and wildlife.
- Implement Environmental Education Design - install and create features to support, enhance, and grow environment education for the Public Schools. Potential features include: demonstration/observation areas, planting areas, tree stumps/logs, and the list goes on...

**Which cost share goals does the project support? (check all that apply)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> improve watershed resources   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> foster water resource stewardship |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> increase awareness of the vulnerability of watershed resources          |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> increase familiarity with and acceptance of solutions to improve waters |   |

**How does the project support the goals you checked?**

Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature board members are leading a number of natural resources restoration projects in Bloomington. Water resources are a key element in all of these projects.

Each of these efforts (as this current proposed project will also) focus on engaging and educating residents (adults and youth) in the awareness, understanding, and creation of healthy ecosystems that include water resources. Through visuals and hands on restoration, we grow residents awareness of what makes healthy ecosystems - emphasizing the importance of how property (non-chemical) maintained native vegetation supports soil health and water quality. We raise residents awareness of the impacts of their landscaping practices - from chemical use and types of vegetation to vegetation debris and run off. We use the health issues of water resources in Bloomington to help residents visually see the impact of their own as well as our collective actions on water quality. Finally, we use regular newsletters and social media to educate and celebrate success. Our Winchester Pond restoration project is one of our greatest successes thus far. We have involved more than 50 residents over 5 years to improve water quality, through collective efforts of 1) installation of floating islands, 2) reduction of lawn chemicals, 3) restoration of shoreline buffers, 4) creation of 3 rain gardens, and 5) removal of invasive plants and overpopulated trees and the planting of native plants. Our success has included drawing upon the expertise of many natural resources experts.



## Project Details (continued)

**Project benefits** Estimate the project benefits in terms of restoration and/or annual pollution reduction. If you are working with a designer or contractor, they can provide these numbers. If you need help contact the district administrator. Computations should be attached.

Benefit	Amount
Water captures	gal/year
Water infiltrated	gal/year
Phosphorus removed	lbs/year
Sediment removed	lbs/year
Land restored	130,680 sq. ft.

How will you share the project results with your community and work to inform others about your projects environmental benefit?

We will:

- Offer and provide presentations to the Bloomington School Board as well as the City of Bloomington's Sustainability Commission.
- Generate informational pieces for District and Sustainability Commission Newsletters
- Generate social media posts throughout the project. This includes regular posts on our website and FaceBook pages.
- Utilize the project events, updates and results to engage more residents in this and other restoration projects

Please note that by obtaining cost share funding from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, your project may be shared with the community through our website, social media, or other media. Your project may also be highlighted on a tour or training event, with prior notice and agreement.

**Maintenance** Describe the anticipated maintenance and maintenance schedule for your project.

Once the restoration is implemented, the following will be performed for a minimum of 5 years by BNNN:

Annually

- Walk the site and pull invasive plants
- Seed to repair negatively impacted areas

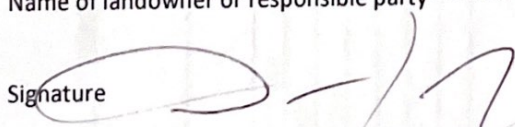
Every 3 years

- Biomass harvesting (via mowing, fire, grazing, and/or cutting and hauling away)

I acknowledge that receipt of a grant is contingent upon agreeing to maintain the project for the number of years outlined in the cost share guidelines.  Yes

### Authorization

Name of landowner or responsible party Dan Niziolek - BNNN President

Signature 

Date 3/28/23

Type or handwrite your answers on this form. Attached additional pages as needed.

For questions, contact Linda Loomis at [Naiad Consulting@gmail.com](mailto:NaiadConsulting@gmail.com) or call 763-545-4659.

Mail the completed application to

**Lower Minnesota River Watershed District**  
c/o Linda Loomis, Administrator  
112 E. Fifth St., Suite 102  
Chaska, MN 55318

or email to:

**Linda Loomis, Administrator**  
[naiadconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:naiadconsulting@gmail.com)

## 2023 Cost Share Worksheet

### Labor Costs (contractors, consultants, in-kind labor)

Service Provider	Task	# Hours	Rate/Hour	Requested Funds from LMRWD	Matching/In-Kind Funds	Total Cost
Bloomington Public Schools	Vegetation hauling	7	\$35/hour		\$245	\$245
City of Bloomington	Vegetation Disposal		7 loads @ \$100/load		\$700	\$700
Community Volunteers	Invasive plant removal	310	\$20		\$6,200	\$6,200
"	Native seeding, planting, watering	50	\$20		\$1,000	\$1,000
"	Weeding	40	\$20		\$800	\$800
"	Overpopulated tree removal	20	\$20		\$400	\$400
<b>Total:</b>				\$	\$ 9,345	\$ 9,345

### Project Materials

Material Description	Unit Cost	Total # of Units	Requested Funds from LMRWD	Matching/In-Kind Funds	Total Cost
Landscape materials (Erosion control, black plastic)	\$150	3	\$450		\$450
Nature Shores - native plants/plugs	\$2.50	400	\$1,000		\$1,000
Natural Shores - native plants/plugs	\$4.00	750	\$3,000		\$3,000
MN Native Landscapes - native seeds	\$520	4	\$2,080		\$2,000
Outback Nursery - Trees	\$150	5	\$750		\$750
Mycorrhiza	\$122	2	\$244		\$244
<b>Total:</b>			\$ 7,444	\$	\$ 7,444

Total Requested Funds from LMRWD*:	\$ 7,444	(A)
Total Matchin/In-Kind Funds:	\$ 9,345	(B)
Project Total:	\$ 16,789	(C)

\*Please note: total requested funds (A) cannot be more than 50% of the Project Total (C)





# Hennepin County Property Map

Date: 3/28/2023



Division in Process

The displayed parcel boundary may not be the actual boundary because this property is in the process of being divided or replatted.

PID: 1902724120004

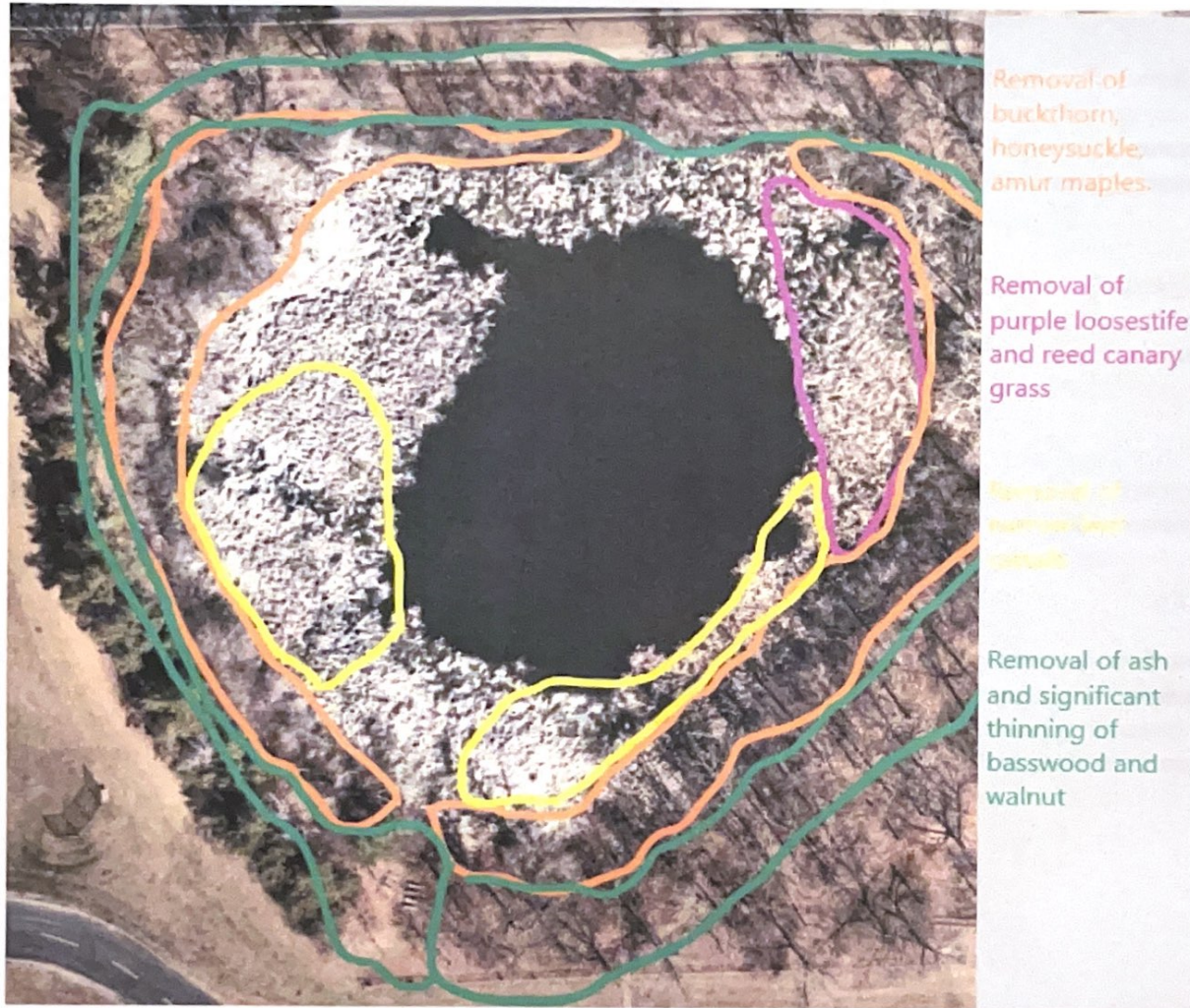
ADDRESS: 4501 102nd St W, Bloomington MN 00000

### Comments:

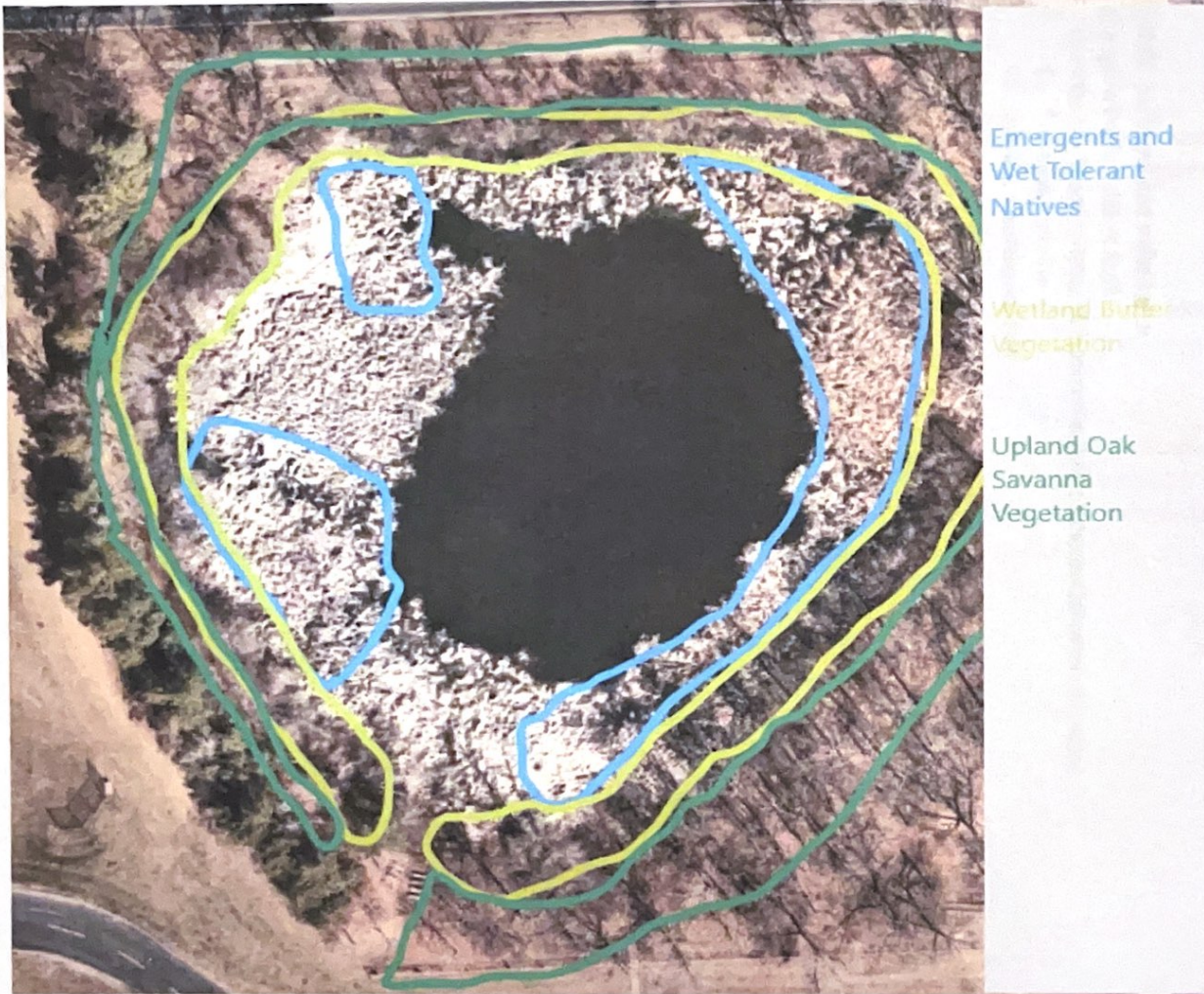
This data (i) is furnished 'AS IS' with no representation as to completeness or accuracy, (ii) is furnished with no warranty of any kind, and (iii) is not suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. Hennepin County shall not be liable for any damage, injury or loss resulting from this data.

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COUNTY 2023











**Project Major Tasks and Timeline**

- Spring 2023 – Finalize Restoration and Environmental Education Implementation Plan.
- Spring-Fall 2023 – Buckthorn/invasive plants and overpopulated trees removal (begin in southwest corner of the site and move to the Northeast). Utilize erosion mats and occultation fabric in specific locations. Implement initial education design features. Initial spot seeding and planting.
- Fall 2023 – Prep areas for winter seed sowing. Harvest native grass/flower seeds off-site.
- Winter 2023/24 – Finish overpopulated tree and buckthorn removal. Winter seed sowing.
- Spring-Summer 2024 – Prep and native plantings.
- Summer 2024 – Weeding and education features implementation.
- Winter 2024/25 – Winter seed sowing.
- Spring-Summer 2025 – In fill plantings and seeding, and of course weeding
- Summer 2025 – Assessment.

**Project staff, partners, and volunteers:**

- Bloomington Public Schools Staff
  - Operations – Timothy Rybak (Bloomington Public Schools Operation Manager)
    - Technical expertise
    - Oversee maintenance staff
    - Vegetation debris transportation
  - Education
    - Principal Tim Ciavarrri (Olson Middle School)
      - Technical expertise
      - Manager of teachers and school programing
      - Environmental Education
    - Science Teachers (Bloomington Public Schools)
      - Environmental Education expertise
      - Perform environmental education on the site
- Bloomington City Staff – Dave Hansen (Forester, 30 years with City of Bloomington, numerous years as Parks Maintenance Manager and recently hired as Natural Resources Manager).
  - Technical expertise
  - Vegetation disposal site
- Community Volunteers. (BNNN annually engages more than 50 volunteers in restoration efforts.)
  - Community organizer – 25+ years leading community improvement projects
  - Landscaping equipment company owner
  - Numerous gardeners – talents and plants to share
  - Fund raiser – years of successful fundraising
  - Physical labor, tools, refreshments, and plants
  - Social media development and maintenance
  - Master Naturalist
- **Match funding:** Is a monetary or in-kind match provided or being sought. If your project includes match dollars, please describe the entity providing those dollars, what is being provided, whether it is monetary or in-kind, and in what amounts. Describe the status of the matching fund (e.g., if additional grant funds are being sought or are already secured). Attach supporting documents where necessary.
- **Total project cost:**

	\$28,545
▪ Vegetation debris pickup and transport	\$245
▪ Vegetation disposal	\$700



### Additional Information

#### Our Non-Chemical, People-Based Buckthorn Removal Approach:

Step 1: Winter-Spring: Cut off all the large (>1" diameter) buckthorn at 4 feet.

Three reasons:

- Immediately allows sunlight to reach the ground (supporting existing native plant growth)
- Forces the buckthorn to expend energy resprouting on the remaining stump.
- Minimizes suckering, which is common for buckthorn cut off at the ground.

Step 2: Spring-Summer: Pull small (<1" diameter) buckthorn. Install erosion fabric where necessary.

Step 3: Early Summer: Plant native plugs in areas of buckthorn pulling with limited native vegetation.

Step 4: Late summer: Either 1) pull out previously cut large buckthorn that has died or 2) cut living previously cut large buckthorn at 6" and apply buckthorn baggie. Leave on 1 year.

Step 5: Following season, pull new growth buckthorn (as well as garlic mustard which will likely appear).

Step 6: Plant plugs and seed throughout entire area of buckthorn pulling and cutting.

Step 7: Monitor bagged buckthorn for pioneers and remove.

Step 8: 1 year after installing, remove buckthorn baggies and remove any medium size root balls.

Step 9: Following season, pull new growth buckthorn and conduct in fill seeding.

Step 10: Regular maintenance.

#### Removal Acreage:

- Removal of buckthorn/honeysuckle/amur maples/other invasive plants followed by planting/seeding native wetland buffer. **(Approximately 1 acre)**
- Removal of purple loosestrife/narrow-leaf cattails followed by planting of emergents/wet tolerant natives. **(Approximately ½ acre)**
- Removal of ash/overpopulated basswood trees/invasive plants followed by planting upland oak savanna native grasses/sedges/ flowers/oaks. **(Approximately 1 acre)**



**MNL Stormwater  
Basin Mix**

Native mix for stormwater & retention basin pond edges. Height 3-6'

	Scientific Name	Common Name	% of Mix	Seeds/ Sq Ft	PLS lbs/ac	Bloom Season
<b>Grasses:</b>	Andropogon gerardii	Big Bluestem	8.00	2.64	0.72	
	Calamagrostis canadensis	Blue-joint Grass	0.35	3.24	0.03	
	Bromus ciliatus	Fringed Brome	3.10	1.13	0.28	
	Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	16.50	2.29	1.49	
	Glyceria grandis	Reed Manna Grass	3.50	9.23	0.32	
	Leersia oryzoides	Rice Cutgrass	10.00	11.24	0.90	
	Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass	5.00	2.31	0.45	
	Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass	16.00	6.35	1.44	
	Spartina pectinata	Prairie Cordgrass	7.00	1.53	0.63	
<b>Sedges/Rushes:</b>	Carex hystericina	Porcupine Sedge	0.60	0.60	0.05	
	Carex stipata	Awl-fruited Sedge	0.75	0.84	0.07	
	Carex vulpinoidea	Fox Sedge	1.00	2.68	0.09	
	Scirpus atrovirens	Green Bulrush	0.50	7.60	0.05	
	Scirpus cyperinus	Woolgrass	0.25	14.05	0.02	
<b>Forbs:</b>	Anemone canadensis	Canada Anemone	0.20	0.05	0.02	Spring
	Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	4.00	0.63	0.36	Summer
	Bidens cernua	Nodding Beggarstick	2.00	1.39	0.18	Summer
	Desmodium canadense	Showy Tick-trefoil	3.00	0.55	0.27	Summer
	Eutrochium maculatum	Joe-pye Weed	0.55	2.19	0.05	Summer
	Eupatorium perfoliatum	Boneset	0.20	1.06	0.02	Fall
	Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed	0.80	3.44	0.07	Fall
	Hypericum pyramidatum	Great St. Johnswort	0.40	2.51	0.04	Summer
	Liatris pycnostachya	Prairie Blazing Star	1.25	0.45	0.11	Summer
	Mimulus ringens	Monkey Flower	0.10	7.60	0.01	Summer
	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	0.75	1.74	0.07	Summer
	Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	1.45	1.44	0.13	Summer
	Silphium perfoliatum	Cup Plant	2.50	0.12	0.23	Summer
	Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	1.50	2.03	0.14	Fall
	Sparganium eurycarpum	Giant Burreed	2.00	0.03	0.18	Summer
	Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England Aster	0.75	1.64	0.07	Fall
	Thalictrum dasycarpum	Purple Meadow Rue	0.60	0.40	0.05	Summer
	Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain	1.00	3.07	0.09	Summer
	Vernonia fasciculata	Ironweed	3.00	2.38	0.27	Summer
	Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root	0.20	5.29	0.02	Summer
	Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	1.20	0.44	0.11	Spring
Seeds/sq ft:	104.00		100.00	104.18	9.00	
Grass Species:	9					
Sedges/Rushes:	5					
Forb Species:	21					

Seed mixes are subject to change based on availability





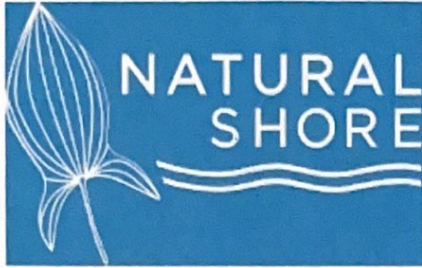
### MNL Savanna Mix Shortgrass

Great mix for part-sun oak savanna and woodland edge sites  
with 25-50% tree cover. Grass height 2-3'

	Scientific Name	Common Name	% of Mix	Seeds/Sq Ft	PLS lbs/ac	Bloom Season
<b>Grasses:</b>	Bouteloua curtipendula	Side-oats Grama	19.75	8.66	2.37	
	Bromus kalmii	Prairie Brome	1.25	0.44	0.15	
	Elymus trachycaulus	Slender Wheat Grass	10.00	3.04	1.20	
	Elymus villosus	Silky Wild Rye	12.00	2.91	1.44	
	Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	11.00	2.04	1.32	
	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	18.00	11.90	2.16	
<b>Sedges/Rushes:</b>	Carex brevior	Plains Oval Sedge	4.00	5.11	0.48	
	Carex molesta	Troublesome Sedge	2.00	2.20	0.24	
	Carex sprengeii	Long-beaked Sedge	2.00	0.88	0.24	
<b>Forbs:</b>	Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	0.15	1.16	0.02	Summer
	Agastache foeniculum	Fragrant Giant Hyssop	0.40	1.59	0.05	Summer
	Amorpha canescens	Leadplant	0.50	0.35	0.06	Summer
	Anemone canadensis	Canada Anemone	0.15	0.05	0.02	Spring
	Anemone virginiana	Tall Thimbleweed	0.25	0.31	0.03	Summer
	Aquilegia canadensis	Columbine	0.20	0.33	0.02	Spring
	Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed	1.30	0.23	0.16	Summer
	Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey Tea	0.40	0.13	0.05	Summer
	Dalea purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	4.00	2.64	0.48	Summer
	Dalea candida	White Prairie Clover	1.50	1.26	0.18	Summer
	Desmodium canadense	Showy Tick-trefoil	2.50	0.61	0.30	Summer
	Drymocallis arguta	Prairie Cinquefoil	0.30	3.04	0.04	Summer
	Lespedeza capitata	Round-headed Bushclover	1.00	0.35	0.12	Summer
	Liatris aspera	Rough Blazing Star	0.20	0.14	0.02	Summer
	Lupinus perennis	Wild Lupine	0.50	0.02	0.06	Spring
	Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	0.35	1.08	0.04	Summer
	Oenothera biennis	Common Evening Primrose	0.60	2.38	0.07	Fall
	Rosa arkansana	Prairie Rose	0.50	0.02	0.06	Summer
	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	1.25	5.07	0.15	Summer
	Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan	0.85	1.27	0.10	Summer
	Solidago nemoralis	Gray Goldenrod	0.10	1.32	0.01	Fall
	Solidago rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	0.75	1.36	0.09	Fall
	Solidago speciosa	Showy Goldenrod	0.30	1.26	0.04	Fall
	Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth Blue Aster	0.10	0.24	0.01	Fall
	Symphyotrichum oolentangiense	Sky-blue Aster	0.50	1.76	0.06	Fall
	Verbena stricta	Hoary Vervain	0.80	0.99	0.10	Summer
	Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root	0.05	1.76	0.01	Summer
	Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	0.50	0.24	0.06	Spring
			100.00	68.17	12.00	
Seeds/sq ft:	68.00					
Grass Species:	6					
Sedge/Rush Species:	3					
Forb Species:	28					

Seed mixes are subject to change based on availability





### Plug and Plant List

- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
- Lance Leaved Tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
- White Prairie Clover (*Dalea candida*)
- Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*)
- Dotted Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Aromatic Aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*)
- Lake Sedge (*Carex lacustris*)
- Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)
- Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)
- Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
- Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
- Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)
- New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)
- Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)
- Bebb's Sedge (*Carex bebbi*)
- Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
- Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
- Prairie Blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*)
- Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
- Ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*)
- Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
- Common Three-square (*Schoenoplectus pungens*)
- Hardstem Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*)
- Softstem Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)
- Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*)
- Green Bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*)
- Woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*)
- Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
- Zig Zag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

B. Excerpts from April 2024  
and June 2024 LMRWD  
meeting minutes approving  
Cost Share Application from  
Bloomington Neighbors  
Nurturing Nature

want to be more proactive with this and request the data more frequently and work with the DNR to see if they have mitigation measures in place to address the appropriation.

Lindsey Albright, Dakota Soil and Water, asked if there was a way that the district could get added to the DNR's database so that they can view the data. Ms. Young stated that this information is being monitored but the DNR is not as proactive monitoring this data as the LMRWD would like.

Manager Salvato asked about the additional costs. Mr. Kuphal explained that they kept the budget the same this year and may have more expenses. He stated that next year there will be an increase. Administrator Loomis added that there is a maximum, not to exceed number, which is rarely reached.

Administrator Loomis stated that there has been a lot of requests for increase of appropriations that need to be discussed with the DNR.

Manager Amundson asked about the high chloride levels in August and if that was the result of low water levels. Ms. Roberts stated that was likely the cause but stated that there is not much of a concern for chloride in Eagle Creek. Mr. Kuphal added that it is not unlikely to see this increase due to concentration.

Mr. Kuphal explained that in the agreement there is not a line item under Deans Lake for equipment. He stated that there was some vandalism on the ultrasonic sonar that reads the water levels and shared concern that the device was damaged and may cost \$300 to repair or replace this. He asked if part of the budget could be used for equipment replacement. The Board said yes.

**Manager Salvato made a motion to approve Agreement between the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District and the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District for Monitoring, Technical, Education and other Conservation Services and 2023 Statement of Work and authorize execution. President Hartmann seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Appletree Condominium 2023 Cost Share Project**

Administrator Loomis introduced and provided background on this item. She stated that there is a greater number of people interested in this cost share program than previous years. She shared concerns with potentially exceeding the budgeted amount. She stated that if this project and the Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature project is approved that they may not approve them at the full amount.

Manager Salvato recommended making more stringent criteria for projects under this program.

Ms. Young recommended holding the applications from consideration at this meeting and consider all applications after the May 15 deadline and also checking in with the applicants if they would still have a viable project if they received less than their requested amount.

Administrator Loomis agreed with this suggestion. She stated that they are more conservative with their cost share program than other watershed districts. She suggested having different

categories for these cost share projects. She recommended that applicants apply this year for projects that will be done next year.

**Manager Amundson made a motion to table the Appletree Condominium cost share application and the Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature cost share application until all after the May 15 deadline to consider all application received at the June Board Meeting. Manager Salvato seconded this motion. Upon a vote being taken motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature Cost Share Application**

This item was discussed and voted on in conjunction with item B.

**D. 2022 Dakota County Monitoring Report**

Administrator Loomis introduced Lindsey Albright, Water Resource Specialist for the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District. Ms. Albright presented a report on the results of 2022 monitoring in Dakota County.

Ms. Albright reviewed the results of the fen well monitoring in Quarry Island, Fort Snelling, and Nichols Fens. She discussed the devices used for monitoring. She reviewed the trends at each site. She recommended continuing data sharing and looking at the viability of continuing to monitor all the wells.

Ms. Young shared the importance of Ms. Albright's monitoring. She stated that the LMRWD recently spoke with the DNR and since the MET Council is doing monitoring that the district should look at stopping monitoring. She said that they are not in agreement with this as the data that the LMRWD is looking at is different than what the MET Council is looking at.

Manager Salvato asked if the fen stewardship does any vegetation sampling and how often this is being done. Ms. Young stated that this has happened at Nichols and other locations are being looked at now. She stated that the DNR did not have the capacity to sample vegetation, so the LMRWD has taken it on.

Manager Amundson asked why the water levels fluctuate so much. Ms. Young explained that with Nichols there is some sensitivity with the pumping that is happening through the MET Council. She stated that at some of the other fens they are looking at this with the DNR to determine what might be causing these trends.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. 2021 Financial Audit**

Administrator Loomis introduced and provided an update on the status of the audit. She stated that they have not yet received the audit, but the auditor said that he would have the report to them by April 15th. She noted that it was not received by that date and has not gotten a response back from the auditor. She added that the accountant has spoken to another accounting firm about taking over the 2021 audit to get this done.

Manager Salvato asked how much money has been spent on the audit. Administrator Loomis stated that Global Portfolio Consulting has been paid \$12,000-\$13,000 to get started on the audit.

Attorney Kolb mentioned that he can help come up with a plan of how to handle this.

Attorney Kolb reviewed his presentation on the One Watershed One Plan operational arrangements. He discussed joint power entities, determining an appropriate structure, and the decisions that need to be made prior to entering one of these agreements. He also discussed the key elements of implementation for a One Watershed One Plan. He stated that they do not have to decide tonight on whether or not they participate in this, but they will need to make the decision soon.

Administrator Loomis discussed that part of this has to do with the amount of sediment and nutrients that are coming from upstream, in areas that are outside of a certain district. She gave the example of Scott County and how the upper part of Sand Creek is outside of their county, and they are not able to do projects in that area. She added that it is possible that this plan may impact the LMRWD's ability to get watershed-based implementation funding as funding may be split.

The Board discussed the values and the drawbacks of this plan.

Attorney Kolb reviewed the difference between a joint powers collaboration or a joint powers entity.

Administrator Loomis shared that the LMRWD has given funding to projects that were outside of the district and stated that there is nothing prohibiting them from giving these funds as long as they see it as beneficial to the district.

The Board gave feedback on the information that was presented at this meeting. No action required.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. 2021 Financial Audit**

Administrator Loomis introduced this item and shared that Redpath and Company has agreed to doing a two year audit which will cost \$25,000 per year. She shared the recommendation from legal counsel to get the legislature to give resources to the Office of the State Auditor so that they can provide audit services to some of the smaller, local governmental units, such as watershed districts. Legal counsel noted that the LMRWD is not alone in its difficulty finding auditors and getting audits prepared. She stated that they will be sending a letter to the former audit firm. Attorney Kolb stated that this letter should go out within the next week.

**President Hartmann made a motion to authorize a request for proposals to provide audit services for FY 2023. Manager Amundson seconded the motion. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

### **B. 2027 World EXPO – “Healthy People, Healthy Planet – Wellness and Well Being for All”**

Administrator Loomis introduced and provided background on this item. Bloomington was not chosen as the site of the 2027 World Expo.

### **C. 2023 Cost Share Applications**

Administrator Loomis reviewed the five applications for cost share projects. She stated that the total of all five projects would come to over \$21,000 and funding could come from the Water Resource Restoration fund.

The Board asked if they would not accept any other applications for the rest of the year.

Administrator Loomis explained that decision is up to the Board. She noted that there is an applicant that is interested in submitting an application, but that is for a project for 2024.



The Board discussed potentially limiting funding to the same groups to every other year and not back to back years.

Administrator Loomis shared that she has looked into cost share programs for other watershed districts and stated that the LMRWD is the most conservative. She added that there will be a draft budget at the July meeting.

The Board discussed the May deadline being a little late in the year for these applications to be submitted.

**Manager Amundson made a motion to approve all cost share applications as presented and the amounts requested. Manager Kuplic seconded the motion. Manager Salvato offered a friendly amendment to the motion, asking that LMRWD staff evaluate cost share programs offered by other watershed districts and recommend changes to the LMRWD. Managers Amundson and Kuplic accepted Manager Salvato's amendment. Upon a vote being taken, the motion carried unanimously.**

**D. City of Carver Levee**

No new information to report since the last update.

**E. Dredge Management**

**i. Vernon Avenue Dredge Material Management site**

Administrator Loomis introduced this item and provided an update on the project to improve Vernon Avenue.

**ii. Private Dredge Material Placement**

No new information to report since last update.

**F. Watershed Management Plan**

No new information to report since the last update.

**G. 2023 Legislative Action**

Administrator Loomis introduced and provided background on this item. She discussed the projects that received funding.

The Board asked about the funding provided for water storage. Administrator Loomis explained that BWSR is going to try to identify larger projects and how they can make more of a difference with water storage.

**H. Education and Outreach Plan**

No new information to report since the last update.

**I. LMRWD Projects**

***(Only projects that require Board action will appear on the agenda. Informational updates will appear on the Administrator Report)***

**i. Area #3**

Administrator Loomis introduced and provided background on this item. She shared that she met with the property owners on site at the property and she asked them to consider selling the portion of their property or allowing an easement for the property in the City's right-of-way for Riverview Road and the river. She noted that State funds can be used for this purchase. She stated that they will need to determine how they can raise their match from the State. She added that she contacted a consulting firm who may be able to assist and

C. Cost Share Agreement  
between Bloomington  
Neighbors Nurturing Nature  
and LMRWD

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT  
2023 COST SHARE INCENTIVE AND WATER QUALITY RESTORATION PROGRAM  
Cost Share Grant Agreement

The parties to this Agreement, made this 21st day of June 2023, are the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, a Minnesota Watershed District ("LMRWD") a public body with purposes and powers set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D and Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature ("APPLICANT"). The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for the installation and maintenance of a project designed to protect and improve natural resources within the District, by managing storm water and said project to be located at: Olson Middle School, 4501 West 102<sup>nd</sup> Street, Bloomington, MN 55437.

1. Scope of Work. APPLICANT will install the Project in accordance with the Application submitted to the LMRWD, attached as Exhibit A. A final report must be presented to the LMRWD upon completion of the project. An initial reimbursement will be made upon meeting certain milestones as specified in as specified in Section 2 of this Agreement.

2. Reimbursement. The LMRWD, upon receipt of adequate documentation, will reimburse the Applicant as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> reimbursement:** The Applicant may request reimbursement after completion of the following items: installation of erosion and occultation materials, winter seeding, and spring plantings.

**2<sup>nd</sup> reimbursement:** The Applicant may request a second and final reimbursement After completion of the following items: winter seeding and final spring planting. The second reimbursement assumes the installation of the project is complete in accordance with Exhibit A.

The LMRWD, on receipt of adequate documentation, will reimburse the APPLICANT up to 50% of the APPLICANT's cost to install the Project, including materials, equipment rental, delivery of materials and labor, in an amount not to exceed \$7,444. APPLICANT will document with receipts all direct expenditures. At the time reimbursement is requested, APPLICANT will provide the LMRWD with copies of all documents concerning the work. Volunteer time and labor will be considered an in-kind contribution and may be used as a match, but APPLICANT will not receive reimbursement for in-kind contributions. Labor may be credited at \$20.00 per hour.

3. Public Access. LMRWD may enter APPLICANT's property at reasonable times to inspect the work to ensure compliance with this Agreement and monitor or take samples for the purpose of assessing the performance of the Project. APPLICANT will permit the LMRWD, at its cost and discretion, to place reasonable signage on APPLICANTs property informing the general public about the Project and the LMRWD's Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program. The LMRWD may request APPLICANT's permission to allow members of the public periodically to enter APPLICANT's property to view the Project in the company of a LMRWD representative. This paragraph does not create any right of public entry onto APPLICANT's property except as coordinated with APPLICANT and accompanied by a LMRWD representative.

4. Maintenance. APPLICANT will maintain the Project for at least five (5) years from the date installation is complete. If APPLICANT does not do so, the LMRWD will have a right to reimbursement of all amounts paid to APPLICANT, unless:
  - a. The LMRWD determines that the failure to maintain the Project was caused by reasons beyond the APPLICANT's control; or
  - b. APPLICANT has conveyed the underlying property, provided APPLICANT notifies the LMRWD at least 30 days before the property is conveyed and facilitates communication between the LMRWD and the prospective owner regarding continued maintenance of the project.
5. Agreement Void. This Agreement is void if the project installation is not complete by July 30, 2025. This Agreement may not be modified in any way except in writing and signed by both parties.
6. Indemnification. The LMRWD will be held harmless against all liability and loss in connection with the installation of the Project.
7. Compliance with Laws. APPLICANT is responsible to comply with any permits or other legal requirements applicable to the work.
8. Notices. Any notice or demand, authorized or required under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the other party as follows:

To LMRWD:

Administrator  
 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District  
 112 East Fifth Street, Suite 102 Chaska, MN 55318

To APPLICANT:

Dan Niziolek, Primary Contact  
 Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature  
 10125 Drew Avenue South  
 Bloomington, MN 55431

The parties being in agreement to be signed as follows:

APPLICANT:

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

By:   
 By: Den Niziolek (Aug 2, 2023 11:15 CDT)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Its: President

Its: President

Date: Aug 2, 2023

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Request for  
Reimbursement from  
Bloomington Neighbors  
Nurturing Nature and  
Receipts



Linda Loomis &lt;naiadconsulting@gmail.com&gt;

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**BNNN - Reimbursement Request...**

1 message

**Dan Niziolek** <bloomingtonnnn@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 10, 2024 at 8:14 AM

To: Linda Loomis &lt;naiadconsulting@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Laura Peterson &lt;lauraptrsn1@gmail.com&gt;, Heidi Niziolek &lt;heidi.niziolek@yahoo.com&gt;

Linda,

I hope your summer is going well.

I write to request our first reimbursement for the Olson Schools Nature Area Project:

*1st reimbursement: The Applicant may request reimbursement after completion of the following items: installation of erosion and occultation materials, winter seeding, and spring plantings.*

Our first ten months have gone very well, with good community engagement, significant removal of invasive plants and prolific trees, and the planting and seeding of native plants.

Summary of our work thus far:

- at least monthly restoration events, involving more than 50 community members (totaling more than 200 hours)
- removal of many loads of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and other invasive plants (cut, dragged, and stacked by volunteers and hauled away by the School District)
- volunteer services of 2 tree removal companies to remove more than 15 dead and dying ash and overly prolific trees (e.g. black walnut)
- planting of 1,200 native plugs (including emergents, shoreline, and upland plants)
- Installation of erosion control logs and straw
- obtained permit for purple loosestrife beetle for biological control
- seeding of approximately 1,000 square feet
- regular sharing of events and progress through Facebook and website
- installation of occultation

We (Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature) are seeking reimbursement of - \$3,137.97

I will forward invoices and photos in subsequent emails. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Also, we are always open to providing tours of the area.

Thanks!!

Dan

Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature 501c(3)

Natural Shore Technologies Inc  
 6275 Pagenkopf Road  
 Maple Plain, MN 55359 US  
 612-703-7581  
 rob.l@naturalshore.com  
 naturalshore.com

# Invoice

BILL TO
Dan Niziolek Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature 10125 Drew Ave S Bloomington, MN 55431 USA

SHIP TO
Dan Niziolek Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature 10125 Drew Ave S Bloomington, MN 55431 USA

INVOICE #	DATE	TOTAL DUE	DUE DATE	TERMS	ENCLOSED
6194	05/29/2024	\$0.00	05/31/2024	Due on receipt	

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
3" Foxglove Beardtongue	3" Foxglove Beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Joe-Pye Weed	3" Joe-Pye Weed (Eutrochium maculatum)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Swamp Milkweed	3" Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Purple Coneflower	3" Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Prairie Phlox	3" Prairie Phlox (Phlox pilosa)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Obedient Plant	3" Obedient Plant (Physostegia virginiana)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Zig Zag Goldenrod	3" Zig Zag Goldenrod (Solidago flexicaulis)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Anise Hyssop	3" Anise Hyssop (Agastache foeniculum)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Golden Alexander	3" Golden Alexander (Zizia aurea)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Boneset	3" Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Cardinal Flower	3" Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)	32	2.25	72.00T
4" Pickerel Weed	4" Pickerel Weed (Pontederia cordata)	18	6.00	108.00T
4" Arrowhead	4" Arrowhead (Sagittaria latifolia)	18	4.00	72.00T
3" Side Oats Grama	3" Side Oats Grama (Bouteloua curtipendula)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" Bottlebrush Grass	3" Bottlebrush Grass (Elymus hystrix)	32	2.25	72.00T
3" June Grass	3" June Grass (Koeleria macrantha)	32	2.25	72.00T
4" Bebb's Sedge	4" Bebb's Sedge (Carex bebbii)	18	4.00	72.00T
4" Burreed	4" Burreed (Sparganium eurycarpum)	18	4.00	72.00T
4" Bottle Brush Sedge	4" Bottle Brush Sedge (Carex comosa)	18	4.00	72.00T
4" Sweet Flag	4" Sweet Flag (Acorus americanus)	18	4.00	72.00T

SUBTOTAL	1,476.00
TAX	0.00
TOTAL	1,476.00
PAYMENT	1,476.00
BALANCE DUE	<b>\$0.00</b>



## E. Photos





Before pictures







Before pictures







During Construction







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During Construction







During Construction











During Construction







During Construction







During Construction







During Construction







During Construction







During Construction







Post Construction







Post Construction







8740 77th St NE  
Otsego, MN 55362

# INVOICE

**HEAL THE EARTH!**

BILLING DATE	INVOICE #
6/3/2024	45503

BILLING ADDRESS
Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature 10125 Drew Ave S Bloomington, MN 55431

TERMS	DUE DATE	CUST. PO NO.
Due on receipt	6/3/2024	

SHIPPING ADDRESS
Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature 10125 Drew Ave S Bloomington, MN 55431

PROJECT	PROJECT #

QTY	U/M	UNITS	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	EXTENTION
684		Each	XL Plugs	Native Plant Plugs	1.60	1,094.40T
1		Each	Packets	5000sq ft MNL Songbird Mix	165.00	165.00T
1		Each	Shipping a...	Shipping and Handling Charges (MNL Delivered)	265.00	265.00T
				MN/Henn/Bloom/HennTR/MetTR/ MetH	9.025%	137.57

Thank you for your business. Please place the invoice number on your check.	<b>Total</b>	\$1,661.97
Any amount remaining unpaid beyond the due date, will incur a 1.5% per month finance charge.	<b>Payments/Credits</b>	\$0.00
Phone: (763) 295-0010    •    www.MNLcorp.com    •    AP@MNLcorp.com	<b>Balance Due</b>	\$1,661.97

**10 Million Acres Impacted by 2030!**