

## Lawns to Legumes: Your Yard Can BEE the Change



The Lawns to Legumes program offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential lawns. The program also includes a public education campaign to raise awareness for pollinator habitat projects and will establish demonstration neighborhoods that showcase best practices. Partners include Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water and Metro Blooms. Funding is provided through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and will be targeted in priority areas to benefit the Rusty patched bumblebee and other at-risk species.

The program has three components:

- Grants to demonstration neighborhoods
- Grants and coaching for individual landowners
- Outreach and education for all interested Minnesota residents

Demonstration Neighborhood Grants: Local governments, tribal governments and nonprofits can apply for grants through a Request for Proposals (RFP) to establish community projects intended to enhance pollinator habitat in key corridors, raise awareness for residential pollinator protection, and showcase best practices. Eligible applicants include soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, cities, counties, non-profits and tribal governments. Applicants can request to be reimbursed for between \$20,000 and \$40,000 per demonstration neighborhood. Applications will be accepted through January 10, 2020.

Organizations overseeing a demonstration neighborhood will work with local residents to install four types of beneficial planting practices: native pocket plantings, pollinator beneficial trees and shrubs, pollinators lawns and pollinator meadows. Interested organizations can apply on behalf of their organization or on behalf of a group of partners who plan to work together to establish a demonstration neighborhood.

### **BCWMC Application to BWSR for Demonstration Neighborhood Grant ~ \$40,000 To be implemented by Metro Blooms**

**Abstract:** The Main Stem of Bassett Creek Watershed is in a high priority area for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee conservation. This project will take place in Near North Minneapolis neighborhoods. The landscape of this area, like much of the Twin Cities, is dominated by urbanization and impervious surfaces accounting for 2/3 of land coverage. This project will create a matrix of high quality, resilient pollinator habitat on residential property within a highly urbanized area that lies in close proximity to high quality habitat and a major pollinator corridor. Additionally, this project will benefit a historically under served community that is considered an environmental justice community- identified as sheltering people predominantly of color (45%

black/African American) or/and low-income (45% poverty level or below) and renters (60)% (mncompas.org). Environmental justice communities have typically been excluded from environmental policy setting or decision-making processes, and have limited resources for improving their environments. Much of the groundwork for this project has already taken place. Metro Blooms, a local non-profit based in Minneapolis, partnered with BCWMC and the City of Minneapolis to install a network of pollinator friendly, boulevard bioswales within this area of North Minneapolis with plants known to be high-quality resources for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.

In addition, the Minneapolis pollinator resolution and the conservation of Minneapolis bees project, known as C.O.M.B., are committed to increasing forage availability, habitat, and awareness for at risk pollinators in Minneapolis. A Lawns to Legumes neighborhood demonstration project in this area would leverage investment in a high priority area for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee and strengthen the relationship between state agencies, local government organizations, nonprofits, and communities of color that have been disproportionately affected by environmental hazards and divestment of green spaces.

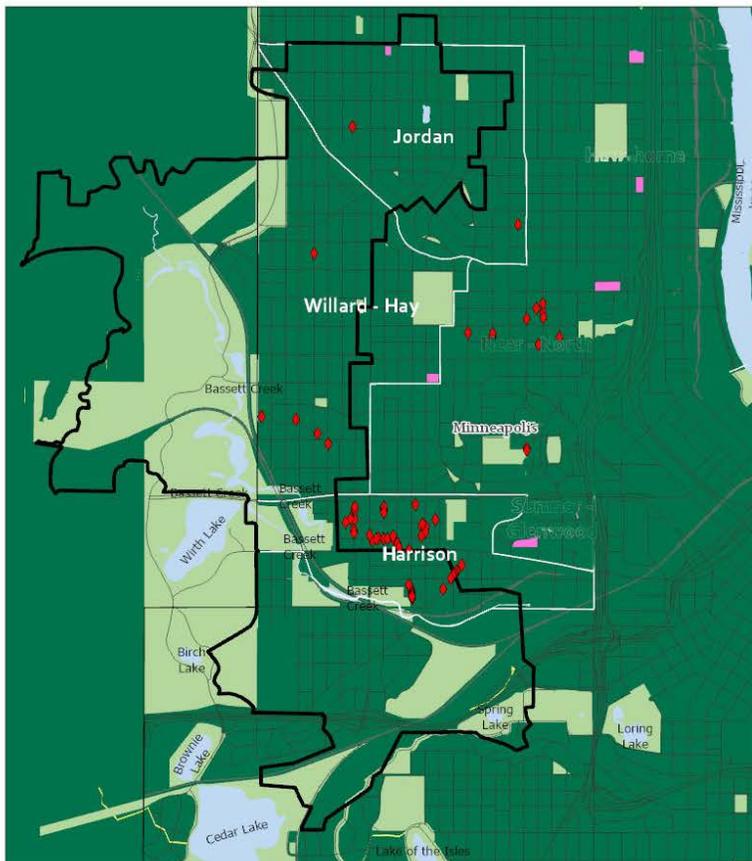
**Project Outcomes:** 12,750 sq ft of native forage on 75-100 residential sites, including 200 participants engaged in targeted communities of color, including renters and landowners at 3-5 multifamily affordable housing sites.

**Project Funding:**

\$40,000 grant request

\$184,385 matching funds from multiple partners

**Project Area:**



**Near North Habitat Analysis**

- Bassett Creek Main Stem - Primary Project Area
- ▨ Neighborhoods - Secondary Project Areas
- ◆ Existing Pollinator Projects
- MPHA Potential Demonstration Sites
- Rail Road
- Streets
- Cities
- Parks
- Water bodies
- BWSR Lawns to Legumes
- Rusty Patch Bumblebee Potential Habitat
- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3

