

NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES

Item 7D.
BCWMC 6-15-17

Progress 1.1.17 to 4.30.17

Phase I: Sustainable Landscape Care Training, Engagement and Installations (October 1, 2016 - June 30, 2018)

Sustainable Landscape Care - Certificate Program

Sustainable Landcare Training Program:

Youth/Young Adult/No Prior Experience:

This program will train beginner and intermediate students with specialized training for the care of green infrastructure including rain gardens, bioretention gardens, bioswales, and other visible stormwater Best Management Practices.

Partners for Piloting Training Program:

- Conservation Corps of MN - After School Program, Summer Youth Program, Young Adult Program
- Mississippi River Green Team
- NEON
- Step Up/Wilderness Inquiry Youth Crew
- Master Gardeners & Master Water Stewards

Funding Partners for Piloting Training Program:

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund)
- Hennepin County (Green Partners Program)

Sustainable Landcare Training Pilots: Scheduled training events

We are scheduling pilot training events beginning in late June with the Mississippi River Green Team. Rusty Schmidt of Waterdrop Innovations will be in town to roll out the volunteer training for Hennepin, Ramsey, and Dakota County Master Gardeners and Minnehaha Creek Master Water Stewards on Sunday, July 16th at the Nokomis Naturescape Gardens.

- Habitat for Humanity Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Dakota County Master Gardeners + Master Water Stewards: July 16th
- Wilderness Inquiry: July 17th-August 17th
- Mississippi River Green Team: June 21st (training with supervisors on June 14th)
- Conservation Corps Youth: July 13th – 14th
- Conservation Corps Young Adult Crews: Fall (specific dates TBD)
- NEON: Fall (specific dates TBD)

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Structural Training for Industry Professionals:

Relying on a team of professional experts, Blue Thumb partners, the Biosystems Engineering Department at the UMN and an existing Metro Blooms report on Green Infrastructure Maintenance, we are developing a curriculum outline for industry professionals including vegetative and structural maintenance. We plan to begin pilot implementation for structural/hardscape maintenance training in the late fall of 2017 with NEON.

Outreach and Engagement

Metro Blooms staff have begun meeting with the Glenwood Revitalization Team (GRT) monthly. The GRT will provide feedback and approval of the plant palettes for the Blooming Boulevards project.

Metro Blooms staff attended the Environmental Congress and did make an effort to share the project with others at the conference.

Metro Blooms has been working with the University of Minnesota CURA GIS office to create maps of the ash tree canopy, Safe Routes to Schools, and Transportation routes. The maps look incredible and the relationship with Jeff Matson has been very positive and enlightening.

Metro Blooms held a World Water Day event on March 22, 2017 at the Living Room. All partner organizations were in attendance and gave presentations to our audience. Metro Blooms staff distributed over 200 flyers in the neighborhood prior to the event and did some canvassing that resulted in increased interest in the Blooming Boulevards project. Four Boulevard Captains have been identified and Blooming Boulevard signs have been installed in their yards.

Partners present at the World Water Day event included Metro Blooms board members, 2020 Partners Executive Director, Dan Collison, Joe Mulcahey from the Met Council, and Dave Collings, Harrison Neighborhood Association Executive Director. Presentations were given by Laura Jester of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission; Ralph Sievert, MPRB Director of Forestry; Nick Cox, Conservation Corps; Metro Blooms Staff Becky Rice, Anna Bierbrauer, and Kimberly Carpenter; and Kelly Muellman from the City of Minneapolis Green Zones Initiatives. Local artists were invited and integrated as contractors for the WWD event. Priestess Amoke Kubat who has been involved with the Water Bar and D'Michelle both performed and were actively involved in discussions about future engagement strategies. Residents of Harrison Neighborhood were present and the feedback we received from attendees was positive.

Metro Blooms participated in the City of Minneapolis CommUnity Connections Conference on April 1, 2017 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We tabled at the event and had our brochures, maps and Blooming Boulevards presentation board out for attendees to see. We spoke with many attendees about the project and received good feedback about the

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transformative qualities and benefits of the project. We met with many diverse members of the city who expressed interest in helping us reach underserved and underrepresented youth and communities and bringing projects to their communities.

On April 22, 2017 Metro Blooms coordinated the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Earth Day Cleanup site at Harrison Park. We shared watershed and project information at the event and recruited block captains.

Our first Blooming Boulevard block party is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th. We'll utilize the block party to share information with neighbors about the Blooming Boulevards project, build enthusiasm, and sign eligible neighbors up for a site consultation with one of our Landscape Designers. One of the Boulevard Captains is hosting the party in their yard. Residents from two blocks north of Glenwood Avenue (approximately 90% of boulevard trees are ash trees in this area) are being invited to the block party. We're working with another Boulevard Captain to host a second party on June 2nd as well. We've developed materials including a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, doorhangers, native seed packets, and engagement folders for the Boulevard Captains to use in engaging their neighbors and inviting them to the block parties. We're holding a boulevard captain training on May 1st so the captains can meet each other, discuss the project, provide feedback, and receive their engagement materials.

Metro Blooms' Landscape Design team is developing 5 boulevard plant palettes with input from the Harrison Neighborhood and Glenwood Revitalization Team that will be presented to neighbors at the block parties. Each participant will be able to select which palette they want implemented in their boulevard as well as sign a maintenance agreement for their boulevard at the block party.

Metro Blooms has hired Lune, LLC, a research and evaluation company to help develop quantitative and qualitative tools to measure the impact of the project.

Installations:

The remaining blocks surrounding Redeemer Lutheran Church property were seeded and installed with native plantings during the week of April 3-6, 2017 with assistance from NEON (Northside Economic Opportunity Network) and the Conservation Corps Youth Crews. The spring planting has been completed at Venture North Bikes & Coffee and along Morgan and 4th. Summer installations have been scheduled to take place from July 13-28, 2017.

Next Steps

We will continue to build relationships, recruit Blooming Boulevard Captains and participants. We will educate them and their neighbors at the block parties they host on their blocks about stormwater management, emerald ash borer and things they can do to increase climate and community resilience and build social capital.

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Following the block parties, Metro Blooms designers meet with participating residents to discuss their boulevard site, have them sign a maintenance agreement, and select a plant palette for their boulevard.

Metro Blooms will conduct outreach and engagement at Northside community events being held in North Minneapolis. Metro Blooms will also be tabling at the major events taking place throughout the summer in the Harrison Neighborhood i.e. Annual Block Party and Art Festival. We will work to build strategic partnerships and alliances that honor the authentic voice of those impacted in the neighborhood.

The pilot of the Sustainable Landcare Inspections & Maintenance program will begin in June 2017.

Metro Blooms is hosting 2 Resilient Yard Workshops in North Minneapolis, one at Redeemer Lutheran Church on May 9th and one at the North Regional Library on May 13th. These workshops are funded by the City of Minneapolis, but gave us the opportunity to discuss this project with neighborhood residents in attendance. Both workshops are full.

We will work with diverse leaders to host Community Conversations via radio in African American, Lao, and Latino communities that reach underrepresented members of the watershed.

Pursue additional funding from the Hennepin County Stewardship Fund in fall 2017.



**Blooming Boulevard
Coming Soon Sign at
Boulevard Captains home**

**2017 Spring Installations
completed by Conservation
Corps**

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**World Water Day Event 3.22.17 at the Living Room;
Tabling at the CommUnity Connections Conference**



Conservation Corps finishes installing boulevards surrounding Redeemer

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MWMO Staff and Free Arts Staff at MPRB Earth Day Cleanup on 4.22.17.

