

## **2019 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

**PROJECT TITLE:** Lawns to Legumes Program

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Dan Shaw

**AFFILIATION:** Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

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**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08f as extended by M.L. 2021 First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 3, Sub 19b.2 [to June 30, 2023]

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$900,000

**AMOUNT SPENT:** \$886,171

**AMOUNT REMAINING:** \$3,317

### **Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results**

The Lawns to Legumes Program is focused on building a movement to support at-risk pollinator species. The project resulted in over 2,300 high diversity residential plantings covering 4.3 million square feet, and a large numbers of DIY projects across Minnesota inspired and guided by the program.

### **Overall Project Outcome and Results**

The Lawns to Legumes Pilot Program started in 2019 and has focused on building a movement to protect pollinators in Minnesota. It is the first statewide program in the nation to allow any resident to apply for funding and technical assistance to support pollinator populations. This project encompassed program coordination, outreach and technical assistance and funding for residents. The program emphasizes the establishment of habitat for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee (a federally endangered species and Minnesota's State Bee) and other at-risk pollinators that play essential roles in food production and sustaining ecosystems. Large numbers of Minnesota residents and conservation partners collaborated on the effort leading to its success!

### **By the Numbers**

1. 12,207 residents applied for assistance from all 87 of Minnesota's counties.
2. 12 Demonstration Neighborhood project were completed to build pollinator corridors.
3. Around 4.3 million square feet (100 acres) of high diversity urban habitat was planted as part of 2,322 plantings. Over one-quarter of projects were completed in environmental justice areas of Minnesota.
4. Participants contributed about 1.5:1 match for their projects.
5. Nearly 6,000 people participated in program workshops and presentations.
6. Over 140 volunteer coaches were involved.
7. Over 60 local organizations collaborated on the program.
8. 353,373 visits to program webpages.
9. Thousands of DIY projects were inspired and guided by the program.
10. The program pilot developed a strong framework for further engagement of residents to help protect pollinators.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

Outreach and education was an important component of the Lawns to Legumes Program to help build a movement to protect pollinators. A large number of resources were incorporated into the Board of Water and Soil Resources' [Lawns to Legumes Program](#) website including a popular "[Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide](#)" and many planting templates and lists of plant species beneficial to pollinators. The Blue Thumb Partnership played a key role in assisting the individual support component of the program and they developed a [program webpage](#) and [grantee guide](#) to help guide residents through the process of applying for individual support grants, working with coaches, and submitting for reimbursement after their projects were completed. A [program webinar](#) is also available to the public and Minnesota residents can sign up for [updates](#) as the program continues to progress.



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

## M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

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**Today's Date:** 10/15/22

**Date of Next Status Update Report:** Completed

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2023

**Does this submission include an amendment request?** Yes

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Lawns to Legumes Program

**Project Manager:** Dan Shaw

**Organization:** Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

**College/Department/Division:** Resource Conservation Section

**Mailing Address:** 520 Lafayette Road N.

**City/State/Zip Code:** St. Paul, MN 55155

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**Location:** Statewide with an emphasis on areas within the USFWS Priority Areas for the rusty patch bumble bee

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**Total Project Budget:** \$900,000

**Amount Spent:** ~~\$533,664~~ ~~\$681,642~~ ~~\$843,644~~ \$886,171

**Balance:** ~~\$366,336~~ ~~\$218,538~~ ~~\$56,356~~ \$3317

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**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08f as extended by M.L. 2021 First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 3, Sub 19b.2 [to June 30, 2023]

**Appropriation Language:**

\$806,000 in fiscal year 2019 and \$94,000 the first year are from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for demonstration projects that provide grants for payments to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators. The board must establish criteria for grants or payments awarded under this section. Grants or payments awarded under this section may be made for up to 75 percent of the costs of the project, except that in areas identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as areas where there is a high potential for rusty patched bumble bees to be present, grants may be awarded for up to 90 percent of the costs of the project.

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Minnesota's State Bee, the Rusty patch bumble bee, as well as many other pollinators, are at risk and many Minnesota landowners are motivated to establish habitat to support these species. The Lawns to Legumes Program has received significant attention from the public as well as local and national press as a potential model for benefitting pollinators on residential landscapes while replacing lawns and associated maintenance. A large number of landowners have contacted the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources about their interest in receiving funding to establish pollinator habitat, while many others are seeking technical information so they can start projects on their own. Ultimately, this program has the potential to significantly widen adoption of residential pollinator habitat and alternative groundcovers to traditional lawns in Minnesota. Through funding opportunities and technical assistance this program is being designed to accomplish this goal. Other key goals of the program include:

- A) Increase populations of rusty patched bumble bee and other at risk pollinators
- B) Restore important pollinator corridors/pathways through residential areas
- C) Develop high profile neighborhood demonstration projects and build overall interest in ecological landscaping
- D) Assist approximately 1,050-1,500 landowners with funding and technical assistance to restore valuable pollinator habitat while also assisting landowners who want to conduct projects on their own through technical information and guidance (involving over 5,000 landowners)
- E) Involve a wide range of conservation partners in the program, including Master Gardeners, Master Water Stewards, Wild Ones and Blue Thumb Partners
- F) Ensure the long-term success of projects
- G) Establish a pilot effort that can be successful and be expanded into the future

BWSR recognizes that the long-term success of this program will directly correspond to the knowledge and understanding residents have about installing and managing their pollinator habitat projects. As a result, a wide range of organizations/conservation partners will be involved in the program and providing landowner coaching. The Blue Thumb Partnership, which includes 50+ local government agencies, landscape contractors and native plant nurseries, will play a significant role in expanding the scope and impact of the program. The partnership has been working with landowners since 2007 to offer do-it-yourself and train-the-trainer workshops, with technical, design, installation and maintenance assistance to expand awareness, adoption and long term success of raingardens, native plantings, landscape resiliency and turf conversion. The Blue Thumb Partners will be involved in promotion of the program through their outreach networks and Minnesota State Fair exhibit, disbursement of funding to landowners, expanding their residential and train-the-trainer workshop programs state-wide, providing and coordinating landowner coaching and technical assistance and providing matching funds.

To meet the goals of the program, the needs of landowners and the long-term success of projects this program is designed with three components:

- 1) **A competitive RFP for Local Partners to Build Targeted "Demonstration Neighborhoods"** with landowners. Eligible applicants will include cities, counties, watershed districts, conservation districts, tribes and non-profit organizations. They will provide technical and financial assistance to around 300 landowners to establish successful and resilient plantings that build pollinator pathways and provide high quality habitat for at-risk pollinators.

2) **Individual Landowner Support** coordinated by Blue Thumb Partnership that will include two pieces, 1) Native Plant/Pollinator Lawn funding and coaching and/or 2) Workshops, funding and coaching (including twenty landowner and four train the trainer workshops). Funding and/or guidance provided to 700-1200 landowners as well as project recognition through signage. The goals of this component are to establish successful projects that will provide high value to at risk pollinators while increasing neighborhood support for the establishment of pollinator habitat.

3) **A Public Education Collaborative** coordinated through BWSR, the Blue Thumb Partnership and other conservation and education partners, provide impactful outreach to increase momentum for the adoption of residential pollinator habitat and alternatives groundcovers across Minnesota. This component will encourage and assist landowners who want to conduct projects on their own through outreach, technical information and guidance (involving over 5,000 landowners).

## **II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

### **Amendment request 7/11/19:**

An amendment is requested for a one-year legislative extension in order to perform the work needed for this pilot project to succeed.

### **Amendment pending further LCCMR and legislative action as of 7/17/19**

### **Amendment approved by the legislature and governor 6/29/21**

### **First Update March 1, 2020**

The Request for Proposal for the Demonstration Neighborhoods grant closed on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There were 34 applications received and 33 were eligible for funding. The applications went through an approval process and 13 applications were awarded. The total \$400,00 was encumbered for these grantees. The Habitat Guide and three planting templates are complete and online.

The Individual Assistance Support first round of applications closed on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A second round will open in March. There are over 4,600 people who have signed up for Individual Assistance cost share funding. Over 20 presentations conducted reaching 1,500 people. The Coaching webinar is being developed. There have been 10 Train the Trainer workshops, 400 trainers trained. There is a link on their website if someone wants to sign up to be a [coach](#).

A program overview was created for outreach. The development of a communications plan is complete and includes a complimentary communication plan developed by the Minneapolis College of Art & Design. [BWSR](#) and [Blue Thumb](#) have created websites directing landowners to resources and application materials. The marketing firm hired by Blue Thumb assisted with the development of the program's logo and taglines.

### **Second Update September 1, 2020**

The Demonstration Neighborhood grantees completed their eLINK workplans and executed agreements with BWSR. One grantee was unable to move forward due to COVID-19 budget finances. Moving forward there are now 12 grantees that are working with residents in their communities and starting to complete projects.

The Individual Assistance Support second round of applications closed on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Over 2,600 people applied. A third round will take place mid September. A coaching webinar was developed and presented live on ZOOM. We have over 100 volunteer coaches signed up. Project signs were ordered and are sent along with

reimbursement checks for awarded grantees when projects are complete. There has been 1 Train the Trainer workshop reaching 50 people, 17 workshops conducted reaching 900 people conducted on ZOOM.

The public outreach and education campaign is ongoing. Interviews and online presentations are still being requested and conducted through online platforms. Over 126 articles have been published about Lawns to Legumes since the start of the grant. Ecological Gardening Blog was introduced to Individual Support applicants via email and the blog will now be available on the program website. We are continuing to follow the program communications plan and collaborating with MCAD students.

### **Third Update March 1, 2021**

The Demonstration Neighborhood grantees continue to complete their quarterly reporting. They are all at different stages of project implementation.

The Individual Assistance Support grant has held three rounds. Over 7,500 people applied for the grant. Cost share grant recipients have begun requesting reimbursement. Not all grantees spend the entire amount which leaves additional funding to be further distributed.

The public outreach and education campaign is ongoing. Over 7 presentations were given and 1 article interview since the last reporting deadline. The lawns to legumes website has also be updated to further simplify finding program and technical resources.

### **Fourth Update September 1, 2021**

The Demonstration Neighborhood grantees are getting close to completing their projects. They are continuing to provide quarterly reporting and we are hearing there are couple tours lined up for the public to start viewing completed projects. Each grantee is taking innovative approaches to reach their community members to get involved in the program.

The awarded Individual Assistance Support grantees were sent text messages, emails and postcards as a reminder of the upcoming deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. This push was done to ensure reimbursement requests are turned in. After this end date we will be awarding a group of new applicants with unspent funding. The next round ( round 4) will be required to complete their projects in one year.

The public outreach and education are ongoing. We partner with the Environmental Quality Board and Interagency Pollinator Protection Team who provided over 10,000 seed packets for BWSR to pass out at the State Fair and other County Fairs. BWSR is partnering with Blue Thumb and Master Gardeners to help distribute seed packets. The Master Gardeners have mailed packets to other Master Gardener groups in an effort to spread the MN Native seed mix across the state.

### **Fifth Update March 1, 2022**

The Demonstration Neighborhood grantees have been busy wrapping up their 2021 plantings and planning for using unspent funding in 2022. Grantees have shared completed project photos for us to use in presentations.

The Individual Assistant Support grantees deadline was October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. There were completed projects and unfinished projects. The unfinished projects will get rolled back in and be awarded to new grantees come March 2022. At the end of March 2022 we will be awarding more funding to 777 residential residents and requesting projects are completed in 4 months rather than a year. This shorter deadline will add pressure to complete the project and request reimbursement right away.

The public outreach and education component are ongoing. BWSR and Blue Thumb staff recently met with MCAD to further partnership on Lawns to Legumes graphics and outreach. The students will be designing new graphics and short videos for the program to continue gaining public interest as well as guidance on project installation. Working with MCAD at this time is through Lawns to Legumes Phase 2, but will still benefit this original phase of residents.

#### **Budget update 5/18/22**

**\$180 for printing (that was spent) was removed from the project budget and placed on another funding source, since it was not included as part of the original budget for the program. Since this amount was not part of the original budget, the spent money will be credited back to “personnel.” As a result of this change to the staffing budget the balance for the project changed from \$366,516 to \$366,336.**

#### **Sixth Update September 1, 2022**

Demonstration Neighborhood grantees have been busy making progress on projects in 2022 to complete their installations for this pilot phase by fall (see detailed update under Activity 1).

For the Individual Support component of the program we’ve been working to update numbers related to awarded projects and installations. Covid seemed to have an impact on initial installation rates but they are increasing now. This has led us to keep awarded unused funding, though we are on track to meet goals for installed projects for the Individual Support Component. The following is a summary of the awards and completed projects. It should be noted that we also have over 200 projects where residents have done DIY project and mapped their projects. Some of these residents may be people that were awarded but didn’t want to go through the process of requesting reimbursement.

Round 1 (March 2020): 408 awarded  
Round 2 (July 2020): 330 awarded  
Round 3 (March 2021): 112 awarded  
completed projects at end of 2021: 363

Spring 2022 Cohort (March 2022): 778 awarded  
Confirmed Spring Cohort: 602 awarded  
completed projects for Spring Cohort: 314 (should be ~382 once we finish sorting through the last reimbursement requests)

Fall 2022 Cohort (August 2022): 1400 awarded  
Confirmed Fall Cohort: 811 confirmed as moving ahead - (note, some of these residents have been on our application lists for three years leading to the lower number opting in). We have a new application period open for phase two of the program and are requesting past applicants to reapply for this current round.

For the program’s Education and Outreach campaign the following are a few key updates

- Grantee Webinar about Program Logistics (4/6) approx 150 participants
- Grantee Webinar about Creating Pollinator Habitat (4/20) approx 100 participants
- Presentation at Kandiyohi County SWCD Open House (4/21) approx 20 participants
- Interview by PBS Prairie Sportsman – July
- Coaching Celebration (8/10) 24 participants
- Grantee Webinar about Program Logistics (8/30) – 164 participants
- State Fair Exhibit at Eco Experience (August 24-Sept 5) Your Yard Can Bee the Change

#### **Seventh Update March 1, 2023**

We are wrapping up many parts of the pilot phase of the Lawns to Legume Program. Demonstration Neighborhood groups have reported on results in December and these results along with Individual Support recipients have been included in the Pilot Phase Report for the Program. Remaining work this spring will focus on ensuring that installed projects for both Demonstration Neighborhoods and Individual Support components of the program are properly maintained and additional outreach will be conducted to residents working on DIY projects in an effort to further expand the scope and outcomes of the program.

**Amendment/Budget update**

\$400,000 was originally budgeted for the Demonstration Neighborhoods. This amount was reduced to \$387,744 in the budget as not all of the funding was spent by grant recipients and moved to a combination of Travel (\$558) and Printing (\$11,698). The printing funding will include a combination of Lawns to Legumes yard signs and magnets as well as the Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide that was developed for the program as part of the Education and Outreach campaign of the program. We will be working to distribute these materials through the grant period to the extent possible.

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023**

We have complete phase 1 of the Lawns to Legumes Program and developed a Pilot Phase Report that provides detail about the program strategies, outcomes for each program component (education and outreach, Individual Support, and Demonstration Neighborhoods) and next steps for the program.

Amendment/Budget update

Originally \$70,000 was budgeted for staffing and this is amended to be \$69,000. \$400,000 was originally budgeted for the Demonstration Neighborhoods and in our previous amendment this amount was reduced to \$387,744 in the budget as not all of the funding was spent by grant recipients and moved to a combination of Travel (\$558) and Printing (\$11,698). The printing funding was used for a combination of Lawns to Legumes magnets and habitat guides that were developed for the program as part of the Education and Outreach campaign of the program. The contract with Metro Blooms was originally \$430,000 and was amended to \$420,000 as part of this report.

**Summary of Project Outcomes including Individual Support, Demonstration Neighborhood and DIY Self-reported Projects:**

<u>Pollinator Plantings supported and inspired by the Lawns to Legumes Program</u>	<u>Individual Support</u>	<u>Demo Neighborhoods</u>	<u>DIY Self Reported</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Number of pocket plantings:</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>348</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>1,281</u>
<u>Number of pollinator meadows:</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>294</u>
<u>Number of pollinator lawns:</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>278</u>
<u>Number of trees and shrubs:</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>469</u>
<b><u>Total Plantings (All)</u></b>	<b><u>1,262</u></b>	<b><u>541</u></b>	<b><u>519</u></b>	<b><u>2,322</u></b>



<u>area of pocket plantings (sq ft)</u>	<u>182,952</u>	<u>120,156</u>	<u>87,338</u>	<u>390,446</u>
<u>area of pollinator meadows (sq ft)</u>	<u>688,248</u>	<u>869,035</u>	<u>732,897</u>	<u>2,290,180</u>
<u>area of pollinator lawns (sq ft)</u>	<u>470,448</u>	<u>34,984</u>	<u>1,138,756</u>	<u>1,644,188</u>
<u>area of trees and shrubs</u>	<u>35,244</u>	<u>10,947</u>	<u>28,278</u>	<u>74,469</u>
<b><u>Total Area (sq ft)</u></b>	<b><u>1,376,892</u></b>	<b><u>1,035,122</u></b>	<b><u>1,987,269</u></b>	<b><u>4,399,283</u></b>

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

The Lawns to Legumes Pilot Program started in 2019 and has focused on building a movement to protect pollinators in Minnesota. It is the first statewide program in the nation to allow any resident to apply for funding and technical assistance to support pollinator populations. The pilot had \$900,000 of funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund through the Legislative Citizen-Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for program coordination, outreach and providing technical assistance and funding to residents. The program emphasizes the establishment of habitat for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee (a federally endangered species and Minnesota’s State Bee) and other at-risk pollinators that play essential roles in food production and sustaining ecosystems. Large numbers of Minnesota residents and conservation partners collaborated on the effort leading to its success!

**By the Numbers**

1. 12,207 residents applied for assistance from all 87 of Minnesota’s counties.
2. 12 Demonstration Neighborhood project were completed to build pollinator corridors.
3. Around 4.3 million square feet (100 acres) of high diversity urban habitat was planted as part of 2,322 plantings. Over one-quarter of projects were completed in environmental justice areas of Minnesota.
4. Participants contributed about 1.5:1 match for their projects.
5. Nearly 6,000 people participated in program workshops and presentations.
6. Over 140 volunteer coaches were involved.
7. Over 60 local organizations collaborated on the program.
8. 353,373 visits to program webpages.
9. Thousands of DIY projects were inspired and guided by the program.
10. The program pilot developed a strong framework for further engagement of residents to help protect pollinators.

**III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1 Title: Competitive RFP for Local Partners to Build Targeted “Demonstration Neighborhoods”**

**Description:** This component of the program will involve development of a competitive RFP for Local Partners to Build Targeted “Demonstration Neighborhoods” with landowners. Eligible applicants will include cities, counties, watershed districts, conservation districts, tribes and non-profit organizations. They will provide technical and financial assistance to around 300 landowners to establish successful and resilient plantings that build pollinator pathways and provide high quality habitat for at-risk pollinators.

A technical advisory team hosted by BWSR will rank proposals based on:

- A) Location within rusty-patched bumble bee priority areas
- B) Location within or connecting to other key habitat corridors and/or public investments in habitat
- C) Technical Expertise involved in projects
- D) Likely longevity of projects
- E) Strength of partnerships and match
- F) Demographic, social equity, geographic distribution
- G) Potential to build community interest/momentum

A 10% cash or in-kind match will be required for landowners in rusty patch bumble bee priority areas, 25% for out of priority areas.

After grants are made, the recipients will coordinate with landowners to plan, install and provide reimbursements for the pollinator-friendly plantings.

There will be 2.5 years to use funding; if not used within six months prior to the end of the program, the remaining funding will be used for other interested landowners through the Individual Landowner Support component of the program.

Landowners will have access to technical resources developed through Activity #3 of this workplan, including the program guide, and planting templates, as well as signage (part of activity #2) to increase their engagement and knowledge about pollinator plantings.

**ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$450,000 (This number should be \$400,000 to be consistent with budget)**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop grant criteria	Completed
2. Online versions of BWSR Lawns to Legumes Habitat Guide and three planting templates made available that include maintenance guidance to help guide landowners.	November 2019
3. Ten to Fifteen awards (\$20,000 - 40,000 each) for plantings in pollinator pathways (zones/corridors/sweet spots) reaching around 300 landowners.	January 2020
4. Approximately 10-15 Demonstration Neighborhoods established with new plantings within high priority pollinator zones/corridors/sweet spots with a summary included in the final LCCMR report of the final number of landowners involved and estimated acres.	December 2022

**First Update March 1, 2020**

Demonstration Neighborhoods:

Activity 1, #1. The grant criterial were included in the RFP for the program that was sent out in December 2019.

Activity 1, #2. The Habitat Guide is online and published. The three planting templates are complete and shared on BWSR website, mentioned during presentations and outreach.

Activity 1, #3. The RFP for Demonstration Neighborhoods grant closed on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There were 34 applications received and 33 were eligible for funding. The applications went through an approval process and 13 applications were approved for funding. The total \$400,000 was encumbered for these grantees.

Activity 1, #4. The grants were awarded, and the grantees are in the workplan and agreement phase before work begins on their demonstration projects.

**Second Update September 1, 2020**

Activity 1, #4, The Demonstration Neighborhood grantees completed their eLINK workplans and executed agreements with BWSR. One grantee was unable to move forward due to COVID-19 budget finances. Moving forward there are now 12 grantees that are working with residents in their communities and starting to complete projects.

**Third Update March 1, 2021**

Activity 1, #4, The Demonstration Neighborhood grantees are located across the state of Minnesota. In order from North to South the following are:

- Carlton SWCD, Carlton County
- Sherburne SWCD, Sherburne County
- Chisago SWCD, Chisago County
- Anoka SWCD, Anoka County
- City of Brooklyn Park
- Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Minneapolis
- Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, Minneapolis
- Longfellow Neighborhood, Minneapolis
- Scott SWCD, Scott County
- Rice SWCD, Rice County
- Healthy Lake Winona, Winona
- Cottonwood SWCD, Cottonwood County

**Fourth Update September 1, 2021**

Activity 1, #4, Demonstration Neighborhood grantees are continuing to complete their quarterly reporting and are completing projects.

**Fifth Update March 1, 2022**

Activity 1, #4, Demonstration Neighborhood grantees are continuing to complete their quarterly reporting and are completing projects.

**Sixth Update September 1, 2022**

**Activity 1, #4,** Demonstration Neighborhood grantees have been busy making progress on projects in 2022 to complete their installations for this pilot phase by fall.” Of the 12 grantees awarded funding in the pilot phase, 5 applied for and were granted funding for Phase 2. They join 15 new Demonstration Neighborhood grantee organizations that started new projects in May and June of 2022. An online grant management and reporting training was held for these 20 groups in April of 2022, and BWSR staff have met with many of these new grantees individually. BWSR created a Care Guide template that can serve as a Operations and Maintenance Plan for residents participating in the grant to aid in long term care and maintenance. BWSR staff attended a tour hosted by Healthy Lake Winona and their Pleasant Valley Pollinator Corridor in early August. BWSR staff were able to receive feedback about the program and take photos of Demonstration Neighborhood sites.

**Seventh Update March 1, 2023**

Twelve Demonstration Neighborhood projects were funded as part of the pilot phase of the program, and the numbers in the table below represent the planting outcomes for those projects reported by grantees. These projects ran from March 2020 to December 2022. Twenty more Demonstration Neighborhood projects began in May 2022.

<i>Pollinator Planting Practice Type</i>	<i>Demo Neighborhoods-# of Plantings</i>
Number of Pocket Plantings*:	348
Number of Pollinator Meadows:	66

Number of Pollinator Lawns:	29
Number of Beneficial Tree & Shrub Plantings**:	98
<b>Total Plantings (All)</b>	541
<b>Total Area (sq ft)</b>	1,035,121 sq ft or 23.76 ac

*\*Pocket Plantings include Boulevard, Shoreline, Raingarden, and Small Garden Plantings*

*\*\*Total Number of Tree/Shrub Planting Projects, not individual trees/shrubs*

### Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

#### Demonstration Neighborhoods Outcomes:

Twelve Demonstration Neighborhood projects were funded as part of the pilot phase of the program, and the numbers in the table below represent the planting outcomes for those projects reported by grantees. These projects ran from March 2020 to December 2022. Twenty more Demonstration Neighborhood projects began in May 2022 using phase 2 funding.

<u>Pollinator Planting Practice Type</u>	<u>Demo Neighborhoods-# of Plantings</u>
<u>Number of Pocket Plantings*:</u>	<u>348</u>
<u>Number of Pollinator Meadows:</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>Number of Pollinator Lawns:</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Number of Beneficial Tree &amp; Shrub Plantings**:</u>	<u>98</u>
<b><u>Total Plantings (All)</u></b>	<u>541</u>
<b><u>Total Area (sq ft)</u></b>	<u>1,035,121 sq ft or 23.76 ac</u>

*\*Pocket Plantings include Boulevard, Shoreline, Raingarden, and Small Garden Plantings*

*\*\*Total Number of Tree/Shrub Planting Projects, not individual trees/shrubs*

#### **ACTIVITY 2 Title: Individual Landowner Support**

**Description:** This component of the program has two reimbursement and recognition pieces, 1) Native Plant/Pollinator Lawn Funding and Coaching and/or 2) Workshops, Funding and Coaching (including twenty

landowner and four train the trainer workshops). This component will be coordinated through the Blue Thumb Partnership (50+ conservation members that have been conducting landowner workshops since 2007 and have run a Native Plant Reimbursement and Recognition Program). Funding and/or guidance will be provided to 700-1,200 landowners as well as project recognition through signage to all participants. The goals of this component are to establish successful projects that will provide high value to at risk pollinators while increasing neighborhood support for the establishment of pollinator habitat.

Twenty-four workshops to be initiated in the fall of 2019 located at Rochester, Duluth, St. Cloud, New Ulm and Mankato and the Twin Cities, involving 450-500 landowners and 30-40 coaches. Blue Thumb schedules and coordinates workshops, with cost share partners and volunteer Master Gardeners, Master Water Stewards, and Blue Thumb Partners. Their role includes website programming, online and onsite registration and check-in, emails and phone calls regarding registration and workshop questions, email confirmations and reminders as well as technical assistance at workshops. The website they create will also include links to BWSR developed mapping platform of priority areas for Rusty patch bumble bee and other native pollinator priority corridors and functions for data collection and evaluation, auto reminders for landowners, information and links to information including a Lawns to Legumes Habitat Guide and planting templates with maintenance information developed by BWSR.

Workshops include detailed presentations on a variety of pollinator friendly yard practices and do-it-yourself alternative turf installation methods. The 75 minute workshop is followed by 30 minutes for question and answers, and one on one assistance from a volunteer (Master Gardeners and Master Water Stewards).

Homeowners walk away with a personalized plan for incorporating native plants in their yard. Social media included as well as distribution of promotional materials; Includes promotion of the Native Plant Reimbursement grants, and exhibit at MN State Fair.

Technical information such as a Lawns to Legumes program guide and pocket planting templates with maintenance information will be provided to landowners to guide their projects.

Applicants will be eligible for three categories of funding to cover plants, seed, mulch and weed barriers: \$500 when within the rusty patch bumble bee priority areas, \$350 when in secondary pollinator priority areas, and \$150 for other parts of the state. Landowners will be expected to provide at least 25% cash or in kind match.

Signs will also be distributed to landowners who have been provided funding through the program (approx. 1500) as well as some landowners that have conducted projects on their own without funding but are willing to submit images of their projects as well as information about the project location, size of planting and plant species installed.

**ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$450,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Targeted distribution of funding to landowners through Native Plant and Pollinator Lawn Funding and Coaching, 700 - 1,200 applicants to receive funding. (approximately 250 - 400 per year)	June 2023
2. Finalization and printing for workshops of BWSR Lawns to Legumes Habitat Guide and Three pollinator planting templates for “pocket plantings” that include maintenance information.	November 2019
3. Webpage established for landowner participants	January 2020
4. Twenty-four workshops delivered, located at Rochester, Duluth, St. Cloud, New Ulm and Mankato and the Twin Cities, involving 450-500 landowners and 30-40 coaches.	September 2019 – December 2022

5. Coaching calls delivered for all landowners to assess their knowledge and needs related to technical information and additional coaching. Also follow-up coaching calls/check-in.	June 2023
6. Landowner before after images and receipts processed & site visits made by technical experts.	June 2023
7. Approximately 2000 signs distributed	June 2023

### First Update March 1, 2020

Activity 2, #1. First round of applications closed on Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There are over 4,600 people who have signed up. There will two other rounds of drawings for the grant.

Activity 2, #2, The Habitat Guide is online and published. The three pocket planting templates are done and shared on BWSR website, mentioned during presentations and outreach.

Activity 2, #3, The webpage is established and viewable on [BWSR](#) and [Blue Thumb](#) webpages. There have been over 21,000 visits to the BWSR webpage.

Activity 2, #4, Over 20 presentations conducted reaching 1,500 people.

Activity 2, #5, The Coaching webinar is being developed. There have been 10 Train the Trainer workshops, 400 trainers trained. There is a link on their website if someone wants to sign up to be a [coach](#).

Activity 2, #6, This will be collected as the projects are installed.

Activity 2, #7, Request for bids were sent to four companies to get this selection and printing of signs initiated.

### Second Update September 1, 2020

Activity 2, #1. Second round of funding closed on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. There were over 2,600 people who signed up. There will be a third round in mid September 2020 to distribute remaining reimbursement cost share grant recipient funding.

Activity 2, #2. Complete and published on L2L website.

Activity 2, #3. Website is complete. A new layout is underway to provide clear navigation for resources.

Activity 2, #4. There has been 1 Train the Trainer workshop reaching 50 people, 17 workshops conducted reaching 900 people on ZOOM.

Activity 2, #5. Coaching webinar was developed and presented. Over 100 volunteer coaches have signed up across the state. Coaches are paired with grant awardees if requested through a survey sent along with their award email. The survey asks skill level and what assistance they need.

Activity 2, #6. Reimbursement page was created on Blue Thumb website for grantee to submit before/after photos, receipts and match. They are also asked to map their location. Grantees have started to submit receipts. Site visits conducted through virtual calls, email and phone calls.

Activity 2, #7. The printing contractor was chosen by Blue Thumb and signs were purchased. Individual Support signs are being distributed to grantees when projects are complete and reimbursement is approved.

Demonstration Neighborhood signage is being distributed directly to grantees.

### Third Update March 1, 2021

Activity 2, #1. Third round of awarded cost share recipients were sent out end of September 2020. There was a total of over 7,500 people who applied for the Individual Support grant.

Activity 2, #2. The documents are complete and on the website.

Activity 2, #3. The webpage was updated in the fall to further simplify finding resources for grantees and do it yourself project participants.

Activity 2, #4. This has been completed and has received higher attendance due to online webinars.

Activity 2, #5. Coaches are still being requested by cost share recipients. New coaches are still signing up and accessing all items prepared to help guide them in mentoring the cost share recipients.

Activity 2, #6. Ongoing

Activity 2, #7. The Demonstration Neighborhood signage has been distributed. The Individual Support signage is sent to cost share recipients once they submit their reimbursement receipts, match and other items required.

#### **Fourth Update September 1, 2021**

Activity 2, #1. There are currently 851 grantees. There is unspent funding from residents that will go out in another round this fall season.

Activity 2, #2. The documents are complete and on the website.

Activity 2, #3. We have had great feedback from the newly updated and easy to navigate website.

Activity 2, #4. This has been completed. However, new participants can still sign up for ongoing workshops.

Activity 2, #5. Coaches still play a huge role in supporting grantees to complete their project. The application to sign up to be a volunteer coach is still open. We are still in need of coaches in greater MN. There have been continued efforts to guide residents through online communication due to distance or COVID-19 concerns.

Activity 2, #6. Ongoing

Activity 2, #7. Signs are still being sent to grantees who turn in their reimbursement requests. Coaches also received a sign as a thank you for their dedicated service to residents across the state.

#### **Fifth Update March 1, 2022**

Activity 2, #1. End of October 2021 was the close date for existing grant awardees. There were about half the projects installed than awarded. The remaining funding will get rolled into the next round that is being awarded March 2022.

Activity 2, #2. The documents are complete and on the website.

Activity 2, #3. The updated webpage continues to streamline resources for the public and grantees.

Activity 2, #4. This is complete. However, new participants can still sign up for ongoing workshops.

Activity 2, #5. We continue to need coaches and the coaching sign up on Blue Thumb website is still open. We are wanting to retain coaches from year to year and have tried to keep communication going.

Activity 2, #6. Ongoing. We are now using an Adobe Scan for reimbursement that can be accessed through a cell phone app. This Adobe Scan will help make receipts clear and easier to read.

Activity 2, #7. Ongoing. Signs are still mailed to grantees once their reimbursement is complete.

#### **Sixth Update September 1, 2022**

Activity 2, #1. 382 projects were completed for project funded in the spring of 2022. A fall cohort of recipients was awarded in August and 811 recipients are moving ahead with projects to be completed by mid-November.

Activity 2, #2. The documents are complete and on the website.

Activity 2, #3. The updated webpage continues to be streamlined as we've received additional input grant grantees about ways to help them find information. The pages have been reorganized at the following page:

[Lawns to Legumes Pollinators Grant Program – Blue Thumb](#)

Activity 2, #4. This is complete. However, new participants can still sign up for ongoing workshops.

Activity 2, #5. We continue to need coaches and the coaching sign up on Blue Thumb website is still open. We are wanting to retain coaches from year to year and have tried to keep communication going. We've been providing time with Metro Blooms design staff when coaches are not available or when it is most efficient to have questions answered by a designer.

Activity 2, #6. Ongoing. Before and after images and receipts are being processed by Metro Blooms staff as reimbursement requests are made. We expect to complete this phase of the project by December.

Activity 2, #7. Ongoing. Signs are still mailed to grantees once their reimbursement is complete.

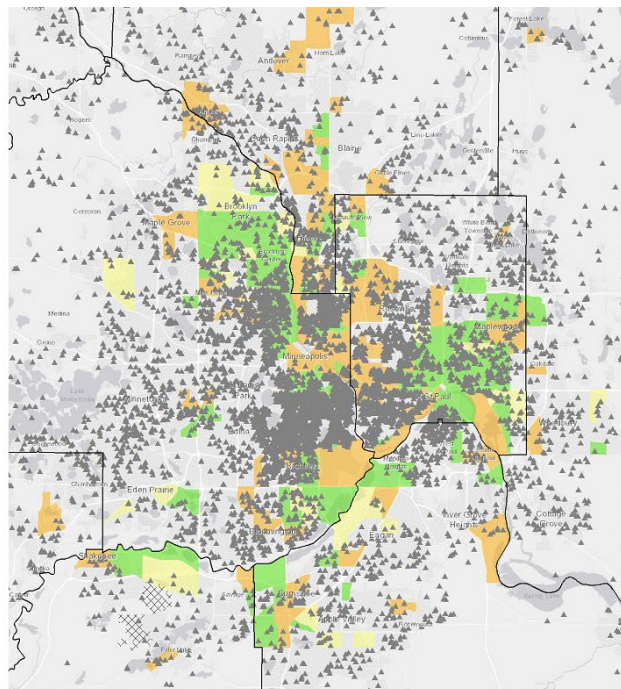
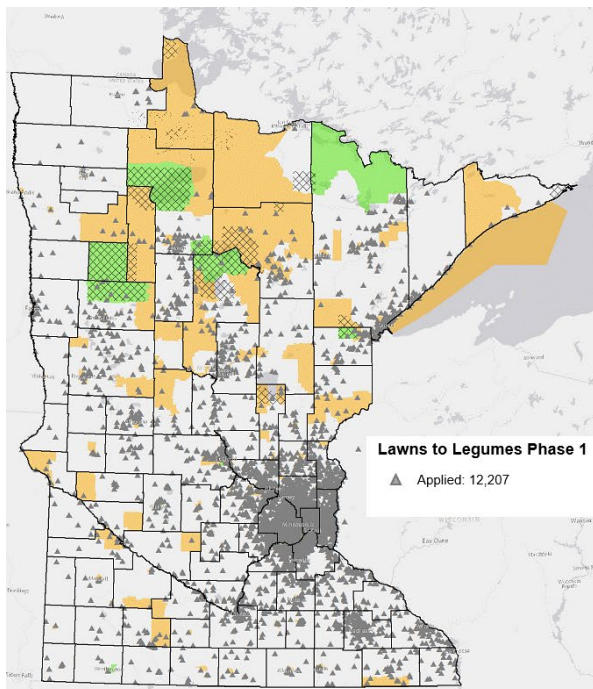
#### **Seventh Update March 1, 2023**

**The following are key outcomes of individual support projects for the Pilot Phase of the program. Primary activity in the spring of 2023 will focusing on ensuring that installed projects are properly maintained.**

<i>Pollinator Plantings supported and inspired by the Lawns to Legumes Program</i>	<i>Individual Support</i>
Number of pocket plantings:	725
Number of pollinator meadows:	144
Number of pollinator lawns:	153
Number of trees and shrubs:	240
<b>Total Plantings (All)</b>	<b>1,262</b>
area of pocket plantings (sq ft)	182,952
area of pollinator meadows (sq ft)	688,248
area of pollinator lawns (sq ft)	470,448
area of trees and shrubs	35,244
<b>Total Area (sq ft)</b>	<b>1,376,892</b>

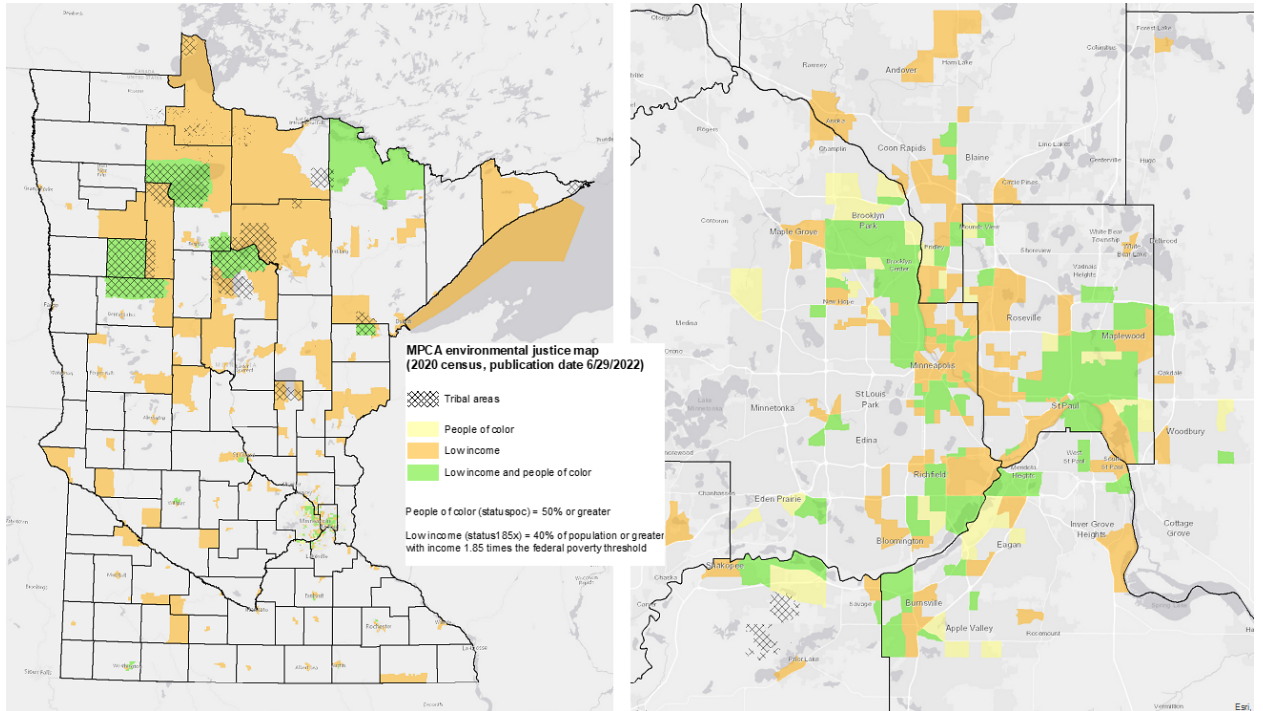
### Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

**Phase 1 Individual Support Program** A total of 12,207 Minnesota residents applied for a \$350 Lawns to Legumes Individual Support Grant Award during the pilot phase. Applications were received from all 87 counties in the [state](#).

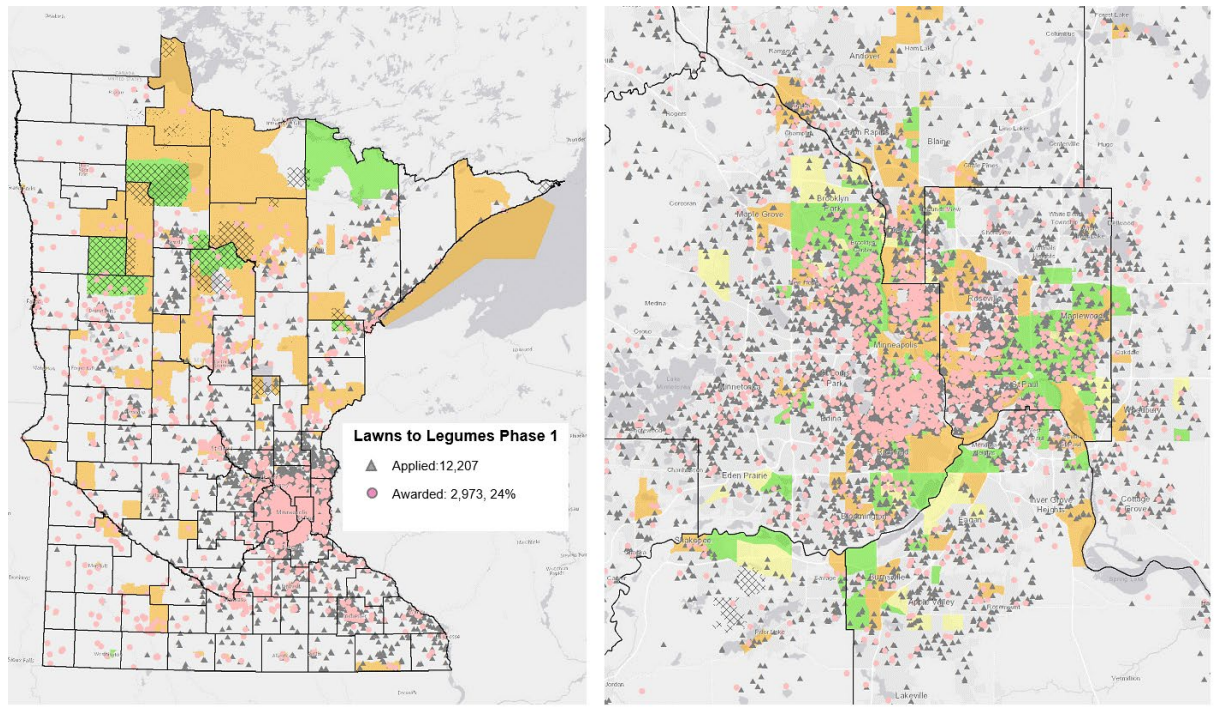




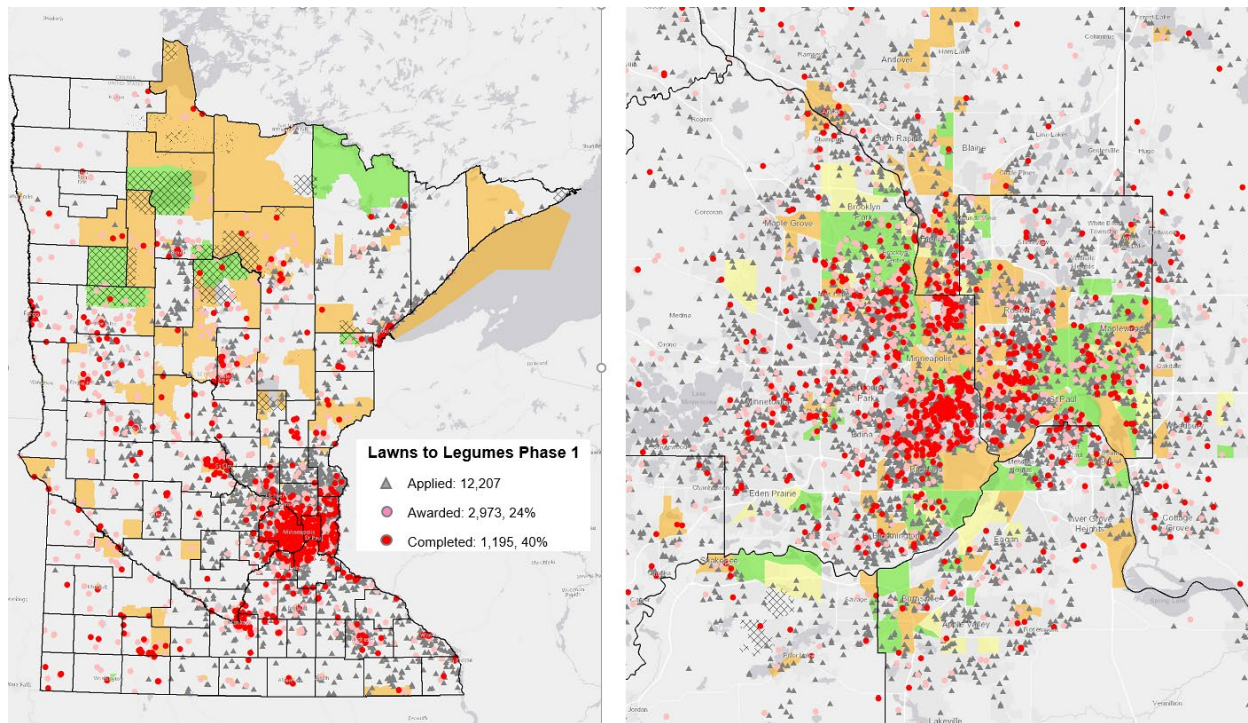
Award ranking provided 3 points for people in Priority 1 areas, 2 points in Priority 2 areas and 1 point anywhere else in the state (based on pollinator habitat goals); and then 1 additional point for anyone in an environmental justice area as shown below.



In 5 different cohorts (groupings of cost-share recipients), a total of 2,973 individuals were awarded a grant (24%). Awarded projects are shown as tan dots in the maps below.



A total of 1,195 residents completed one or more projects in their yard (40% of awarded applicants). Red dots in the map below show completed projects.



Altogether, Individual Support Recipients received reimbursements totaling \$296,870; and they matched their grant award by contributing \$431,082 to their projects (145% match). Fourteen (1.17%) of the participants were renters.

They reported installing 1,376,892 square feet of pollinator plantings, along with 240 trees and shrubs. Note: All the Phase 1 funds were distributed by November of 2022. Additional recipients completed projects as part of the Fall 2022 cohort and are included in the above counts for consistency. They were awarded approximately \$78,000 of Phase 2 funds.

There were a significant number of individuals (519) who did not receive an award, but self-reported that they had used the online resources or were otherwise inspired by the Lawns to Legumes program to install pollinator plantings in their yard. There were (6) individuals who reported completing their project but did not request reimbursement so that we could award those funds to someone else.

**ACTIVITY 3 Title: Public Education Collaborative**

**Description:** Coordinated through BWSR, the Blue Thumb Partnership and other conservation and education partners, provide impactful technical resources and outreach to increase momentum for the adoption of residential pollinator habitat and alternatives groundcovers across Minnesota. This component will encourage and assist landowners who want to conduct projects on their own through outreach, technical information and guidance (involving over 5,000 landowners). Key aspects of this component will include a communications and marketing plan, social media, articles, displays and other communication with landowners as well as promotion of the program habitat guide. These resources will also support components 1 and 2 of this program. Staff time will be provided with non-ENRTF funds. Printing costs for signs and technical information will be paid for with ENRTF funds as part of Activity 2.

**ACTIVITY 3 ENRTF BUDGET: \$0**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Coordination and development of a communications plan to guide this public education collaborative between BWSR, Blue Thumb Partners, and other conservation and education partners to maximize the impact of communications. The communications plan will guide use of social media including Facebook, Instagram Posts, Blog, city and neighborhood newsletters etc. Also attending state fair and other events and writing articles for the Northern Gardener and Conservation Volunteer. Providing impactful outreach to at least 5000 people.	December 2019
2. Collaboration with a marketing firm through the Blue Thumb Partnership and a social marketing class during the fall of 2019 to refine the communications plan and outreach.	December 2019
3. Conduct partner coordinated outreach to the public at least six times a year.	June 2023

**First Update March 1, 2020**

Activity 3, #1 The development of a communications plan is complete and includes a complimentary communication plan developed by the Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD).

Activity 3, #2 The marketing firm hired by Blue Thumb assisted with the development of the program’s logo and taglines. Classes at the MCAD assisted with a communications plan and social media outreach.

Activity 3, #3

- Over 20 presentations conducted reaching 1,500 people
- Teamed up with Minneapolis Community Art & Design students to showcase their pollinator focused artwork and display on social media. BWSR and Blue Thumb have created a website directing landowners to technical resources and grant application materials.
- Posts by Platform, Facebook (14), Twitter (12), Instagram (13)
- Over 12 phone, radio and newspaper interviews reaching local, Midwest and Nationwide audiences.

- Oprah Magazine feature, Circulation 2.4 Million
- 2 online webinars, 200 attendees
- Email Listserv signups, 2933
- State fair launch exhibit, ceremony, signups, and demos

### **Second Update September 1, 2020**

Activity 3, #1. Communications plan is complete

Activity 3, #2. Complete and the MCAD student artwork is being used for social media outreach.

Activity 3, #3.

- There has been 1 Train the Trainer workshop reaching 50 people, 17 workshops conducted reaching 900 people conducted on ZOOM.
- 4 Presentations reaching over 263 people. 2 upcoming presentations in September and October.
- Over 4 phone, radio or newspaper interviews reaching local, Midwest and Nationwide audiences.
- Posts by Platform, Facebook (20), Twitter (24), Instagram (20)

### **Third Update March 1, 2021**

Activity 3, #1. The communications plan is complete.

Activity 3, #2. Complete. The MCAD student artwork was pulled together in a collage as a final thank you to the student artists on social media.

Activity 3, #3.

- Posts by Platform, Facebook (12), Twitter (8), Instagram (7)
- There has been 7 online presentations reaching over 1,639 people.
- There was 1 magazine article interview reaching nationwide audiences.

### **Fourth Update September 1, 2021**

Activity 3, #1. The communications plan is complete.

Activity 3, #2. Complete.

Activity 3, #3.

- Posts by Platform, Facebook (15), Twitter (21), Instagram (11)
- The L2L program received 3 awards in spring 2021. Northern Lights Award of Merit for the L2L Public Outreach Campaign, Environmental initiative Award for Large Scale Sustainability Impacts and U of MN Humphrey School of Public Affairs Government Innovation award.

### **Fifth Update March 1, 2022**

Activity 3, #1. The communications plan is complete.

Activity 3, #2. Complete.

Activity 3, #3.

- Posts by Platform, Facebook (8), Twitter (13), Instagram (5)

### **Sixth Update September 1, 2022**

Activity 3, #1. The communications plan is complete.

Activity 3, #2. Complete.

Activity 3, #3

-Grantee Webinar about Program Logistics (4/6) approx 150 participants

-Grantee Webinar about Creating Pollinator Habitat (4/20) approx 100 participants

-Presentation at Kandiyohi County SWCD Open House (4/21) approx 20 participants

-Interview by PBS Prairie Sportsman – July

-Coaching Celebration (8/10) 24 participants

- Grantee Webinar about Program Logistics (8/30) – 164 participants
- State Fair Exhibit at Eco Experience (August 24-Sept 5) Your Yard Can Bee the Change

**Seventh Update March 1, 2023**

Activity 3, #1. The communications plan is complete.

Activity 3, #2. Complete.

-Airing of PBS Prairie Sportsman Segment February 17th

For the program’s Education and Outreach campaign the following are key outcomes:

- Social Media: Timely posting on Lawns to Legumes deadlines, technical assistance information, workshops, and pollinator planting awareness
  - Statewide following: 1,274 followers on Instagram; 3,339 followers on Facebook
- Implementation of the program’s communications and marketing plan, public presentations, social media, articles, displays and other communication with residents, as well as promotion of the program habitat guide and collaboration with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design students on outreach and graphic communication.

Website visits from Nov. 25, 2019 to Dec. 1, 2022	
Blue Thumb L2L homepage	31,051
Blue Thumb Appy to L2L page	130,146
Blue Thumb Map your project page	14,362
Blue Thumb Grantee information page	15,766
BWSR Lawns to Legumes Websites	145,527
Total of all Lawns to Legumes pages	353,373

- 128 virtual workshops and visits with a designer, webinars, and an online learning series trained 7,956 coaches, participants and the general public about native plants, how to plant for pollinators, install a bee lawn or a raingarden, native plant selection. The DIY approach offers installation tips with direction to resources, plant lists for the Rusty patched bumblebee and Monarch butterflies, design templates, native nurseries, and are found on the Blue Thumb website and the Pollinator Planting Guide and Pollinator Toolkit at the BWSR L2L website.
- We have not been able to fully track the number of DIY projects that have been inspired and guided by the program, but it is likely over 5000 projects and could be much higher.

Workshops (Resilient Yards, Pollinator Lawns, Pollinator Plantings, and Coach Training)	128
Participants	5,745
Public presentations	25
Participants	2,211
Total Education Participants	7,956

As part of the grant amendment \$11,698 is being moved from the Demonstration Neighborhoods component of the program (not all funding was spent by grant recipients) to printing for Lawns to Legumes yard signs and

magnets, as well as the Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide that was developed for the program. These printed materials will enhance the Education and Outreach campaign component of the program. We will be working to distribute these materials through the grant period to the extent possible.

**Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023**

**Public Outreach Campaign Outcomes:**

Key aspects include:

- Social Media: Timely posting on Lawns to Legumes deadlines, technical assistance information, workshops, and pollinator planting awareness
  - Statewide following: 1,274 followers on Instagram; 3,339 followers on Facebook
- Implementation of the program’s communications and marketing plan, public presentations, social media, articles, displays and other communication with residents, as well as promotion of the program habitat guide and collaboration with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design students on outreach and graphic communication.

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- We have not been able to fully track the number of DIY projects that have been inspired and guided by the program, but it is likely over 5000 projects and could be much higher.

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<u>Participants</u>	<u>5,745</u>
<u>Public presentations</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Participants</u>	<u>2,211</u>
<u>Total Education Participants</u>	<u>7,956</u>

In the last several months of the program BWSR printed 30000 program habitat guides and 10,000 Lawns to Legumes magnets and these are being handed out to at program events.

#### **IV. DISSEMINATION:**

##### **Description:**

The final report to LCCMR will summarize the final outcomes of this pilot program. BWSR will also present the results of the program at regional presentations and likely at national conferences.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

##### **First Update March 1, 2020**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo will be mailed to completed project recipients.

##### **Second Update September 1, 2020**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo will be mailed to completed project recipients.

##### **Third Update March 1, 2021**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo will be mailed to completed project recipients.

##### **Fourth Update September 1, 2021**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo will be mailed to completed project recipients.

##### **Fifth Update March 1, 2022**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo will be mailed to completed project recipients.

##### **Sixth Update September 1, 2022**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo will be mailed to completed project recipients.

##### **Seventh Update March 1, 2023**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo will be mailed to completed project recipients.

##### **Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023**

The logo is posted in print materials, presentations, social media and BWSR website. Yard signs with the lawns to legumes logo, MNBWSR and ENRTF logo were be mailed to completed project recipients.

**V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:**

**A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures**

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000:** N/A

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Grant Coordinator: ..10

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 208	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: .10
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Program Coordinator: .11

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 228	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: .11
---	--

**Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: .28**

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 582	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: .28
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**VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding**

Blue Thumb Partnership/Metro Blooms – This partnership consists of over 50 conservation partners working on the topics of planting for water quality, pollinator habitat, soil health and landscape resiliency and is run through the non-profit organization Metro Blooms. The partnership is involved to expand program impact through increased public communication, technical expertise and matching funds.

**B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

**VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:** This is a pilot project that will be establishing a new grant program for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. The agency will seek additional funding sources in the future to maintain the program’s momentum. If there is significant landowner interest in this program it is possible that an additional LCCMR application will be submitted in coming years.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- Project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023

**IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:**

- A. Budget Spreadsheet**
- B. Visual Component or Map**
- C. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**





Attachment A:  
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
 M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet  
 Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08F  
 Project Manager: Dan Shaw  
 Project Title: Lawns to Legumes Program  
 Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources  
 Project Budget: \$900,000  
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 2023  
 Today's Date: 5/24/22

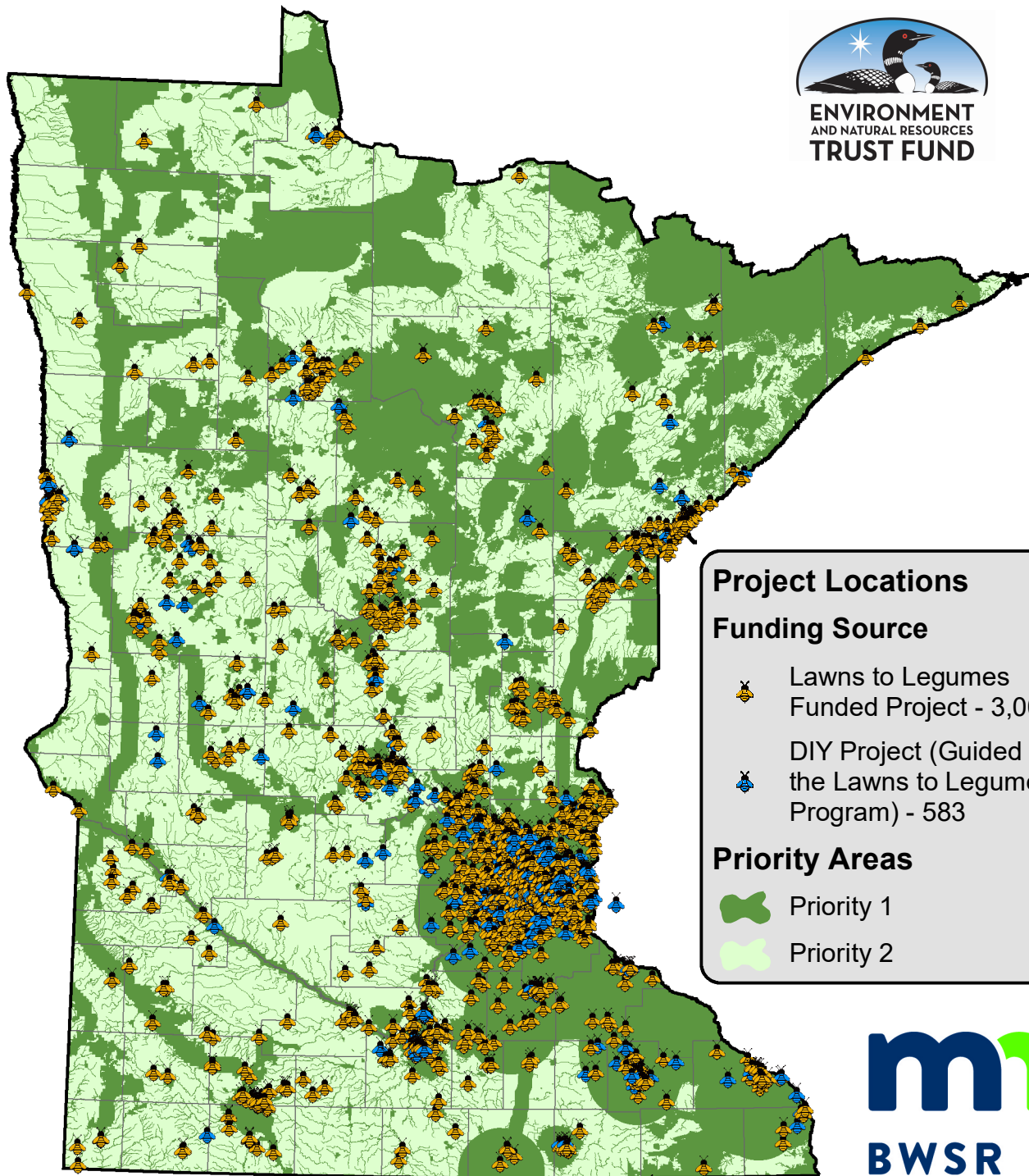



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amended budget	Amount Spent	Balance
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>	\$ 70,000	\$ 69,000	\$ 68,031	\$ 1,969
BWSR Grant Coordinator (78% salary, 22% benefits, 10% FTE), \$25,000	\$ -			\$ -
BWSR Program Coordinator (78% salary, 22% benefits, 11% FTE), \$45,000	\$ -			\$ -
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts</b>				\$ -
Neighborhood demonstrations funding to cities, counties, watershed districts, conservation districts, tribes and non-profit organizations through a competitive RFP to grant funding and work with landowners. 10% match required for landowners in rusty patch bumble bee priority areas, 25% out of priority areas. (Approximately \$77,000 provided as match)	\$ 400,000	\$ 398,744	\$ 398,700	\$ 44
Contract with Metro Blooms (on behalf of the Blue Thumb Partnership) for targeted distribution of funding to landowners through a Individual Support component of the program that will provide reimbursement for native plant and pollinator lawn establishment, as well as project guidance through workshops and coaching. 450-500 landowners to be involved in 20 workshops (also eligible to receive funding) as well as 4 train the trainer workshops. A total of 700-1,200 applicants may attend workshops, receive funding and/or coaching and technical assistance. Funding: \$430,000 will be used for this component of the program with the following breakdown of funding -\$324,430 to be distributed to landowners according to levels outlined in work plan -\$45,000 for coordination of the Individual Assistance Program and landowner recognition. -\$20,000 for 24 workshops, including 4 train the trainer workshops for coaches. -\$27,600 for follow-up landowner coaching and and site visits (300-350 visits). -\$20,000 for recognition signs (2000) to be placed at every project receiving funding and for some projects where landowners restore habitat on their own. -\$1750 for -shipping Recognition Signs (2000) -\$3930 for Printing of technical information for workshops and recognition. -\$4320 Travel to 24 workshops and for site visits Match: Landowners will be provided funding for plants/seed, weed suppression fabric, and woodchips. Landowners will be responsible for installing plants and seeds or hiring a contractor to do this work; as well as the maintenance of projects (this will generally involve at least 25% match based on current industry estimates)(\$79,000 provided as match).	\$ 430,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 419,440	\$ 560
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>				\$ -
<b>Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000</b>				\$ -
<b>Fee Title Acquisition</b>	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Professional Services for Acquisition</b>	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Printing</b>	\$ -	\$ 11,698	\$ 11,318	\$ 380
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b>	\$ -	\$ 558	\$ 194	\$ 364
<b>Other</b>	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 886,171	\$ 3,317

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
<b>Non-State:</b> Local government co-sponsoring of workshops	pending	\$37,000	\$ 37,000	\$ -
<b>Non-State:</b> Blue Thumb Boulevard Program	secured	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ -
<b>Non-State:</b> Minimum 10% for projects in the Rusty patch bumble bee USFWS priority areas; 25% cost-share requirement for projects outside priority areas	pending	\$ 72,000	\$ 401,825	\$ (329,825)
<b>Non-State:</b> 25% match for Individual Support component of program	pending	\$ 86,000	\$ 431,082	\$ (345,082)
<b>State:</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>In kind:</b> Minnesota BWSR Senior Ecologist (9% FTE) of time over three years BWSR has and will be contributing additional time from field, communications, contract, and leadership staff).	secured	\$ 36,450	\$ 36,450	\$ -

PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
<b>Current appropriation:</b> Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 2021-337		\$ 993,000	\$ 5,829,975	\$ 410,024
<b>Current appropriation:</b> Lawns to Legumes Program Phase 2 2020-076		\$ 1,040,000	\$ 422,192	\$ 617,808
<b>Past appropriations:</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

# Lawns to Legumes Project Locations July 2023



This map shows the location of Lawns to Legumes Individual Support (2,431 projects) and Demonstration Neighborhood (571 projects) planting projects for the Pilot Phase and Phase 2 of the program. 

Both projects that were funded (yellow bees - 3,002 projects) and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) projects (blue bees - 583 projects) are represented on the map