Clean Water Fund
Project Application

**Project name:** Northside Neighborhood Engagement and Opportunities in Clean Water Initiatives

**Date of application:** 12/1/16

**Local government unit:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Contact name: Laura Jester

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Eden Prairie, MN 55346

**Contact phone:** 952-270-1990

**Contact title:** Administrator

**Contact e-mail:** Laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

**Water resource of concern:** Bassett Creek, Mississippi River

**BMP to be installed:** [choose from the drop-down]
- Urban landscaping - Raingarden
- CLICK HERE

**Pollutant reduction estimate:** [choose from the drop-down or insert estimator under “other”]
- Phosphorus - est. reduction (lbs/yr)
  - .75 lbs total (.25 lb/yr/block)
- Other:
  - WinSLAMM
- CLICK HERE

**Est. length of crew time required:** [# of days based on a 5 person crew]
- 12 Days (summer youth crew), 2 Days (young adult crew)

**Season/dates preferred:** [crews are available Mar 1 - Dec 10]
- Young Adult (2 days): April 2017
- Youth (12 days): August 2017

**Project location:** Proposed projects are located in Near North Minneapolis, within the Harrison Neighborhood. Harrison is immediately adjacent to Bassett Creek. See map attached.

**Detailed description and purpose of project including desired outcomes:**

North of Glenwood Avenue in Harrison nearly 90% of boulevard trees are ash trees that will be systematically removed over the next 5 years to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. In partnership with Metro Blooms, we propose the installation of boulevard bioswales in conjunction with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s (MPRB) Ash tree replacement plan. The MPRB is a partner on this project and will remove ash trees next summer along blocks targeted for this project. Once removed, we hope to work with a Conservation Corps summer youth crew to excavate the boulevards into bioswales that capture stormwater runoff. Boulevards will be planted or seeded with low growing, low maintenance turf alternatives prior to the MPRB replacing the tree. While participation is optional, there is no financial commitment required of property owners. Our goal is to engage 50-80% of each block in this project, with the help of a block leader (total of 6 blocks – 3 in 2017, 3 in 2018). The two days of young adult crew time in the spring would be used to shape and plant boulevards around Redeemer Lutheran Church in Harrison that were excavated this fall.

This project is dedicated to ensuring that the expanding community of gardeners and engaged citizens in Harrison are active participants in helping to restore the ecological...
function of the neighborhood in a way that ensures environmental justice goals are advanced. We are committed to working with community groups such as the Harrison Neighborhood Association and Redeemer Luther Church to advance a project that equitably benefits all of Harrison’s diverse racial, cultural, and economic groups while addressing local water quality issues related to urban runoff.

The 2017 phase of this project includes the engagement and installation of boulevard bioswales along 3 blocks in the Harrison Neighborhood. In addition to volume and pollutant reduction, practices create native habitat. The urban heat island effect is addressed through increased green space and the infiltration of runoff, so it can be cleaned and cooled naturally before entering Bassett Creek and the Mississippi River.

In addition to the boulevard installations, Metro Blooms, in partnership with Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) and the Metropolitan Council, is piloting a maintenance training and certification program in North Minneapolis in 2017. The training focuses on sustainable land care maintenance, including the maintenance of raingardens, native plantings, and healthy yards. The goal of the training program is to increase the number of qualified, affordable landscape maintenance contractors. We hope to engage a summer youth crew in the pilot of this training in 2017.

### Description of crew responsibilities and tasks to be carried out:

Youth crews assist with excavation, shaping, mulching, planting, and seeding of boulevard bioswales at participating properties following removal of ash trees by the MPRB and excavation of roots by landscape contractors from NEON (Northside Economic Opportunity Network). Crews finish excavation so boulevard grade is 2-3” below sidewalk/curb, place double shredded hardwood mulch and/or erosion control fabric, and plant and/or seed boulevards. They may also maintain boulevards installed in 2016 and provide maintenance education to property owners. Metro Blooms’ Landscape Designers and/or Landscape Architect lead crew members through the construction of each boulevard bioswale. Youth crews may work with the Mississippi River Green Team, Step Up interns, and/or Minneapolis Public School Fast Track Youth during planting.

The youth crew is also expected to participate in daily educational activities and project evaluation (see educational value question below).

### List hand and power tools needed for the project:

- Spade shovels, flat shovels, wheelbarrows, metal rakes, pitchforks, Pulaski, loppers, and dump trailer. If dump trailer is unavailable Metro Blooms will provide.

### Double-click to check the box that best describes the project.

- **HIGH** - New installation or establishment of BMPs
- **LOW** - General maintenance beyond the establishment period

- Projects will be funded based on priority level, listed from high to low

### Is all permitting, contracting, landowner consent completed?

- Projects require permits from the City of Minneapolis to excavate in the right-of-way. Metro Blooms has a close relationship with the City permit review staff - they’re aware of this project and are dedicated to supporting the project through expeditious approval of permits if necessary.

  The project also requires landowner consent. Project participants on one block have already committed but the other two blocks have not been engaged at this point. Recruitment will continue through the spring of 2017.
Has a TMDL implementation plan, watershed management plan, county comprehensive local water management plan, local surface water management plan, metro groundwater plan, surface water intake plan or well head protection plan been approved and locally adopted? Please explain.

This project lies within the Bassett Creek and Mississippi River Watersheds in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The main stem of Bassett Creek is a Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) Priority 1 stream, as listed in their watershed management plan. It is included in the approved Upper Mississippi Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan, which states “in the case of the Bassett Creek Subwatershed, pets are identified as the most likely bacteria source. High priority implementation actions include the installation of biofiltration/filtration BMPs where feasible.”

BCWMC goals as outlined in the 2015 BCWMC Watershed Management Plan call for increased public awareness of the impact that individuals, businesses and organizations have towards affecting water quality. The management plan calls for initiatives that motivate behavioral changes and engage the public as partners for improved water quality.

How will this project ensure practices implemented will be of long-lasting public benefit with a minimum 10 years effective life?

Each participant is required to sign a maintenance agreement, committing to maintain practices for at least 10 years. Projects are designed to be low maintenance. All plants are low-growing, walkable, and mowable. Residents also have the option to hire graduates from the maintenance training program to assist with maintenance.

Describe the project’s educational value and/or on-site education provided to the crew.

A focus of this project is providing summer youth crews with sustainable land care maintenance education. The maintenance training program could be completed by a youth crew over the course of 1-2 weeks. Each day, 1 - 2 hours would be dedicated to education and sharing of lessons learned on topics including stormwater management, plant identification, when/how to remove weeds and invasive species, and long term care and potential next steps along a career pathway. Lessons are led by field experts - primarily Blue Thumb and local government partners.

In addition to the maintenance training, youth crews are led by Metro Blooms’ Landscape Designers/Landscape Architect. Metro Blooms provides detailed instruction regarding excavation, grading, stormwater conveyance, erosion control, planting and seeding.

Local financial contribution - itemized description and amount:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Council</td>
<td>$100,000 – approved; 2016-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission</td>
<td>$4,000 – pending board approval</td>
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Application Deadline December 15!
Submit completed electronic Project Application in MS Word format with PDF aerial photo/map of project location to cleanwater@conservationcorps.org

Conservation Corps Minnesota
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