

DRAFT

Clean Water Fund – Community Partners Grant Application

Fiscal Agent: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Did your organization receive CWF dollars in 2014, 2015, and/or 2016? If less than 50% of the total grant amount awarded in these years have been spent, explain your organization's capacity (including available FTEs or contracted resources) to effectively implement additional CWF grant dollars.

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) received CWF grant dollars in 2016 for the Northwood Lake Improvement Project. In August 2015, the BCWMC entered an agreement with the City of New Hope to design and construct the project. The City used its consulting engineering firm, Stantec, to design the project and the BCWMC approved final design plans in November 2015. The city awarded a construction contract to Northdale Construction Company in February 2016 and construction started in March and is continuing. A grant reimbursement request will be submitted to the BWSR by the end of 2016 once appropriate invoices and documentation is gathered.

Clarity of Application

Describe how your organization will utilize the requested funds to engage citizens into taking action in managing their local resources. How will successful completion of this project lead to future projects or community partner involvement (15 points)?

In partnership with Metro Blooms, Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA), Metropolitan Council, and neighborhood businesses and institutions, this project emphasizes community resilience strategies through engagement and stormwater management. This project focuses on the Harrison Neighborhood in Near North Minneapolis. We plan to work with HNA's Glenwood Revitalization Team to address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution by identifying and engaging a minimum of six businesses, community organizations, and/or non-profits along Glenwood Avenue to install stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Our emphasis is on place-based neighborhood engagement and green infrastructure, which directly responds to concerns raised by community members related to environmental justice.

The Glenwood Revitalization Team will reach out to potential property owners to schedule a one-hour site consultation with one of Metro Blooms' designers. At the consultation, property owners learn about stormwater management, the environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits, and what could be done on their property. Past experience teaches us that educational workshops targeted at commercial property owners are not effective, so we utilize site consultations as our primary means for education. The Landscape Designer uses information from the consultation to create a stormwater management plan and design for each property, detailing type(s) of BMP proposed, runoff and pollutant capture, and example projects. Proposed projects may include raingardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, and runoff conveyance. Underground infiltration and tree trenches likely will not be possible due to their expense. Project implementation is subcontracted and overseen by Metro Blooms' Landscape Architect. Property owners commit to a financial contribution and to maintain their project for at

least 10 years. In addition, we'll assist property owners with stormwater credit applications to the City of Minneapolis. A successful credit application could save businesses hundreds to thousands of dollars a year and serves as another incentive to maintain practices.

In 2016, a demonstration boulevard bioswale project was installed at Redeemer Lutheran Church at Glenwood & Logan Avenue North. The demonstration has generated a lot of interest in stormwater management and native habitat in the neighborhood. We'll have an exhibit at Redeemer's Annual Block Party on August 17th (800 attendees expected) with information about the project and to identify potential business and institutional sites for this project.

In addition to the boulevard bioswales at Redeemer, very few stormwater management practices exist within the Harrison Neighborhood. Metro Blooms' 2013 survey of business owners in south Minneapolis revealed that even in a community with many stormwater BMPs, very few business owners are aware of them and how they function. The proposed project provides an opportunity to leverage funding from multiple sources to implement demonstration sites throughout the Harrison Neighborhood. By increasing sense of place, improving water quality, and increasing business interaction and leadership, these projects have direct and immediate benefits for private properties, the community, and Bassett Creek. Local businesses in Harrison have built a strong community of investment and possibility. Through the pilot and utilization of a collaborative model among agencies serving the Harrison Community, we are able to engage and employ these businesses to continue building their community by protecting their local water body.

Who will be the primary audience(s) for your proposed program (5 points)?

With one of the largest Laotian populations in Minnesota, and a demographic of 45% African-American and 65% people of color, Harrison is a study in the inter sectional outcomes of racial inequity. In Harrison, 41% of households have an income below the federal poverty line. There is a great need for locally-based community investment. HNA recognizes that racial disparities are linked to a lack of access by communities of color to the policy decisions that affect us. As part of their mission, they aim to establish a vibrant and functioning gardening, environmental, and food justice community, resulting in neighborhood voices that positively change the distribution of green space and healthy resources. This unique program facilitates participation in a project that impacts community safety, beautifies the neighborhood, and creates a tool for the neighborhood to restore its environmental function and livability one property at a time.

How will this CWF project benefit the general public? Describe the water resource benefits from a local and state perspective (20 points).

Harrison Neighborhood lies within the Bassett Creek & Mississippi River watersheds. By increasing sense of place, improving water quality, and increasing business interaction and leadership, these projects have direct and immediate benefits for private properties, the community, Bassett Creek, and the Mississippi River. Our focus is on properties bordering Glenwood Avenue. This highly urbanized corridor is a focal point of the community. Proposed practices capture stormwater, improve the look of the neighborhood, encourage pedestrian traffic, create habitat, and enable neighborhood organizations and businesses to play a role in building a resilient community. Bio-infiltration practices reduce runoff volume, sediment, and nutrients. In addition to volume reduction, permeable pavement projects reduce the need for salt use during the winter, thereby reducing chlorides (with permeable pavement there is little, if

any, ice build-up during winter months; on warmer days it allows for water infiltration rather than re-freezing on the surface).

This project builds on a broader project in Harrison to engage neighborhood residents to learn about, install, and maintain green infrastructure projects. Metro Blooms' Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water Project, funded by the Clean Water Fund, has resulted in the community-led installation of 9 Blooming Alleys, with another 3-6 planned for 2017. We've seen how this program, also based on the community-led transformation of an underutilized public space, has led to improved walkability, use by pedestrians, more community gatherings, and stronger social connection among neighbors. We anticipate similar results from the proposed project. In addition to businesses, non-profits, and institutions, we are utilizing funding from the Metropolitan Council to engage property owners on 5 blocks in the neighborhood to install 'Blooming Boulevards' in conjunction with the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board's Emerald Ash Borer Tree Replacement Plan. Participation means agreeing to have their ash tree removed right away, their boulevard shaped into a swale and planted with low-growing, low-maintenance native plants, and to maintain their boulevard plantings.

The 2016 demonstration was installed in partnership with Step Up interns at Redeemer Lutheran Church, a summer youth Conservation Corps crew, and the Mississippi River Green Team (program of the MPRB). These youth implemented the demonstration at Redeemer Lutheran Church. In addition, youth participated in 30-minute lessons each day led by industry professionals on topics such as stormwater management, urban forestry, environmental justice, plant identification and maintenance as a pilot for an experiential, place-based education program. We plan to continue these partnerships and education programming during the planning, installation, and maintenance of the proposed projects.

Relationship to Plan

Identify the specific water management plan reference by plan organization, plan title, section and page number. If applicable, also identify specific supporting plans such as a TMDL Implementation Plan, a WRAPS document, or Clean Water Partnership Diagnostic Study. In addition to plan language, provide a brief description regarding how the activities in this application relate to the plan reference (s) (30 points).

The main stem of Bassett Creek is included on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Impaired Waters list for aquatic life (excess chlorides) and aquatic recreation (fecal coliform). This area is also included in the 2014 MPCA Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL & Protection Plan and the 2016 Upper Mississippi Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan.

Upper Mississippi Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan

"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." - Bassett Creek Subwatershed, pg. 172-173

- Proposed projects focus on the installation of biofiltration practices that would directly address the bacteria TMDL for the Mississippi River.

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan - adopted by Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) in September 2015.

The main stem of Bassett Creek, which creates the southern boundary of Harrison, is a BCWMC Priority 1 stream. Classification as such is relevant to monitoring, application of water quality standards, and eligibility for water quality improvement projects. - Surface Water Resources, pg. 2-23

- Bassett Creek's designation as Priority 1 stream is a primary reason for the implementation of this project and our focus on the Harrison Neighborhood, which partially drains to the main stem of Bassett Creek. Proposed activities directly impact water quality in this stream and help achieve water quality improvement goals.

Plan goals include: "improving the quality of stormwater runoff reaching the Mississippi River by reducing nonpoint source pollution," "reduce stormwater runoff volume for the purposes of improving water quality," and "raise awareness of the impact individuals, businesses, and organizations have upon water resources and motivate these audiences to change behaviors that have a negative impact on the watershed." - BCWMC Vision & Purpose, pg. 1-3

- Project focus is on community education, engagement, and widespread behavior change through the installation and promotion of highly visible demonstration sites.

"The BCWMC seeks collaborative groups and partners to help achieve the goals set out in the plan. Some of the partners include Metro Blooms...Metropolitan Council...and Hennepin County." - Appendix B, pg. 1

"BCWMC will partner with Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb to provide workshops and trainings, raingarden installations, native gardens, buffers, etc." - Appendix B, pg. 2

- Project is implemented in partnership with Metro Blooms, the Metropolitan Council & Hennepin County.

Proposal's Impact

Describe how your organization will ensure long-term assurance of public benefit?

Proposed projects are designed with input from City of Minneapolis Public Works staff to ensure compliance with stormwater credit requirements. Pending award of a stormwater credit to the properties following installation of practices, the City's stormwater permitting department will monitor and evaluate the projects annually. If a property is not in compliance with the requirements of the stormwater credit, the credit will be revoked. Since the credit provides a lucrative financial incentive for property owners to participate in this project, it's in the owners' interest to maintain practices.

What specific criteria will your organization use to evaluate projects?

In working with the Glenwood Revitalization Team, our goal is for 80% of projects to be on Glenwood Avenue in order to meet community revitalization goals and install projects that provide multiple community benefits.

In addition, we'll use Bassett Creek water quality standards as determined by the MPCA to evaluate projects. Current standards are 100 ug/L phosphorus, 30 mg/L TSS, and 230 mg/L chlorides. In addition, a 79% reduction of bacteria (primarily from pet waste) is necessary to meet standards in the Bassett Creek watershed. Chloride monitoring regularly reveals concentrations over the MPCA standards. Proposed projects reduce phosphorus, chloride, and

bacteria concentrations. These reductions will be modeled using WinSLAMM upon completion of projects.

In addition, we also measure success and impact in the following ways:

- Number of property owners engaged in site consultations
- Number of property owners that move forward with an installation
- Number of new property owners, in addition to those funded by the grant, that express interest in a project following installation and promotion of demonstration sites
- For installation projects we utilize WinSLAMM modeling software to determine: stormwater runoff volume reduction,, % impervious surface treated, # participants, project budget and partners.

What is the proposed impact of this proposed program?

Near North Minneapolis has experienced a history of disinvestment and environmental injustice. This project brings much-needed funding to an underserved, diverse community. This project provides economic and social benefits to the Harrison and Near North neighborhoods of Minneapolis. HNA is committed to creating a prosperous and peaceful community that equitably benefits all of Harrison neighborhood's diverse racial, cultural, and economic groups and this project enables them to do that, by engaging business that otherwise would not be able to afford the implementation of stormwater management features that also beautify the neighborhood. This project is dedicated to ensuring that the expanding community of gardeners and engaged citizens are active participants in helping to restore the ecological function of the neighborhood in a way that ensures environmental justice goals are advanced, and that opportunities created for youth and young adult jobs are available to neighborhood youth and young adults who are prepared for success.

How will your organization measure project outcomes?

Project outcomes are measured in relation to Harrison's community revitalization goals and the MPCA water quality standards for Bassett Creek as detailed previously. By working with HNA we're able to ensure the project is in alignment with their community goals for the neighborhood, such as increasing tree cover, improving safety, and encouraging sound economic development along Glenwood Avenue.

Water quality outcomes are measured through use of WinSLAMM modeling software. To measure community impact we'll work with HNA to promote projects at neighborhood art crawls, block parties, and community events. These events could be hosted at participating project sites to display and promote stormwater BMPs. We'll keep track of number of people engaged and any new project opportunities that arise through promotions.

LGU Capacity

Briefly describe the organizational capacity and staff qualifications that will ensure the success of this project.

With proper oversight and through an appropriate contract, the BCWMC intends to contract with Metro Blooms to manage and implement this project. Metro Blooms will lead engagement,

design, and installation activities. Metro Blooms designers (licensed Landscape Architect and graduate Masters of Landscape Architecture) have ample experience and expertise designing and implementing projects of this scope and scale. Through partnerships with the McKnight Foundation and City of Minneapolis Great Streets program they've worked with more than 30 businesses over the last 3 years to educate property owners, design stormwater BMPs, and in many cases manage the installation of recommended practices. In addition, experienced project management staff have overseen the successful implementation of more than 20 neighborhood-scale stormwater management installation projects ranging from 5-150 participants.

Another key partner in the project is the Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA). The HNA is dedicated to supporting and creating pathways for economic development, environmental justice, leadership, and collective problem solving led by people of color and those most impacted by disparities. They accomplish this by working with residents to ensure leadership in a holistic community that is resistant to displacement, environmental racism, climate change, and perpetual exploitation of the Earth. The Glenwood Revitalization Team acts as a steering committee for development in the Harrison Neighborhood, with a specific focus on economic development along Glenwood Avenue. HNA partners on project development and outreach/education.

The Constitutional Amendment requires that Amendment funding not substitute traditional state funding. Briefly describe how this project will provide water quality benefits to the State of Minnesota without substituting existing funding.

Funding for the proposed project does not substitute traditional state funding. The project supplements spending by the Metropolitan Council, Center for Prevention at Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota, and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission.

BCWMC Community Partners Application Budget - Harrison Neighborhood Project				
Activity	Total Cost	CWF Request	Matching Funds	Potential Match Source
Engagement & Outreach: Engagement of a minimum of 6 business/institutional/non-profit properties (80% along Glenwood); promotion following installation, signage development	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	BCWMC/Harrison Neighborhood Association (in-kind)
Technical Assistance: Site consultations, stormwater management plans, designs, construction management and oversight for participating properties, stormwater credit applications, WinSLAMM modeling	\$20,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$12,000.00	Property Owners/Hennepin County Natural Resource Grant
Project Management & Administration: Coordination, scheduling, reporting, invoicing, communications, & travel	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$ -	
Installation: Contractor fees, plant material, mulch, soil/sod disposal, erosion control, landscape supplies (i.e. permeable pavers), signage	\$181,000.00	\$131,000.00	\$50,000.00	Hennepin County Natural Resource Grant/MWMO Mississippi River Green Team
Totals	\$217,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$67,000.00	