

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 22, 2024

## M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

**Project Title:** Lawns To Legumes Program Phase 2

**Project Manager:** Dan Shaw

**Affiliation:** Board of Water and Soil Resources

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**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08m & 20b

**Appropriation Amount:** \$1,040,000

**Amount Spent:** \$1,020,202

**Amount Remaining:** \$19,798

### 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 nearly 3000 high diversity residential plantings covering, 4.6 million square feet, and a large numbers of DIY projects across Minnesota inspired and guided by the program.

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

Phase Two of the Lawns to Legumes Program was extremely successful on building the current momentum to further engage residents across Minnesota to establish pollinator habitat and expands into community parks and school landscapes. Minnesota residents proved that they care about our at-risk insects and are motivated to assist through offering up their own property to establish their habitat. The Individual Support grant received over 26,000 applications, funding was provided, and habitat was created on 2613 parcels of land in Minnesota in Phase 2 of this program. Individual Support recipients contributed \$434,636 in match. Through the competitive Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (2020-076) 5 grants were funded, participants reported implementing 98 projects creating 84,751 square feet of habitat in community and residential places. The grantees for Demonstration Neighborhood also leveraged over \$23,748. We have also seen large numbers of DIY projects being implemented through residents using program

technical resources and participating in the program outreach and education. We have nearly three-quarters of a million visits to the program websites demonstrating the reach and momentum of the program.

#### By the Numbers

1. 26,262 residents applied for assistance from all 87 of Minnesota's counties.
2. Around 4.6 million square feet (105 acres) of high diversity urban habitat was planted as part of nearly 3000 plantings.
3. 40% of the projects were completed in environmental justice areas of Minnesota.
4. Participants contributed about 1.03:1 match for their projects.
5. Nearly 2,500 people participated in program workshops and presentations.
6. Over 350 volunteer coaches were involved assisting nearly 840 grantees
7. A community of practice website called The Hive was established for grantees to support each other.
8. Over 60 local organizations collaborated on the program.
9. Three-quarters of a million visits to program

#### **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



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** November 18, 2024

**ID Number:** 2020-076

**Staff Lead:** Michael Varien

**Project Title:** Lawns To Legumes Program Phase 2

**Project Budget:** \$1,040,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Dan Shaw

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

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**Email:** dan.shaw@state.mn.us

**Web Address:** <https://bwsr.state.mn.us>

### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** October 22, 2024

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** October 22, 2024

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2024

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08m & 20b

**Appropriation Language:** \$118,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for demonstration projects that provide grants or 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.

The following amounts, estimated to be \$880,000, are transferred to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for demonstration projects that provide grants or 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 clause. Grants or payments awarded under this clause 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:

(1) the unencumbered amount, estimated to be \$380,000, in Laws 2016, chapter 186, section 2, subdivision 9, paragraph (b), Minnesota Point Pine Forest Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition; and

(2) the unencumbered amount, estimated to be \$500,000, in Laws 2018, chapter 214, article 4, section 2, subdivision 6, paragraph (d), Developing RNA Interference to Control Zebra Mussels.

**(d) Transfers and Availability**

The transfers under this subdivision are effective June 30, 2021, and the transferred amounts are available until June 30, 2023.

M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 Carryforward; Extensions, (b) The availability of the transfers for the following projects is extended to June 30, 2024: (6) Laws of 2021 First Special Session, chapter 6, article 5, section 2, subdivision 20, paragraph (b), clauses (1) and (2), Lawns to Legumes

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2024

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** Phase Two of the Lawns to Legumes Program builds on current momentum to further engage residents across Minnesota to establish pollinator habitat and expands into community spaces.

**Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

Minnesota's State Bee, the Rusty patched bumble bee, as well as many other pollinators, are at risk and Minnesota residents are motivated to support these species. The Lawns to Legumes Program has received significant attention in Minnesota and nationally as an effective model for benefiting pollinators on residential landscapes and providing other environmental benefits. The first phase of the program established strong partnerships, technical resources and coaches around the state. Having this structure and public awareness in place, as well as a large number of applications submitted statewide for assistance creates a well-timed opportunity to further engage and assist Minnesota communities and residents. In Phase one, the program had funding to support only 13 of 34 Demonstration Neighborhood applications, and many additional communities have expressed interest. There is also strong interest for the Demonstration Neighborhood grant expansion into school and community park landscapes. Over 10,000 applications are expected by late fall of 2020 for the phase one Individual Support component of the program, but current program resources allow only around 1000 applicants to be funded.

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

Phase two of this project builds on program momentum to further engage residents statewide to establish pollinator habitat through funding opportunities and technical assistance. The program has high demand for grant assistance from both Demonstration Neighborhoods and Individual Landowner Support. Phase 2 will help meet the demand for grant assistance from communities and residents by expanding outreach to greater-Minnesota through online workshops and webinars, and expanding Demonstration Neighborhood projects to include community parks and school properties to create larger pollinator corridors and refuge areas.

To meet its goals the program will continue to focus on the following three components:

- 1) A competitive RFP for Local Partners to Build Targeted "Demonstration Neighborhoods" focused on establishing projects across neighborhoods in pollinator corridors that provide high value to the Rusty Patched Bumblebee and other at-risk pollinators. Phase two will expand to provide opportunities to fund pollinator habitat in community parks and schools landscapes.
- 2) Individual Landowner Support provides a combination of cost share funding, workshops, webinars, coaching, signage, and free planting guides to residents across Minnesota.
- 3) A Social Media and Education Campaign partners with conservation organizations across Minnesota to increase awareness about at-risk pollinators and the importance of creating pollinator habitat.

**What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?**

- 1) Increase populations of the endangered Rusty patched bumblebee and other at-risk pollinators.
- 2) Develop Around 5 high profile Demonstration Neighborhood projects that restore important pollinator corridors/pathways and include a combination of residential landscapes and community spaces that build overall interest in ecological landscaping.
- 4) Assist approximately 900 -1,620 landowners with funding and technical assistance while also supporting landowners who want to conduct projects on their own through technical information and guidance (involving over 10,000 landowners).
- 5) Involve a wide range of conservation partners in the program as volunteer Coaches, including Master Gardeners, Master Water Steward

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Statewide

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Statewide

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Competitive RFP for Local Partners to Build Targeted “Demonstration Neighborhoods”

**Activity Budget:** \$227,000

**Activity 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 70 landowners and 4 community spaces 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 and the range of other at-risk pollinators
- 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

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

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Development of grant criteria and request for proposal	November 30, 2021
Award around five projects (\$20,000 - \$40,000 each) for plantings in corridors	March 31, 2022
Distribute Lawns to Legumes pollinator planting signage to Demonstration Neighborhood grantees	January 31, 2024
Approximately 5 Demonstration Neighborhoods established with new plantings within high priority pollinator corridors	June 30, 2024
Collect all required final reporting documentation	June 30, 2024

### Activity 2: Individual Landowner Support

**Activity Budget:** \$806,000

**Activity Description:**

This component of the program is focused on providing a combination of cost share funding, coaching, signage and free planting guides to residents across Minnesota. This component will be coordinated through the Blue Thumb Partnership that has run the Individual Support component of Phase one of Lawns to Legumes. Support will be provided to 900-1620 landowners as well as project recognition through signage to all participants. Residents can apply for up to \$350 of cost-share funding and are expected to provide at least 25% cash or in kind match.

80-100 coaches will be involved in assisting 450-500 residents.

Residential is defined as land or parcels associated with residential occupancy including single family homes, apartments and similar types of multifamily dwellings, as well as community spaces that are apart of or adjacent to these residences. This includes rural residences. Excluded from this definition are agricultural, commercial, industrial or natural lands not

associated with a residence.

Demonstration Neighborhoods will use \$50K and Individual Support will use \$30K from reimbursement requests toward: (M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 06, Art. 05, Sec. 02, Subd. 08m funds available until June 30, 2024). We will spend down the Subd. 20b line items

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Targeted distribution of Individual Support grants to 300 - 540 residents	February 28, 2023
Targeted distribution of Individual Support grants to 300-540 residents	March 31, 2023
Targeted distribution of Individual Support grants to 300-540 residents	August 31, 2023
Lawns to Legumes pollinator planting signs distributed to Individual grantees after reimbursement request submitted.	June 30, 2024
Final collection of Individual Support program reimbursement request items and summary of program report.	June 30, 2024

**Activity 3: Social Media Outreach and Education Campaign**

**Activity Budget:** \$7,000

**Activity Description:**

The Social Media Outreach and Education Campaign involves a partnership with conservation organizations across Minnesota to increase awareness about at-risk pollinators and the importance of creating pollinator habitat. This component will encourage and assist landowners who want to conduct habitat projects on their own through outreach, technical information and guidance (involving over 10,000 landowners). Key aspects of this component will include implementation of the program’s communications and marketing plan, 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. The program outreach resources will also support activity 1 and 2 of this program.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Collaboration with Minneapolis College of Art and Design students on outreach and graphics	June 30, 2022
Conduct partner coordinated outreach to the public at least six times a year	June 30, 2024
Implementation of the program’s communications plan to guide the social media campaign and collaboration between Partners	June 30, 2024



## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Becky Rice	Metro Blooms/Blue Thumb Partnership	The Blue Thumb Partnership consists of 50+ conservation members that have been conducting landowner workshops since 2007 and coordinated the Individual Support component of phase 1. They will continue with the same role in phase 2	Yes

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

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.

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

This project builds upon ongoing work of Lawns to Legumes Phase 1 that includes Demonstration Neighborhoods, Individual Support, and Outreach components. Both Phases of funding will focus on these three components and will overlap efforts in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Phase 2 will fund additional Demonstration Neighborhoods (including expansion into school and park landscapes) and individual residents through the Individual Support Component of the program. Additional funding sources are being pursued to continue Lawns to Legumes as a key BWSR program into the future, as it has a strong structure with its partnerships, technical resources and trained coaches.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Northeast Minnesota White Cedar Restoration - Phase 2	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 06d	\$335,000
Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$392,000
Acceleration of Minnesota Conservation Assistance - Final Phase	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08d	\$1,000,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach and Implementation	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08k	\$6,000,000
Lawns to Legumes	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08f	\$900,000

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>Personnel</b>										
Program Staff		Program Implementation, partner coordination, approval of activities and payments			22%	1.02	X	\$70,056	-	-
Grant Coordinator		Processing and distribution of funding, oversight of grant compliance			22%	0.12	X	\$3,000	-	-
Program Coordinator		Coordination of the Grant Program			22%	1.65		\$59,000	-	-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$132,056</b>	<b>\$129,916</b>	<b>\$2,140</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>										
Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms Partnership	Sub award	Metro Blooms coordinates the Individual Support component of the program including awarding \$578,050 of individual support funding, coordinating with MCAD, coordinating coaching of individual support recipients (\$94,950.00), and printing signs (\$18,500) and shipping (\$1,500) of 1500 signs, and MCAD outreach collaboration (\$6,000)				0.57		\$699,000	\$699,000	-
Grant Funding for Demonstration Neighborhoods Component of Program	Sub award	Demonstration Neighborhood grant recipients (12-18 recipients) are responsible for working with individual residents and community park staff that are part of demonstration neighborhood projects to guide their project planning, installation and management.				1.17		\$120,000	\$120,000	-
Individual Support Component	Sub award	Metro Blooms coordinates the Individual Support component of the program including awarding \$236,120 of individual support funding.(M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 06, Art. 05, Sec. 02, Subd. 08m funds				0.3		\$30,000	\$17,161	\$12,839

		available until June 30, 2024). We will spend down the Subd. 20b line items first.								
Demonstration Neighborhood Component	Sub award	Demonstration Neighborhood grant recipients (12-18 recipients) are responsible for working with individual residents and community park staff (M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 06, Art. 05, Sec. 02, Subd. 08m funds available until June 30, 2024). We will spend down the Subd. 20b line items first.				0.3		\$50,000	\$50,000	-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$899,000</b>	<b>\$886,161</b>	<b>\$12,839</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>										
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	6 trips, 6 hotel nights, 740 miles, 2 people	Travel for program events and outreach including regional operations meeting, native plant and climate adaptation meetings, and project site visits					\$1,944	\$1,944	-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,944</b>	<b>\$1,944</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>										

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>										
	Printing	Printing of approximately 400 habitat guides	Outreach to be used at tabling events for the program					\$2,000	\$2,000	-
	Printing	Lawns to Legumes Stickers (1000)	Outreach at events					\$500	-	\$500
	Printing	2000 brochures	Outreach at events					\$500	\$181	\$319
	Printing	Lawns to Legumes Gardening Gloves	Outreach at events					\$2,000	-	\$2,000
	Printing	Flyers	Outreach at events					\$2,000	-	\$2,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$2,181</b>	<b>\$4,819</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,040,000</b>	<b>\$1,020,202</b>	<b>\$19,798</b>

## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - Program Staff		Program Implementation, partner coordination, approval of activities and payments	<b>Classified</b> : This position is essential to the program to conduct program implementation, and grant oversight for Demonstration Neighborhood recipients. ENRTF funds are not being used to supplant other sources of funds traditionally used to pay for that classified staff salary.
Personnel - Grant Coordinator		Processing and distribution of funding, oversight of grant compliance	<b>Classified</b> : This position is necessary for the project to develop grant agreements and oversee the distribution of grants for Demonstration Neighborhoods. ENRTF funds are not being used to supplant other sources of funds traditionally used to pay for that classified staff salary.

## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>State</b>						
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Non-State</b>						
In-Kind	25% Match from residents for pollinator plantings as part of Individual Support and Demonstration Neighborhood components of the Program	Funding will be used as part of the installation and management of the pollinator plantings.	Pending	\$150,000	\$150,000	-
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	-
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
TBD				-	-	-			
<b>Totals</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>			

## Restoration

**1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.**

Community spaces that are funded through this program will be the areas where ecological restoration activities will be conducted and protected by public ownership. The smaller residential plantings will occur on private property as was conducted as part of phase one of Lawns to Legumes.

**2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.**

A restoration plan template that includes site preparation, installation and management guidance will be developed to be adapted for individual projects will be used for community spaces that will be restored through the program. These plans will be required to be uploaded to BWSR's eLINK reporting system. The plan templates will also act as long-term stewardship plans to provide guidance to landowners for long-term management of the restoration.

**3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.**

Projects will require that high quality native seed and appropriate species are selected for the project and that the seed source sequence, diversity recommendations, seed specifications and climate considerations in the Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines be followed for projects. Seed tags must also be retained for documentation of what seed was installed.

**4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.**

The restoration plan developed for projects will include long-term management guidance. Any projects being restored through the program will be required to sign a stewardship agreement stating that long-term management will be conducted and how the work will be funded in the future.

**5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.**

Conservation Corps of Minnesota's website link will be added to BWSR's Lawns to Legumes website so that program participants can contact them as a resource.

**6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.**

Evaluations of projects will be completed initially after activity completion and three years later to assess goals, identify problems and gather information about successful strategies that can be included in BWSR's What's Working webpage. This evaluation is consistent with site assessments conducted for BWSR funded projects.



## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### Map

File: [ad7711f0-191.pdf](#)

#### Alternate Text for Map

The attached graphic summarizes many of the key program outcomes related to Phase 2 of the Lawns to Legumes Program....

### Supplemental Attachments

*Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
Background Check	<a href="#">7d45b218-915.pdf</a>
Kenwood Plantings	<a href="#">2489266a-89e.jpe</a>
Native Plan vs Cultivar Handout	<a href="#">4814d82c-68e.pdf</a>
Planting Guide update 6.24	<a href="#">3f1ee904-1c5.pdf</a>
Planting Design Guide	<a href="#">8c811059-de0.pdf</a>
Tree List	<a href="#">2683887c-c61.pdf</a>
RPBB Plant guide	<a href="#">9ae5f4ae-7aa.pdf</a>
Shoreland Planting Guide	<a href="#">59aee910-37b.pdf</a>
Soils Handout	<a href="#">8031b9a6-07c.pdf</a>
Winter Sowing handout	<a href="#">b32eb96a-0a6.pdf</a>
Phase 2 project outcome graphic	<a href="#">927a8b1d-883.pdf</a>
2020-076 Phase 2 Abstract	<a href="#">37485106-b9a.docx</a>

### Media Links

Title	Link
Anoka CD Pollinator Projects	<a href="https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=d1e76c3d808743c1b149bde24c990894">https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=d1e76c3d808743c1b149bde24c990894</a>
Carnelian Marie St. Croix Projects	<a href="https://eastmetrowater.org/2024/02/15/resource-highlight-blue-thumb-planting-for-clean-water/">https://eastmetrowater.org/2024/02/15/resource-highlight-blue-thumb-planting-for-clean-water/</a>
Como Council Projects	<a href="https://district10comopark.org/l2l/">https://district10comopark.org/l2l/</a>
Lawns To Legume Promotion Pioneer Press	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UnJw6hXhQo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UnJw6hXhQo</a>
Sierra Club Article	<a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/slideshow/inside-rise-bee-lawns">https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/slideshow/inside-rise-bee-lawns</a>
Mendota Heights New Release	<a href="https://www.mendotaheightsmn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=124&amp;ARC=294">https://www.mendotaheightsmn.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=124&amp;ARC=294</a>
Mendota Heights News release	<a href="https://mendotaheightsmn.gov/429/Restoration-and-Conservation-Projects-Si">https://mendotaheightsmn.gov/429/Restoration-and-Conservation-Projects-Si</a>
St. Croix Wild Ones chapter training -Dan S.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7XgoXoUe7s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7XgoXoUe7s</a>
L2L Grantee Guide Webpage	<a href="https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/grantee-guide/">https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/grantee-guide/</a>

## Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

### Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

This workplan is very similar to BWSR's workplan for Phase 2 of Lawns to Legumes (993,000 appropriation) but reflects an updated budget for the transferred \$998,000. A higher percentage of funding is being directed to the demonstration neighborhoods compared to individual support projects as compared to the workplan for the \$993,000. This workplan also removed direct reference to "school landscapes" as part of the demonstration neighborhood projects to use the

more generalized terminology of "community spaces". Duplication of match sources was removed from this workplan that overlapped with the workplan for Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 (\$993,000 appropriation) to avoid counting the match twice.

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

N/A

**Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

## Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination</li> <li>• Activities and Milestones</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> </ul>	There was more funding available than grantee requests for Demonstration Neighborhoods. The unused funding totaling \$406,000 was shifted to Individual Support component to increase small grant availability and increase coaches for grantees. The small grant for Individual Support is now \$350 (was \$300) to maintain consistency with the pilot phase and help with rising costs of materials.	May 27, 2022	Yes	June 15, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Narrative</li> <li>• Activities and Milestones</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> </ul>	Grant end date was extended to June 30th 2024 by the legislature; milestone end date changes were made for milestones under Activity 1, 2 and 3 so end dates of Individual support grants, demonstration neighborhoods and the education and outreach campaign would align with this timeframe.	October 7, 2022	Yes	October 28, 2022
3	Completion Date	<p>Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2023</p> <p>New Completion Date: 06/30/2024</p>	The legislature approved an extension date until June 30, 2024 and this extension will allow us to get appropriations and projects on the same schedule; and allow sufficient time for Demonstration Neighborhoods to complete projects.	October 4, 2022	Yes	October 5, 2022
4	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative</li> <li>• Budget - Personnel</li> <li>• Activities and Milestones</li> </ul>	Outcome numbers were adjusted in the narrative and under "Activities and Milestones" to reflect the decreased number of Demonstration Neighborhoods funded through this workplan and the increased number of individual support recipients to be funded (These changes correspond with budget adjustments made in the 5-27-2023 amendment request).	March 31, 2023	Yes	May 9, 2023

			Edits were also made in the personnel budget to combine funding amounts for positions that were listed more than once.			
5	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Attachments</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Budget - Personnel</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Travel and Conferences</li> <li>• Budget - Printing and Publication</li> </ul>	We added budget category for travel at the amount of \$1944 to cover expenses related to hotel stays and vehicle use to a regional operations meeting native plant and adaptation meetings and site visits. The staff budget was decreased by \$1944 to compensate for the adjusted budget.	August 13, 2024	Yes	October 7, 2024

# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update August 14, 2024

**Date Submitted:** August 13, 2024

**Date Approved:** October 7, 2024

### Overall Update

Phase Two of the Lawns to Legumes Program was extremely successful on building the current momentum to further engage residents across Minnesota to establish pollinator habitat and expands into community parks and school landscapes. Minnesota residents proved that they care about our at-risk insects and are motivated to assist through offering up their own property to establish their habitat. The Individual Support grant received over 26,000 applications, funding was provided, and habitat was created on 2613 parcels of land in Minnesota in Phase 2 of this program. Individual Support recipients contributed \$434,636 in match. Through the competitive Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (2020-076) 5 grants were funded, participants reported implementing 98 projects creating 84,751 square feet of habitat in community and residential places. The grantees for Demonstration Neighborhood also leveraged over \$23,748

### Activity 1

5 Demonstration Neighborhood Grants were completed installing 98 projects creating 37,269 sq ft of habitat on residential and community spaces and leveraged \$23,748 in match .

1)Anoka Conservation District has fully expended their \$20,000 grant on the installation of 22 projects

2)Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District has expended \$37,496.55 on installation of 19 projects for over 26,000sq.

3)The Como Community Council has expended \$27,002.71 They have installed a total of 17 gardens, creating nearly 4500 sq feet of habitat installed

4)The Kenwood Neighborhood Association has fully expended either \$40,000. They have created 4,117 square feet of habitat through the installation of 21 small gardens

5)The City of Mendota Heights has expended all of their funding and have installed 3,052 square feet of habitat through 21 projects 17 were at private residence, 3 at public parks, and 1 on school grounds.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 2

- Total number of residents who completed Individual Support projects: 1306.5
- Total square feet of new pollinator habitat: 1,966,669 (45.1 acres)
- Total square feet of pocket plantings: 267,930.5 (8.44acres)
- Total square feet of pollinator lawn plantings: 670,127 (15.38acres)
- Total square feet of trees/shrubs planted (estimated 9 square feet per tree or shrub): 26,275.1 (0.60 ac)
- Total square feet of pollinator meadow planted: 924,657 (21.2 acres)

Total square feet of shoreline planted:3954 (0.098 acres)

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 3

The following is a summary of social media and presentations that occurred during the last reporting cycle.

Facebook:

Total posts: 8

Total reach: 75,615

Twitter/X:

Total posts: 4

Total impressions: 782

Instagram:

Total posts: 4

Total reach: 1096

Developed new program promotion materials, which included, 2 tabling banners, 625 promotional gardening gloves, 1,000 vinyl stickers, 4550 L2L project installation signs, 550 planting guides, 10,000 native seed packets (joined a DNR order), 625 L2L promotional gardening gloves.

- Promoted Lawns to Legumes at the Minnesota State Fair, an event with approximately 1.8 million attendees
- Featured in the Pine County Journal promoting the L2L program

Presented at a State Wide MPCA meeting to discuss the program and its accomplishments

Presented at a local U of M Master Gardener's training ' about the L2L program and how to install gardens

Attended the National Forum on Climate Adaptation and talked to many people about the L2L program in Minnesota.

Is invited to present at the Missouri Department of Conservation meeting to discuss how the L2L program works.

### **Dissemination**

The ENRTF logo is being included on program outreach materials and the yard signs for the program. There continues to be high interest in this program from other states and researchers and we are working to keep them updated about the status of the project including challenges, outcomes and next steps. We are summarizing program outcomes on the program's webpage.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** April 1, 2024

**Date Approved:** April 2, 2024

### Overall Update

Lawns to Legumes continues to have strong momentum as a program and resulting in a long list of program outcomes for projects that are funded as well as DIY projects that are guided by the program. The program continues to be on track to meet overall goals of increasing pollinator populations and we've received many reports of pollinators including the Rusty Patched Bumblebee benefitting from projects. 5 demonstration neighborhood projects were funded through this workplan and they are working on completing their projects this spring. The fall cohort of individual support residents completed their projects resulting in an additional 617 installed projects.

### Activity 1

There are five Demonstration Neighborhoods working through this workplan. The following is a summary of recent activity:

Anoka Conservation District has fully expended their \$20,000 grant. The District built on the momentum created with their initial 2020 Demonstration Neighborhood grant. 22 pollinator projects were installed.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=d1e76c3d808743c1b149bde24c990894>

-Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District has expended \$22,455 on installation of 17 projects.

<https://eastmetrowater.org/2024/02/15/resource-highlight-blue-thumb-planting-for-clean-water/>

.-The Como Community Council has expended \$23534. They have installed a total of 17 gardens in the South Como Neighborhood which a majority of them belong to underrepresented groups in the community.

<https://district10comopark.org/l2l/>

-The Kenwood Neighborhood Association has encumbered and/or expended their \$40,000 grant. This group will be planting their final community pollinator garden this spring.

-The City of Mendota Heights has expended all of their funding and have installed 21 projects; 17 were at private residence, 3 at public parks, and 1 on school grounds.

### Activity 2

For Individual Support Grants Coordinated by Blue Thumb the following are Fall 2023 Cohort Metrics that have occurred during this reporting cycle:

- Total number of residents who completed Individual Support projects: 617
- Completion rate: 69%
- Total square feet of new pollinator habitat: 799,398 (18 acres)
- Total square feet of pocket plantings: 108,135 (2.5 acres)
- Total square feet of pollinator lawn plantings: 288,458 (6.5 acres)
- Number of trees/shrubs planted: 796
- Total square feet of pollinator meadow planted: 399,253 (9 acres)
- Total square feet of shoreline planted: 3,553

### Activity 3

The following is a summary of social media and presentations that occurred during the last reporting cycle.



Facebook:

Total posts: 3

Total reach: 22,539

Twitter/X:

Total posts: 2

Total impressions: 164

Instagram:

Total posts: 1

Total reach: 588

- Northeast Beekeepers Association presentation (March)(100 people)
- Southeast Beekeepers Associations(March)(45 people)
- Chisago Master Gardeners Garden Expo Key Note (March)(250 people)

### **Dissemination**

The ENRTF logo is being included on program outreach materials and the yard signs for the program. There continues to be high interest in this program from other states and researchers and we are working to keep them updated about the status of the project including challenges, outcomes and next steps. We plan to develop fact sheets for the pilot phase and phase 2 of this program summarizing outcomes.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** October 9, 2023

**Date Approved:** January 17, 2024

### Overall Update

The program has been very popular with the public as a way for them to participate in the conservation of pollinators through funded projects and DIY projects that are guided and inspired by the program. The program continues to be on track to meet overall goals of increasing pollinator populations and we've received many reports of pollinators including the Rusty Patched Bumblebee benefitting from projects. 5 demonstration neighborhood projects were funded through this workplan and they are making progress on their grants. A fall cohort of individual support residents is currently working on projects with a November 30th deadline for completing installation.

### Activity 1

In March of 2022 21 Demonstration Neighborhood grants were awarded funding of \$638,587 as part of the two phase 2 workplans. The following five 2022 Demonstration Neighborhood grantees were awarded \$167,475 in total through this workplan.

-Anoka Conservation District has fully expended their \$20,000 grant. The District built on the momentum created with their initial 2020 Demonstration Neighborhood grant. 22 pollinator projects were installed.

-Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District has encumbered \$22,455 for 16 projects, all of which are planned to be completed in quarter 3.

.-The Como Community Council has expended \$19,742. They have installed 5 addition boulevard gardens in the South Como Neighborhood which a majority of them belong to underrepresented groups in the community.

-The Kenwood Neighborhood Association has expended \$31,716.00 as of their quarter two progress report. This group will be planting a community pollinator garden this fall.

-The City of Mendota Heights has expended all of their funding and have installed 21 projects; 17 were at private residence, 3 at public parks, and 1 on school grounds.

### Activity 2

For Phase 2, we have had 1,400 residents successfully complete projects (as of 9/27). This has been a total of 2,280 projects, 958 days of in-kind time spent on projects, and \$417,773.78 match dollars spent on projects. Totals for habitat created in phase 2 is 56.54 acres plus 4,050 native trees and shrubs planted.

### Activity 3

Around 1,000 residents attended Lawns to Legumes workshops in August to get them started on project.

### Dissemination

The ENRTF logo is being included on program outreach materials and the yard signs for the program. There continues to be high interest in this program from other states and researchers and we are working to keep them updated about the status of the project including challenges, outcomes and next steps. We plan to develop fact sheets for the pilot phase and phase 2 of this program summarizing outcomes.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** March 30, 2023

**Date Approved:** May 9, 2023

### Overall Update

The program continues to be on track to meet overall goals of increasing pollinator populations through projects that are funded and DIY projects that are inspired by the program. We've received many reports of pollinators including the Rusty Patched Bumblebee benefitting from projects. 5 demonstration neighborhood projects were funded last spring through this workplan and are making progress on their projects to build pollinator corridors and we are starting to use phase 2 funding for individual support projects with 1600 new projects underway. A new application period is also open for projects to be funded in the summer of 2023. The education and outreach campaign also continues to connect with a large number of residents across the state.

### Activity 1

In March of 2022 21 Demonstration Neighborhood grants were awarded funding of \$638,587 as part of the two phase 2 workplans. The following five 2022 Demonstration Neighborhood grantees were awarded \$167,475 in total through this workplan.

- Anoka Conservation District has fully expended their \$20,000 grant. The District built on the momentum created with their initial 2020 Demonstration Neighborhood grant by targeting more residents and community groups in more neighborhoods. 22 pollinator projects were installed.
- Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District is still in the project development and coordination phase of their project.
- The Como Community Council has expended \$13,860.31 as of their last progress report. They have installed 3 bee lawns and 6 pollinator pocket plantings at residences and at a recreation center and hosted 3 pollinator workshops and 2 community input sessions.
- The Kenwood Neighborhood Association has expended \$31,716.00 as of their last progress report. This group has planted 20 pollinator pocket plantings at residences and at an elementary school.
- The City of Mendota Heights has expended \$36,499.50 and partnered with Metro Blooms to engage residents and to create 18 pollinator gardens. Projects were also completed at 2 parks and a middlef

### Activity 2

As part of a spring cohort of Individual Support Grantees we have 1600 residents moving ahead with projects. Two workshops were held in late winter to guide these residents with their project. New gardeners are being lined-up with coaches and other residents requesting assistance are being coordinated with designers to answer their questions.

### Activity 3

The following is a summary of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter posts.

#### FACEBOOK

UMN article (just posted; numbers will change):

<https://www.facebook.com/MNBWSR/posts/pfbid02kLuxQ2ozWcfo5WzD5acBeshUU3RvgQynRT2ADeRsc4x9xJhtreKGh hFaoJ4Cq3Nrl>

Pheasants and Pollinators/Prairie Sportsman (post reached 484):

<https://www.facebook.com/MNBWSR/posts/pfbid0MYpLCXFRGEcY9TzRnzxyF1QF8iiTWEtYFnRXXeZgSUuVfMphEydisx9Z N5bxrvHsl>

Pheasant Fest booth mentioned in words introducing Star Trib article (reached 256):

<https://www.facebook.com/MNBWSR/posts/pfbid02nHQAgNBrjXaNDvyh65MJb212U1uZZLUqZ9R2kGcDfPGavDUDWC6joTYtitoHAVrUI>

L2L grant application deadline reminder (reached 786):

<https://www.facebook.com/MNBWSR/posts/pfbid0n3rmFdrsD3ZBPmupSzRVutQKuAKab5zrzwn9EQAuUyerTUeCHSPCd g826SJEUJrWI>

#### INSTAGRAM:

Pheasant Fest/BWSR booth: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CovJySJ3nW/>

Pheasant Fest/Prep for BWSR booth: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CotRYIEMpSw/>

Mentioned in roundup of top posts of 2022: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CnDpYyWsnB1/>

Mentioned in Top 9 Instagram posts of 2022 (ran in January): <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cm-YUWFJDmU/>

#### TWITTER:

2/18: Mentioned in connection w/Pheasant Fest booth (post reached 705 viewers):

<https://twitter.com/MNBWSR/status/1626977044708876290>

2/17: Pheasant Fest booth setup mentions L2L (post views: 750):

<https://twitter.com/MNBWSR/status/1626647593215266837>

2/16: Mentioned in connection w/Prairie Sportsman episode (post views: 462):

<https://twitter.com/MNBWSR/status/1626313539295014912>

2/15: In connection w/Pheasant Fest prep (post

#### **Dissemination**

The ENRTF logo is being included on program outreach materials and the yard signs for the program and the ENRTF is mentioned as the funding source as part of presentations.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** October 6, 2022

**Date Approved:** October 28, 2022

### Overall Update

The program continues to be on track to meet overall goals of increasing pollinator populations through projects that are funded and DIY projects that are inspired by the program. We've received many reports of pollinators including the Rusty Patched Bumblebee benefitting from projects. 21 demonstration neighborhood projects were funded this spring and are making progress on their projects to build pollinator corridors and we are starting to use phase 2 funding for individual support projects. A new application period is also open for projects to be funded in the spring. The education and outreach campaign also continues to connect with a large number of residents across the state.

### Activity 1

In March of 2022 21 Demonstration Neighborhood grants were awarded funding of \$638,587. Six of these groups were previously funded through the pilot phase of Lawns to Legumes. These groups have all been building their partnerships, working with residents and making progress with their efforts through the summer and are wrapping up fall planting projects. They have grant reporting due to BWSR by October 10th so we will have updated information about the progress of individual groups and planting projects; followed by additional reporting at the end of December.

### Activity 2

As part of a fall cohort of Individual Support Grantees we have 811 residents moving ahead with projects. These residents will be funded through a combination of pilot phase funding and phase 2 Lawns to Legumes funding. Two workshops were held in early September to guide these residents with their project. New gardeners are being line-up with coaches and other residents requesting assistance are being coordinated with designers to answer their questions. We've been working to increase our installation rates for this phase of the project and have started using a new strategy and set of resources for this cohort including:

Updated Strategies and Resources for Helping L2L Recipients Finish Projects. A new application period also opened at the beginning of the State Fair and will be open through mid-January. Around 2000 residents will be selected for a spring cohort.

### Activity 3

For the program's Social Media and 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
- Presentation to Mankato Rotary group 9-21
- MPR Article and Radio Interview 9-27

### Dissemination

The ENRTF logo is being included on program outreach materials and the yard signs for the program. There continues to be high interest in this program from other states and researchers and we are working to keep them updated about the

status of the project including challenges, outcomes and next steps. We plan to develop fact sheets for the pilot phase and phase 2 of this program summarizing outcomes.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** May 27, 2022

**Date Approved:** June 15, 2022

### Overall Update

The Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood grant recently closed the request for proposals. The L2L Advisory Team reviewed applications and the BWSR board approved funding the 20 recommendations. The Individual Support component awarded over 700 grantees in March and has held workshops directing grantees on next steps. The Outreach and Education component is currently working with MCAD students on marketing materials. There continues to be requests for presentations statewide and the BWSR and Blue Thumb website have helped to provide technical resources.

### Activity 1

Early Fall 2021 the request for proposal (RFP) was completed. The RFP opened on November 2, 2021 and applications were accepted through February 3rd, 2022. An inter-agency review team ranked the eligible applications on March 2nd, 2022 and recommended applications for funding. There were 20 applications that were determined to be eligible and approved at BWSR March 23rd, 2022 board meeting. Grantees are currently working on their workplans in eLINK.

### Activity 2

In March 2022 over 700 grantees were awarded \$350 in funding to complete a pollinator planting. Their deadline for installation is July 15th, 2022. There have been 2 coaching workshops conducted by Blue Thumb which were workshops teaching the grantees how to build their project and complete reimbursement. We were proposing to provide \$300 dollar cost-share grants to residents as part of phase 2 of the program but decided to provide \$350 to maintain consistency with the pilot phase and decrease confusion. \$350 also helps compensate for rising costs of materials, fuel and other costs.

### Activity 3

Progress has been made with MCAD students and they are currently working on promotional videos and graphics for the Lawns to Legumes program.

### Dissemination

The following is a summary of recent program presentations/outreach

- Presentation to USFWS regional staff 12-22-2021 (audience:40)
- Demonstration Neighborhoods Webinar for potential applicants 1-7-22 (audience 22)
- House Environmental Policy and Finance Hearing 2-15-22 (audience:unknown)
- Resident Webinar 3/17 (audience:200 and webinar posted on website)
- Coach Training Webinar 3/30 (audience: 30)
- Grantee Webinar - Program Logistics 4/6 (audience: 220)
- Grantee Webinar – Creating Pollinator Habitat 4/20 (audience:140)
- Presentation at Kandiyohi County SWCD Open House 4/21 (audience:30)

Facebook: 8 posts

Twitter: 13 posts

Instagram: 6 posts

Articles and blogs:

Backyard Bounty: Planting for pollinators

Planting for pollinators: 5 paths to neighbor-to-neighbor connections