



## Metro Blooms

3747 Cedar Ave S,  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
651-699-2426  
www.metroblooms.org

### **Northside Pollinator Project Update + Request**

**Scope:** The Northside Pollinator Project aims to replace conventional turfgrass lawns with gardens, trees and shrubs that will add beauty to the community, clean our water, and protect our bees and butterflies. This is done in relationship with community members and community organizations, catalyzing long term behavior change as residents see themselves as stewards of our earth and their communities.

**Partners:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, Mortenson Family Foundation, City of Minneapolis, Northside community coalition and neighborhood organizations

**Current Funding:** Includes \$40,000 Lawns to Legumes grant to the BCWMC and passed to Metro Blooms for implementation.

### **2020-2021 Update:**

Over the past two years, Metro Blooms has developed partnerships with local neighborhood organizations to lead this project, including Harrison Neighborhood Organization, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, Jordan Area Community Council, and Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, among others. We subcontracted with these organizations to lead initial participant engagement. Between 2020-2021, 42 properties were engaged to install pollinator plantings, native trees and shrubs.

Metro Blooms collaborated with MWMO to produce a video highlighting this project, and how it has impacted residents within the community. MWMO provided funding for projects that fell outside of Bassett Creek Watershed. Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7csnA\\_TblQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7csnA_TblQ)

In fall of 2021, we began additional engagement with matching funds from the City of Minneapolis to incorporate boulevard bioswales with the project. This engagement is focused around 5-6 community pods, primarily centered around Northside congregations and deeply rooted community organizations. This work builds on the Lawns to Legumes approach from 2020-2021. We will continue to build on this model in 2022 as well. We are planning to work with a final 3-6 properties in spring 2022 to install the last pollinator plantings, trees, and shrubs that will be funded through the current Lawns to Legumes grant. These will be installed in people's yards, likely in conjunction with boulevard plantings.

### **Projects completed to date:**

- 42 pollinator plantings (2,925 square feet native habitat)
- 55 native trees and shrubs

**Remaining funds (to be spent spring 2022):** \$4,894

### **2022 Request for Phase 2:**

Metro Blooms and community partners are requesting partnership with Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission to apply for a Phase 2 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant from BWSR to fund the continuation of this project. Because Metro Blooms is substantially involved with the broader Lawns to Legumes program, BWSR has asked we partner with other eligible entities to submit Demonstration Neighborhood grants to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.

*Metro Blooms partners with communities to create resilient landscapes and foster clean watersheds, embracing the values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges.*

Grow. Bloom. Inspire!

**Proposed Request:** \$20,000

**Match:** \$6,000 Mortenson Family Foundation (secured); City of Minneapolis Boulevard Bioswale project (funding in place for 2022, proposed for continuation in 2023)

**Grant Application Due Date:** February 3, 2022

**Request for Proposals:** <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2021-11/FY22%20L2L%20Phase%20%20RFP%20Final.pdf>

### **Proposed Approach:**

Through a Phase 2 demonstration project we would build on our community pod approach developed through the boulevard bioswales project. When we meet with boulevard participants (projected 60 installations in 2022 and additional projects in 2023) we talk about all available opportunities. All sites in pod 1 (7 sites) currently being engaged have expressed interest in a lawn planting and/or additional trees as well as a boulevard project. This includes residents, church leaders, and community elders. We're working with church leaders in Harrison and Willard Hay to create demonstration sites at neighborhood houses of worship in addition to residential plantings.

Training opportunities with local youth and young adults are also a focus for Phase 2. We have a cohort of 29 youth from the All Nations community attending our Sustainable Landcare Training right now. We hope to provide apprenticeship opportunities to some of these youth through a continuation of the Lawns to Legumes program in Near North.

**Proposed Scope:** 2-3 larger plantings at community sites as well as 10-15 additional residential plantings including pollinator gardens, native trees and shrubs. We anticipate at least 85% of plantings will be within neighborhoods that fall within the Bassett Creek Watershed in Near North Minneapolis (Harrison and Willard Hay neighborhoods).

### **Photos & Testimonial:**



**Site consultation with Kristel Porter. Kristel's story:** *"This project provided beautification to our neighborhood, addressed the heat island effect, and lowered our carbon footprint. In North Minneapolis, we have a very low median income. Many of the property owners struggle financially and are unable to provide this update to their property. Through Lawns to Legumes, homeowners were able to attend a workshop that taught them the importance of gardens and knowing which plants should be incorporated into them. I am so grateful for this program and hope it continues for years to come."*

*Metro Blooms partners with communities to create resilient landscapes and foster clean watersheds, embracing the values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges.*

Grow. Bloom. Inspire!