



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

### Agenda Item

#### Item 7. K. – Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature Cost Share Extension

#### Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### Summary

In 2023, the LMRWD Board of Managers awarded a grant to Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature (BNNN) to support the restoration of shoreline habitat around the stormwater pond at Olson Elementary School in Bloomington, MN. The grant was originally set to expire on July 30, 2025. Mr. Dan Niziolek, representing BNNN, has requested a 12-month extension of the grant's expiration date.

As BNNN continues its habitat restoration efforts, the organization has engaged the City of Bloomington to pursue additional improvements to the stormwater pond. In response, the City has committed to repairing and stabilizing the pond inlet and is also considering dredging the pond. A letter from the City outlining these plans is attached for the Board's review.

BNNN has submitted an application for a *Good Steward Grant* from Hennepin County to support this project. A decision from the County Board is anticipated in July.

In July 2024, BNNN received a reimbursement of \$3,137.97 for work completed up to that date.

#### Attachments

- Request from Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature for grant extension
- Email message from the City of Bloomington regarding pond improvements
- BNNN Cost Share Application
- Excerpts from April 2023 and June 2023 LMRWD meeting minutes approving Cost Share Application from Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature
- Cost Share Agreement between Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature and LMRWD
- 2024 Request for Reimbursement from Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature and Receipts
- 2025 Good Steward Grant Application

#### Recommended Action

Motion authorize 12-month extension of Cost Share Grant to Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature



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

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**Olson Schools Nature Area Project Update...**

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

Wed, Jun 4, 2025 at 7:47 PM

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

Linda,

I hope all is going well.

I wanted to provide an update and see if LMRWD would consider a 6 to 12 month extension of our grant.

The project is progressing well. Last year's plantings are looking strong, and the newly seeded areas are waking up. Buckthorn/honeysuckle are largely eliminated, many dead ash and overly prolific trees are removed, and existing native vegetation is rejuvenating. Let me know if you and/or the Board would ever want a tour.

The reason for the extension is a potential Hennepin County Grant opportunity (which we would like to use the LMRWD grant as a match) that we should hear about very soon. The grant request of approximately \$22,000 would provide funding to do more extensive shoreline restoration, including the hiring of a contract (e.g. MNL). We are open to a 6 month or 12 month extension (based on needing the contract with the county signed (should we get the grant) before we could spend the match funds).

Please let us know.

If you are not able to grant an extension, we would move to complete the work indicated in our grant prior to July 30, 2025, as currently required in the grant agreement. And then we would search out other match funds, with no guarantee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dan

Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature



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

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**Fwd: City of Bloomington -Olson Pond Project Inquiry**

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

Tue, Jun 17, 2025 at 8:40 PM

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

Previously mentioned email.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Distel, Jack** <jdistel@bloomingtonmn.gov>

Date: Tue, Jun 17, 2025 at 10:15 AM

Subject: City of Bloomington -Olson Pond Project Inquiry

To: Dan Niziolek <bloomingtonnnn@gmail.com>

Cc: Gruidl, Bryan <bgruidl@bloomingtonmn.gov>, Weis, Rena <rweis@bloomingtonmn.gov>

Hi Dan,

We have conducted a series of inspections at Olson Pond and have discussed project opportunities at this site with the team. We agree that there is improvement work that can be completed at Olson. We plan to add this location to our pond maintenance list. However, due to our already scheduled projects and the need to do more project scoping and design, we are putting our tentative schedule is to work on Olson Pond sometime in 2027 – it will either be a summer or winter project depending on the finalized project scope.

Review of historical aerial imagery indicates that the western half of Olson Pond has undergone substantial sediment deposition, seemingly beginning in the early 2000s and tapering off in recent years. The exact source of this sediment is unclear. We are going to assess whether it makes sense to conduct sediment excavation at this site. During our site inspection we found that the inlet of Olson Pond is currently missing a flared end section and lacks riprap reinforcement. This will be rectified in a future project. An option for a forebay of some sort will be assessed. For it to be effective it needs to be thoughtfully designed and appropriately protected/constructed based on the type of flow conditions we expect the forebay to see and to ensure it is maintainable. We are also reviewing options for additional improvements, such as dynamic water level control, upstream stormsewer sediment traps, and increased upstream storm sewer capacity. The feasibility and cost-benefit of any of these options still needs to be assessed.

We encourage you to proceed with your ecosystem enhancement project. However, we recommend avoiding major or costly plantings near the pipes, as these areas are likely to be disturbed the most by future construction. It should still be beneficial to continue efforts to control weedy and invasive species in these zones, which will help support the site's recovery following any future work. We will account for the current restoration in our planning efforts and will try and mitigate any unnecessary, future impacts.

We will be sure to coordinate with you as more details are figured out. We anticipate that we will start making progress refining our options this coming winter, our usual time of year for project scoping. Thanks again for reaching out, helping identify opportunities for stormwater improvements, and for your great work out there.

Cordially,



**Jack Distel** Water Resources Specialist, Engineering

(he/him)

**PH:** 952-563-8748 **EMAIL:** [jdistel@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:jdistel@bloomingtonmn.gov)

[1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431](#)

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PAYEE:

NAME Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature  
 ADDRESS 10125 Drew Avenue South  
 City/State Bloomington, MN 55431  
 VENDOR # \_\_\_\_\_ DUE DATE Upon Receipt

FUND LMRWD  
 1099 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERVICE DATE 2024  
 CONTRACT # \_\_\_\_\_  
 CONTRACT BALANCE AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_  
 CAPITAL ASSET APPROVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DECLARATION: I declare under the penalties of law (MS 471.391) that this account claim or demand is just and correct and that no part of it has been paid, and adheres to County policy and procedures.

The attached invoice has been verified for goods received or services performed

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE Linda Loomis DATE 7/17/2024

INVOICE #	DEPT #	ACTIVITY	ACCOUNT #	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
2023 Cost Share	702	0114	6260	partial reimbursement for expenses for Olson Middle School pond	\$3,137.97
TOTAL					\$3,137.97

Presented to the County Board on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ allowed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman County Board

Approved for Disbursement \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 2½ years.
- Increase native species on site -
  - Success will be measured by an increase in native vegetation by 200% in 2½ years.
- Increase in habitat -
  - 3 acres restored in 2½ 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 2½ 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 properly (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 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

## 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

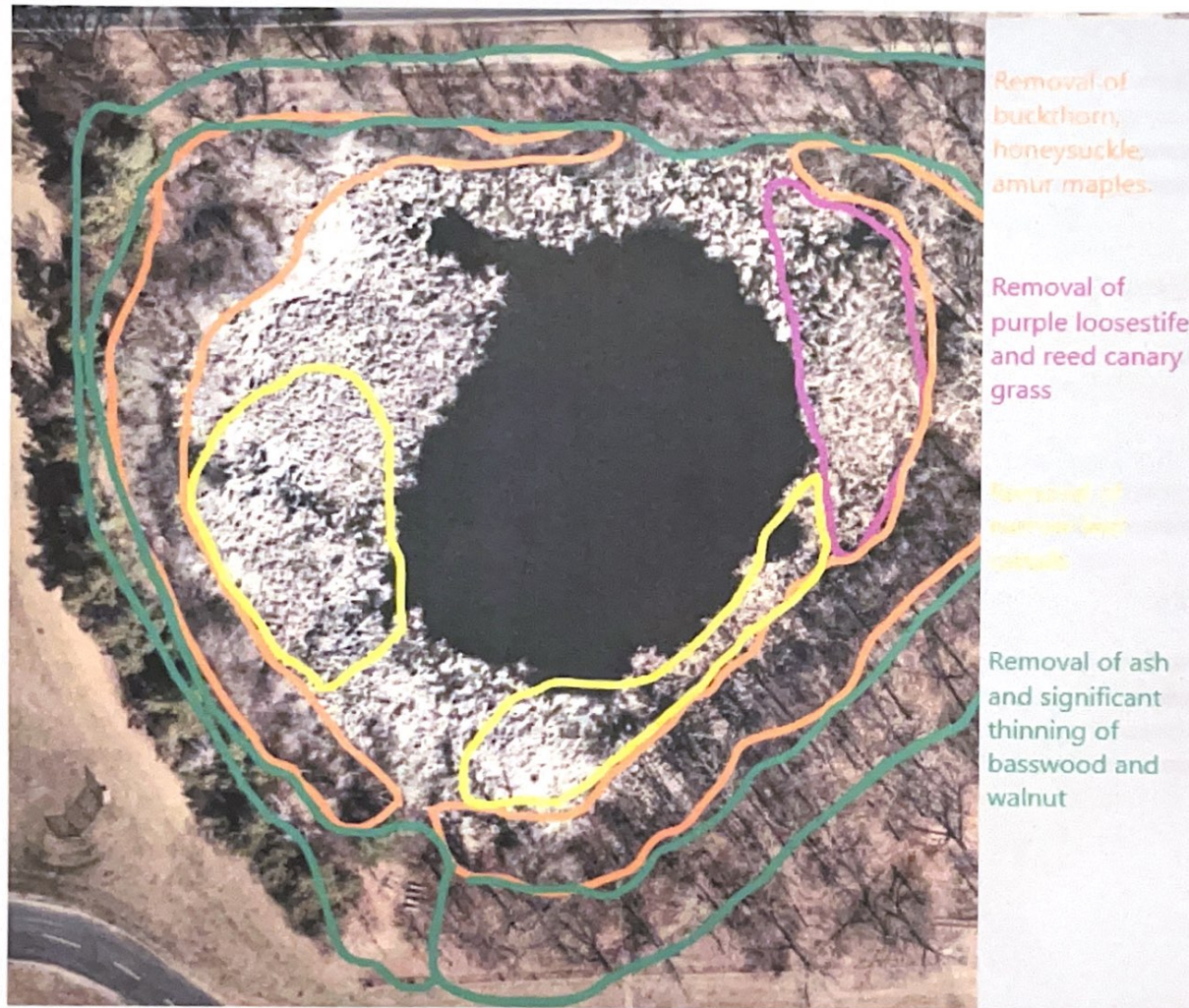
ADDRESS: 4501 102nd St W, Bloomington MN 00000

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







3/28/23, 7:18 PM

Olson Natural Area - Planned Plantings Activities.png





### 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 Ciavarri (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:**

○ 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)**







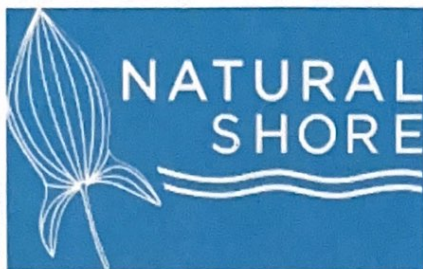
## MNL Savanna Mix Shortgrass

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
Grasses:	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	
Sedges/Rushes:	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	
Forbs:	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 2023  
and June 2023 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 APPLICANT's 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:

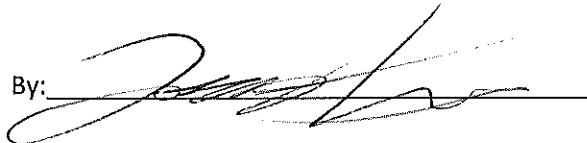
Dan Niziolek, Primary Contact  
Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature  
10125 Drew Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55431

The parties being in agreement to be signed as follows:

APPLICANT:

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT:

By:   
By: Dan 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;

---

**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 (Eutriochium 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>



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!**

# Attachment 1 - 2025 Good Steward Grant Application

Submit your application via [Hennepin County's Supplier Portal](#) by Thursday, January 23, 2025, by 4:00 PM (CST)

Applications received after 4:00 PM (CST). on Thursday, January 23, 2025, will be rejected. The county is not responsible for delays caused by electronic delivery services. Please review the *Solicitation for Grant Applications* for additional information on how to submit your Good Steward Grant application.

The Executive Summary is limited to 250 words, but there are no other response limitations to the remaining questions in this application.

## Contact information

<b>Applicant (landowner/organization/entity) name(s):</b>	Bloomington Public Schools ISD #271/ Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature 501c(3) Dan Niziolek
<b>Applicant phone number:</b>	612-222-8580
<b>Application email:</b>	BloomingtonNNN@gmail.com
<b>Application address:</b>	10125 Drew Ave S Bloomington MN 55431
<b>Project address, if different from applicant address:</b>	4551 102 <sup>nd</sup> Street Bloomington MN 55431
<b>Project Name:</b>	Olson Schools Nature Area Restoration Project – Critical Shorelines work

## Project description

- Resource(s) impacted by proposed project (check all that apply):**

See the Hennepin County natural resources map at <https://gis.hennepin.us/naturalresources/map/default.aspx> for more information about the property

- ☐ Agricultural land
- ☒ Lake, stream, and/or river (provide name(s)) Nine Mile Creek
- ☐ Moderate to high quality natural areas or unique and/or significant resource (as identified in the Hennepin County natural resources map)
- ☐ Sensitive groundwater areas
- ☒ Shoreland or streambank
- ☒ Waters identified on the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's list of impaired waters](#); provide name of impaired water and impairment(s):
- ☒ Wetlands
- ☐ Located in an area of concern for environmental justice and/or climate vulnerability. For example as mapped in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's [Understanding Environmental Justice in Minnesota mapping tool](#).

- Executive summary:** Provide a summary of the project, the associated water quality problems, and how the project will address or solve the problem(s) (250 words or less)

The Olson Schools Nature Area Restoration Project lies within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed, which is an impaired water body for aquatic life (i.e. chloride levels, benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments, and fish bioassessments). The Project works to restore a degraded freshwater wetland/pond and oak savannah upland while enhancing the environmental education opportunities for Bloomington Public School students. This grant application would cover the "Critical Shorelines" work of the project and will accomplish project goals and

deliverables within the 3 critical shoreline areas.

The Wetland/Pond suffers from:

- Shoreline and upland erosion:
  - o Invasive plants eliminated most native vegetation
- Lack of native vegetation
  - o Creates unhealthy ecosystem and limited habitat
- Excessive nutrient load
  - o Due in part to lack of natural shoreline buffer strip
- ✓ Lack of a healthy ecosystem to study and design features to support environmental education

The Project will:

- ✓ Improve surface and ground water quality
- ✓ Reduce erosion and sedimentation
- ✓ Re-establish native vegetation to support critical habitat and sustainable landscape
- ✓ Improve environmental education for Bloomington Public Schools (BPS)

Project Deliverables:

- ✓ Remove buckthorn, honeysuckle, purple loosestrife, and other invasive plants
- ✓ Plant native plants, shrubs, and trees to establish both a natural shoreline buffer strip and appropriate native vegetation throughout the site to provide habitat for pollinators, birds, and wildlife and support sustainable landscape, stormwater management, and water quality
- ✓ Design the site to improve environmental education for BPS students.

- **Project description:** Describe the project and intended results. Include the project location(s), start and end dates, major tasks, deliverables, and project goals. If the project includes any education and outreach components, please describe. Your answer should be specific, clear, and concise. Attach supporting materials and design reports if applicable.

The Project site is located at the northeast corner of 4551 102nd Street. The site is part of the Olson Elementary and Middle Schools campus and is approximately 2 ½ acres. The Project is a partnership between Bloomington Public Schools (BPS) and the community (facilitated by Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature (BNNN)).

The Overall Project began in August of 2023. We are seeking funding for the “Critical Shorelines” work of the project that has not yet started. That work entails significant shoreline work and is illustrated in accompanying map of Critical Shorelines Areas as well as photos.

The Olson Natural Area Wetland Project is intended to be a five-year school/community restoration and environmental education project. After 5 years, the project will start moving to restoration maintenance and continued growth of the environmental education aspects. All items will be maintained for at least 10 years.

The Project works to restore a degraded freshwater wetland/pond and oak savannah upland while enhancing the environmental education opportunities for Bloomington Public School students. Restoration will 1) improve water quality, 2) decrease shoreline erosion, 3) remove invasive plants, 4) reestablish diverse mix of site appropriate native vegetation to support pollinators, wildlife, and sustainable landscaping, and 5) increase environmental education opportunities for public school students.

Specific strategies:

- Remove buckthorn, invasive vegetation, and inappropriate densities (problematic) of trees to: support native vegetation, reduce plant matter levels entering wetland, reduce shoreline erosion, and improve habitat. Techniques included non-chemical and erosion prevention during the project. Removal will

include hand tool plant removal, occultation, and biological (beetles) control of purple loosestrife. The former strategies have proven successful in other restoration efforts. Contractor will be hired for larger tree removals

- Plant Native Vegetation – plant diverse mix of 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. Planting will include native grasses, sedges, emergents, and flowers as well as native shrubs (including hazelnut, American plum, service berry, and prairie rose) and trees (oak, ironwood, and black cherry).
- Grounded in community awareness and environmental education. Restoration events include hands on education focused on healthy ecosystems, and what it takes to restore and maintain. During their time removing invasives and planting natives, adults and youth see the damage of broken natural ecosystems, as well as what a healthy ecosystem entails. Completion of the restoration will provide teachers of the Olson Elementary and Middle Schools a much-improved natural classroom for environmental education opportunities.

At the start of this project in the Fall of 2023, the site was overrun with invasive plants (e.g. buckthorn, honeysuckle, and purple loosestrife) and unmanaged prolific trees, and lacked native vegetation. Monthly community restoration events over the past 1 ½ years resulted in the removal of large amounts of non-native vegetation in preparation for native vegetation plantings. Removal efforts were non-herbicide based. This included 2 tree services companies to donate their time to cut the larger trees. All vegetation debris was moved and piled by volunteers, and school staff hauled the debris to the city site.

Removal of the vegetation highlighted the level of erosion occurring on the site as well as the lack of native vegetation present. The buckthorn and honeysuckle smothered native grasses, sedges, and flowers, leaving the wetland shoreline slopes ripe for erosion.

Last Spring, more than 1,200 plugs of grasses, emergent, sedges and flowers were planted and approximately 1,000 square feet seeded. Native plants were selected for their respective location - water, shoreline, and upland. All seeding, planting, weeding, and watering was completed by community volunteers. Mycorrhizae was used for all plantings.

Project thus far has accomplished:

- at least monthly restoration events, involving more than 70 community members (totaling more than 250 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 and placed purple loosestrife beetles for biological control
- seeding of approximately 1,000 square feet
- regular sharing of events and progress through Facebook and website
- installation of occultation

One aspect of the continuing project work is the Critical Shorelines work that is needed, and the basis of our grant request. Three shoreline areas around the wetland/pond are in critical shape, with significant erosion, steep banks, invasive plants, and lack native vegetation. To address these areas, BNNN is looking to hire Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) to assist in this work. They will be hired to address erosion, complete soil stabilization, and plant diverse mix of emergents within the areas. (Estimate included.) BNNN volunteers will plant and seed the

shoreline and upland areas with diverse mix of site appropriate native sedges, grasses, and flowers. (List of previous natives on the site included.) Mycorrhizae and mulch will be used in plantings.

#### Proposed schedule

##### August 2025 – May 2026

- BNNN completes invasive plant removal (including buckthorn, purple loosestrife, cattails, and honeysuckle)

##### May – June 2026

- Minnesota Native Landscapes completes:
  - Soil grading work and soil stabilization
  - Plants emergent plugs
- BNNN completes:
  - Plant upland and shoreline native plant plugs and seeding
  - Soil stabilization
  - Watering and weeding

##### June 2026 – June 2027

- BNNN completes:
  - Watering, weeding, infill seeding and biomass harvesting

##### June 2027 – June 2030

- o BNNN is primary responsible for the first 3 years of maintenance (weeding, infill seeding and planting, and biomass harvesting)
- o BNNN will support the training of staff and transition of maintenance to school staff

- **Severity of the problem:** Describe the severity of the problem to be addressed by the project. If available, show how the problem has been documented in a plan or assessment, such as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, implementation plan, or presence on the [state's list of impaired waters](#). Describe how the problem will be addressed by the project. *Please note: we understand this question can be challenging to answer for applicants who are not conservation professionals. Hennepin County staff are available to help you understand your proposed project in the context of available environmental plans and assessments.*

The Olson Schools Nature Area lies within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed, which is an impaired water body for aquatic life (i.e. chloride levels, benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments, and fish bioassessments). This is both documented by the DNR on their impaired waters list, as well as numerous Nine Mile Creek and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed Districts reports.

The wetland is designated by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed as a High Priority Wetland – Protection. (Map accompanies application)

#### Field observations noted:

- Presence of native plants, particularly sedges, Solomon's seal, oaks, and pagoda dogwood
- Large amounts of buckthorn, honeysuckle, cattails, and purple loosestrife
- Dense tree canopies created by over densities of ash and basswood. Many ash are dead or dying.
- Storm water inlet areas show significant amounts of sediment, vegetation debris, and garbage.
- Good bird diversity

The wetland is degraded. Hennepin County's Natural Resources Inventory indicates limited vegetation. The lack of appropriate shoreline buffer and the presence of the stormwater inlets suggest the water quality is compromised, similar to other wetlands and ponds in Bloomington. Since the inception of the project, the City of Bloomington has begun water quality sampling. Water sampling will also be an activity to be completed in future environmental education programs.



The project works to address these problems by restoring the degraded wetland/pond and oak savannah with native plantings. This includes removal of invasive plants, addressing erosion, and planting of site appropriate native vegetation (emergent, shoreline, and upland). By improving soil permeability and rainwater retention and filtration, planting strong root native vegetation, and establishing a natural shoreline buffer, the restoration will 1) improve water quality (reduce sedimentation), 2) decrease shoreline erosion, 3) remove invasive plants, and 4) reestablish diverse mix of site appropriate native vegetation to support pollinators, wildlife, water quality, stormwater management and sustainable landscaping.

- **Project Impact:** Describe how success will be measured and what benefits are anticipated after completing the project. These may include, but are not limited to, sediment captured (pounds/year), total phosphorus captured (pounds/year), stormwater runoff captured (gallons/year), and acres of habitat restored.

List and describe any other quantitative or qualitative impacts of the project such as community members educated and engaged, native plantings installed, potable water offset through stormwater reuse, or invasive species removed.

Within Critical Shoreline Areas:

- Decrease in invasive species
  - Success will be measured by an 75% decrease in buckthorn and non-native species
- Increase in native plants and habitat
  - Success will be measured by native vegetation representing a significant majority of vegetation
- Improved environmental education and outcomes.
  - Success will be measured by survey of teachers and principals. Specially, science teachers' rating site of improvements of environmental education opportunities
- Increased involvement in the restoration project by students, teachers, and community members.
  - Success will be measured by the involvement of more than 40 individual volunteers

In what ways does your project help to [mitigate or adapt to climate change](#) and/or help to [reduce racial disparities](#) in Hennepin County. Climate change is likely to bring more abrupt and challenging situations, such as flash floods or extreme heat, that worsen existing disparities in health and the environment. Projects that hold and infiltrate stormwater, reduce impervious surfaces and/or add trees or native vegetation can increase the resilience of the community to climate change and mitigate disproportionate impacts. If any of your project components address these, or if your project is being implemented in an [area of concern for environmental justice](#) or high climate vulnerability, please note how your project will address these concerns. *Please note: we understand this question can be challenging to answer for applicants who are not environmental professionals. Hennepin County staff are available to help you understand your proposed project in the context of available climate vulnerability and race equity data.*

The project will improve BPS GHG emissions mitigation and climate resiliency.

- ✓ Healthy wetlands and native vegetation contribute to significant carbon sequestration
- ✓ Native plants improve soils retention and filtration of rainwater and prevent erosion
- ✓ Native trees reduce heat island effects

Equity - The student populations of Olson Middle and Elementary Schools are diverse, with ethnic diversities of 38% and 54% respectively.

## Project staff, partners and volunteers

- **Staff, partners and volunteers:** List and provide contact information for any partners, staff, and volunteers who will be involved with project implementation. Include a brief description of their background, qualifications, and their expected contributions for the project.

Rod Zivkovich – Bloomington Public Schools ISD 271 District Finance Director. Project Responsibilities: Represent District, provide financial expertise, and facilitate District financial oversight. rzivkovich@isd271.org

Tim Rybak – Bloomington Public Schools ISD271 District Operations Director. Project Responsibilities: Represent District, provide facility and grounds operational and maintenance expertise, and facilitate design approval and implementation of courtyard project by District. Previously supported the Green Club in both their rain garden and tree planting projects as well as the Olson Schools Nature Area restoration project. trybak@isd271.org

Dawn Williams – Bloomington Public Schools ISD #271 Lead Grounds Keeper. Represent District, provide operations expertise, and facilitate project implementation. Previously supported the Green Club in both their rain garden and tree planting projects. dwilliams@isd271.org

#### BNNN Board Members

Board President Dan Niziolek has 30 years of experience in community engagement (as a City of Minneapolis and Saint Paul employee and community leader.) This entails organizing and facilitating hundreds of community members in community improvement projects.

Recent efforts include securing funding for and facilitating Bloomington Kennedy High School Tree Planting effort (\$10,000 grant secured and managed, coordinated with Administration, partnered with student Green Club, recruited and managed community volunteers, environmental education and communications, facilitated project and meetings, and project management), Bloomington Kennedy High School Courtyard restoration project (\$53,000 grants secured and managed, partnering with Administration and Green Club, facilitate participatory meetings, hire and manage consultant, and project management). Marsh Lake Park Restoration Project (recruiting and managing community volunteers, coordinating with city staff, partnering with Scouts, and regular communications), Olson Schools Nature Area Restoration Project (coordinate with school staff, recruit and manage community volunteers, secured \$11,000 in grants, meet with PTA, regular communications, project and grant management).

Board Members Tom Fahey and Matthew Hallet are leading restoration efforts on City Bloomington Park properties (Forestry Glen Park and Nine Mile Creek respectively). Their expertise and experience include coordinating and working with city staff, recruiting and managing community volunteers, securing grant funds, education, and promoting and running events.

Board Member Heidi Niziolek has many years of experience leading community volunteer projects. Recent efforts include leading Winchester Pond improvement project, including recruiting volunteers, regular educational communications, coordination with the city, project and grant management, and securing \$25,000 for native plantings, floating islands to improve water quality in neighborhood pond, rain gardens.

Board Member Laura Peterson is a Master Naturalist and has participated in numerous restoration events and provides valuable organizational operation guidance.

Recruited community volunteers. Responsibilities include volunteering of implementation of the project.

Responsibilities - will provide experience and expertise in outreach, community organizing and engagement, environmental design, meeting facilitation, grant management, and project management. Previous individual and collective efforts have engaged thousands of community members in all types of community led projects that have created significant improvements within diverse neighborhoods and communities.

BloomingtonNNN@gmail.com 612-222-8580

Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) Ecological restoration and native species landscaping. A full-service ecological restoration company. Our capabilities range from large-scale restoration and bioengineering to native seeding and solar energy projects. 8740 77th St NE, Otsego, MN 55362 Phone: (763) 295-0010

## Budget

- **Budget:** Provide a budget for the project including total costs broken down by tasks and the amount requested through this Good Steward grant application. Describe how the costs were estimated. In addition, provide the following breakdown:

Estimates based on MNL bid as well as previous restoration at Olson Schools Nature Area and other restoration projects in Bloomington (working with MNL and Natural Shores for native plugs.)

○ Total project cost:	\$27,346	
• Soil grading and stabilization (MNL)		\$2,515
• Emergent plants and labor (MNL)		\$17,927
• Shoreline and upland plants (plugs, mycorrhizae and mulch)		\$3,844
• Shoreline and upland seeding (plugs and labor)		\$2,300
• Invasive plant removal (labor)		\$625
• Vegetation hauling and disposal		\$135
○ Good Steward grant request:	\$20,442	
• Soil grading and stabilization (MNL)		\$2,515
• Emergent plants and labor (MNL)		\$17,927
○ Other match funding sources:	\$6,904	
• Lower Minnesota River Watershed Grant (secured)	\$3,144	
• Shoreline and upland plants (plugs, mycorrhizae, mulch)		\$1,644
• Shoreline and upland seeds		\$1,500
• Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter Grant (secured)	\$2,200	
• Shoreline and upland plants (plugs)		\$2,200
• BNNN	\$1,560	
• Invasive plant removal (25 hours @\$25)		\$625
• Planting and seeding (32 hours @\$25)		\$800
• ISD #271		
• Vegetation debris haul and disposal (1 load)		\$135

- **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.
- **Local commitment:** Describe the decision-making process used to select the project. That is, why was this project chosen over other solutions? List if and where the proposed project is identified as a priority by a local, state, and/or federal government agency that manages natural resources, such as in a state-approved watershed management plan or a local comprehensive plan. *Please note: we understand this question can be challenging to answer for applicants who are not conservation professionals. Hennepin County staff are available to help you understand your proposed project in the context of available environmental plans and assessments.*

A number of reasons drove Bloomington Public Schools and Bloomington Neighbors Nurturing Nature selection of the Olson Schools Nature Area Restoration Project:

- 1) The wetland is designated by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed as a High Quality Wetland – Protection.
- 2) Nine Mile Creek is an impaired public water
- 3) Qualities and potential of the freshwater wetland/pond
- 4) Opportunity to create a strong environmental education site adjacent to public high, middle, and elementary schools

- 5) Adjacent to a site that allows for continued restoration efforts and creation of more environmental education opportunities.
- 6) Ability to serve as a demonstration project for the District
- 7) And specific to the Critical Areas work – the intense need for these 3 identified areas

### Other information

Provide a short summary of any other information that may be pertinent to the project and the county evaluation process of your application. This information may serve as a tiebreaker during the evaluation process.

### Terms and conditions

*As part of the application process, you will be asked to provide your tax identification number or social security number.*

These numbers will be made available to federal and state tax authorities and state personnel involved in the payment of county obligations, including delinquent tax liabilities. The purpose of this application is to authorize the collection of the information necessary to make a preliminary eligibility determination. This application is not a binding contract on either party. By signing this application, the landowner(s) agrees to grant Hennepin County representatives permission to visit the parcel and to provide other ownership and title documents requested by Hennepin County during this determination.

Dan Niziolek

Insert e-signature or type name

1/23/2025

Date