

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 22, 2024

## M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

**Project Title:** Lawns to Legumes Program - Phase II

**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. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08p

**Appropriation Amount:** \$993,000

**Amount Spent:** \$909,463

**Amount Remaining:** \$83,537

### 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

The Lawns to Legumes Pilot Program started in 2019 and has focused on building a movement to protect pollinators in Minnesota for the last 5 years. 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 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 (2021-337)15 grants were funded, participants reported implementing 279 projects creating 642,496 square feet (14.75ac) of habitat in community and residential places. The grantees for Demonstration Neighborhood also leveraged \$111,468 in matching funds. 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 for Phase 2

1. 26,262 residents applied for assistance through Individual Support grants 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 1:1 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. Around three-quarter of a

### **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. 2021 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** November 21, 2024

**ID Number:** 2021-337

**Staff Lead:** Michael Varien

**Project Title:** Lawns to Legumes Program - Phase II

**Project Budget:** \$993,000

### 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. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08p

**Appropriation Language:** \$993,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to provide grants, cost-sharing, and technical assistance to plant residential lawns, community parks, and school landscapes with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators. Notwithstanding subdivision 13, paragraph (e), this appropriation may be spent on pollinator plantings on lands with a long-term commitment from the landowner.

**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 parks and school landscapes.

**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 13-16 high profile Demonstration Neighborhood projects that restore important pollinator corridors/pathways and include a combination of residential, school and community park landscapes that build overall interest in ecological landscaping.
- 4) Assist approximately 900 -1,300 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 Stewards, etc.

## 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:** \$567,156

**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 330 landowners and 13 schools or community parks to establish 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 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 thirteen to sixteen projects (\$20,000 - \$40,000 each) for plantings in pollinators	March 31, 2022
Distribute Lawns to Legumes pollinator planting signage to Demonstration Neighborhood grantees	December 31, 2022
Approximately 13-16 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:** \$418,984

**Activity Description:**

This component of the program is focused on providing a combination of cost share funding, workshops, 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 800-1,300 landowners as well as project recognition through signage to all participants. Landowners can apply for up to \$350 of cost-share funding and are expected to provide at least 25% cash or in kind match.

Thirteen online workshops will be initiated in the fall of 2021 focused on Rochester, Duluth, St. Cloud, Moorhead, Brainerd, Bemidji, Albert Lea, Worthington, New Ulm and Mankato, and other greater Minnesota communities to be identified, involving 450-500 residents and 80 – 100 coaches. The 75 minute workshop is followed by 30 minutes for question and answers, and one-on-one assistance from a volunteer coaches (Master Gardeners and Master Water

Stewards). Homeowners come away with knowledge about establishing pollinator habitat and a personalized plan for incorporating native plants in their yard. Two statewide webinars will also be conducted with an estimated audience of 1000 participants.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Targeted distribution of Individual Support grants to 300-400 residents	March 31, 2022
Targeted distribution of Individual Support grants to 300-400 residents	June 30, 2022
Statewide webinars and 6-7 workshops across greater Minnesota for 250 residents and 40 coaches	September 30, 2022
Statewide webinar and 6-7 workshops across greater Minnesota for 250 residents and 40 coaches.	September 30, 2023
Lawns to Legumes pollinator planting signs distributed to Individual grantees after reimbursement request submitted.	December 31, 2023
Targeted distribution of Individual Support grants to 300 - 400 residents	December 31, 2023
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:** \$6,860

**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. These resources will also support activity 1 and 2 of this program.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
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, Grant oversight, approval of activities and approval of payments			22%	0.51	X	\$36,064	-	-
Program Coordinator		Coordination of the Grant Program			22%	0.81		\$59,000	-	-
Grant Coordinator		Processing and distribution of funding			22%	0.12	X	\$1,552	-	-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$96,616</b>	<b>\$96,616</b>	<b>-</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 \$307,000 of individual support funding (\$62,413), conducting 13 workshops and 2 webinars (\$15,000); coordinating coaching of individual support recipients (\$18,000), and printing signs (\$19,500) and shipping (\$1,500) of 2000 signs				0.78		\$427,385	\$410,387	\$16,998
Grant Funding for Demonstration Neighborhoods Component of Program	Sub award	Demonstration Neighborhood grant recipients (12-15 recipients) are responsible for working with individual residents, schools and community park staff that are part of demonstration neighborhood projects to guide their project planning, installation and management.				0.99		\$444,644	\$385,533	\$59,111
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$872,029</b>	<b>\$795,920</b>	<b>\$76,109</b>
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										

	Tools and Supplies	Native Seed packet for distribution at upcoming promotional events	To promote the Lawns to Legumes by getting residents to install more native plants					\$5,879	\$5,879	-
	Tools and Supplies	Tabling Banner for upcoming promotional events with the ENRV logo	To promote the Lawns to Legumes at upcoming outreach events					\$2,000	\$619	\$1,381
	Tools and Supplies	Promotional items (eg.tote bags, hand shovels) for upcoming tabling events	To promote the Lawns to Legumes Program at upcoming outreach events					\$10,000	\$5,106	\$4,894
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$17,879</b>	<b>\$11,604</b>	<b>\$6,275</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	Three trips to visit project sites with partners, two staff, 240 miles.	Program Coordination with SWCD and Watershed District Staff					\$400	\$191	\$209
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$191</b>	<b>\$209</b>
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>										
	Printing	2000 brochures	Outreach at events					\$76	\$76	-
	Printing	Lawns to Legumes signs	Signs will be used to promote the L2L program on installed residential projects					\$6,000	\$5,056	\$944
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$6,076</b>	<b>\$5,132</b>	<b>\$944</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>										

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$993,000</b>	<b>\$909,463</b>	<b>\$83,537</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, Grant oversight, approval of activities and approval of 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	<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>						
In-Kind	General Fund Appropriation to BWSR (citation to be determined)	MN 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	Pending	\$36,450	\$36,450	-
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$36,450</b>	<b>\$36,450</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Non-State</b>						
In-Kind	City of Minneapolis	City of Minneapolis sponsored Blue Thumb workshops	Secured	\$79,000	\$79,000	-
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.	Secured	\$292,500	\$292,500	-
In-Kind	City of Minneapolis	Blue Thumb boulevard planting program	Secured	\$174,000	\$174,000	-
In-Kind	Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water Partners	Sponsorship of Lawns to Legumes Workshops	Secured	\$23,000	\$23,000	-
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$568,500</b>	<b>\$568,500</b>	<b>-</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$604,950</b>	<b>\$604,950</b>	<b>-</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
				-	-	-			
<b>Totals</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</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.**

Public schools and parks 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 and developed to be adapted for individual projects will be used for the public school and park landscapes 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: [b8303e8c-719.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 Certification Form	<a href="#">2f7d12e2-a0f.pdf</a>
Summary of Individual Support and DIY Projects Completed	<a href="#">9a4c659f-b0e.xlsx</a>
Summary of Demonstration Neighborhood Projects Completed	<a href="#">13ab3133-53e.xlsx</a>
2024 Lawns to Legumes Presentation with current outcomes	<a href="#">eddc5afa-cff.pptx</a>
24 Legislative power point	<a href="#">c3c604cc-b7b.pptx</a>
Individual Support project list	<a href="#">926395e5-193.xlsx</a>
Demonstration Neighborhood Project list	<a href="#">77520e12-d7d.xlsx</a>
Carlton SWCD Project pics	<a href="#">9e2fb694-69b.jpe</a>
Native Plants vs Cultivars handout	<a href="#">5205cf19-132.pdf</a>
Grantee Guid	<a href="#">3a64abb6-d8b.pdf</a>
Pollinator Tree Handout	<a href="#">ba839e62-f05.pdf</a>
Pollinator Design Guide	<a href="#">f31eb197-982.pdf</a>
RPBB Plant list	<a href="#">7c27133c-b94.pdf</a>
Shoreland Planting Guide	<a href="#">8bfa27da-f86.pdf</a>
Soils handout	<a href="#">6400599b-39a.pdf</a>
Talking to your neighbor	<a href="#">265daab5-d20.pdf</a>
Winter Sowing	<a href="#">5389a89e-a42.pdf</a>
Phase 2 Final Outcomes graphic	<a href="#">db03df1e-782.pdf</a>
Abstract for 2021-337	<a href="#">b7c18f5b-82c.docx</a>

### Media Links

Title	Link
Crystal Waters Project	<a href="https://www.crystalwatersproject.org/2023-pollinator-projects/">https://www.crystalwatersproject.org/2023-pollinator-projects/</a>
Hamline Project	<a href="https://hamlinemidway.org/news/hmec/beeline/">https://hamlinemidway.org/news/hmec/beeline/</a>
Trust Public Land (Brooklyn Center)	<a href="https://www.tpl.org/our-work/lawns-to-legumes">https://www.tpl.org/our-work/lawns-to-legumes</a>
L2L Grantee Guide	<a href="https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/grantee-guide/">https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/grantee-guide/</a>
Leverage d Program	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/lawns-2-legumes-program-minneapolis-st-cloud/">https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/lawns-2-legumes-program-minneapolis-st-cloud/</a>

General Fund	
L2L program promotion	<a href="https://www.dglobe.com/news/local/lawns-to-legumes-grant-applications-now-accepted">https://www.dglobe.com/news/local/lawns-to-legumes-grant-applications-now-accepted</a>
BWSR Blog what we have learned	<a href="https://mnbwsr.medium.com/lawns-to-legumes-at-5-what-weve-learned-about-protecting-pollinators-53d67be7f9ff">https://mnbwsr.medium.com/lawns-to-legumes-at-5-what-weve-learned-about-protecting-pollinators-53d67be7f9ff</a>
Accepting Applications	<a href="https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/news/local/bwsr-accepting-applications-for-lawns-to-legumes-projects/article_b116246e-c522-11ee-9570-675f55d470ac.html">https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/news/local/bwsr-accepting-applications-for-lawns-to-legumes-projects/article_b116246e-c522-11ee-9570-675f55d470ac.html</a>
Lawns to Legumes Garden Tour	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BlueThumbMN/posts/pfbid02nH9RPGfNm1nnweNgbdDMw4WpjfbeZkmXCPerQajaSoAgLNuwpkJKxYnKw4uPvK8el">https://www.facebook.com/BlueThumbMN/posts/pfbid02nH9RPGfNm1nnweNgbdDMw4WpjfbeZkmXCPerQajaSoAgLNuwpkJKxYnKw4uPvK8el</a>
Garden Tour summer 2024	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/C-nHUKsMmeX/?img_index=1">https://www.instagram.com/p/C-nHUKsMmeX/?img_index=1</a>

## Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

Original funding request was \$1,389,000. The new recommend funding is \$993,000, which is a \$396,000 reduction ( 28%). The items that were changed are the following:

1. Demonstration neighborhood grant component of the program can now fund between 12-15 grants (15-20 was listed in the original application). Grants available would be \$20K - \$40K (grants of \$40K - \$60K were listed in the original application). The original amount in the application for demonstration neighborhoods was \$770,000. The new amount is \$490,000 ( \$280,000 reduction, 36% reduction).
2. Individual Support grant can now fund between 800 – 1,300 people (1100-1600 was listed in the original application). Grants available are \$300 (was \$350 in the original application). Webinars were reduced from three to two. The original amount for Individual Support grants was \$489,000 and is now \$402,000 ( \$87,000 reduction, 18% reduction).
3. BWSR staff time has been reduced from original amount of \$127,000 to a new amount of \$98,000 ( \$29,210 reduction, 22.8% reduction).

## 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>• Budget</li> <li>• Activities and Milestones</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Printing and Publication</li> <li>• Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List</li> </ul>	The amount of \$21,413 was moved from Demonstration Neighborhoods to Individual Support. This amount was not awarded to Demonstration Neighborhood grantees and will instead go toward Metro Blooms coordination, outreach and coaching for the Individual Support grants, as an additional \$406,000 is being transferred to Individual Support grants through our other Phase 2 appropriation and this funding will go out to residents as grants.	May 27, 2022	Yes	June 15, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Information</li> <li>• Budget</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Budget - Printing and Publication</li> <li>• Budget - Personnel</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Travel and Conferences</li> <li>• Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed</li> <li>• Attachments</li> </ul>	The staffing budget was decreased by \$1448, and the printing budget by \$2524 as current printing needs have been met. The budget for contracting was increased by \$3972 to cover additional workload of Metro Blooms to distribute individual support grants to residents as this part of the program has been popular. A new budget item was added for travel of \$400 to cover tabling outreach efforts.	February 13, 2024	Yes	February 19, 2024
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</li> <li>• Budget - Printing and Publication</li> </ul>	Requesting to move \$23,600 from the Demonstration Neighborhoods and create a category for upcoming promotional events (\$17,600) and to purchase signs (\$6,000) at sites where projects were completed. This amount (\$23,600) was not requested for reimbursement by a Demonstration Neighborhood grantees, due to staff turnover amongst project partners.	April 18, 2024	Yes	May 14, 2024

4	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget - Personnel</li> <li>• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts</li> <li>• Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</li> <li>• Budget - Travel and Conferences</li> <li>• Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed</li> <li>• Attachments</li> </ul>	<p>Due to a need to align BWSR finance budgets with the LCCMR budget we needed to increase the staffing amount by \$64. We also increased the amount of purchased native seed from \$5600 to \$5879 ( \$279) to cover the full cost of the seed order. To compensate for these increased costs we decreased the budget for Demonstration Neighborhood grants by \$343 as some of this funding was unspent.</p>	August 14, 2024	Yes	October 7, 2024
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# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update August 14, 2024

**Date Submitted:** August 14, 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 (2021-337) 15 grants were funded, participants reported implementing 279 projects creating 642,496 square feet (14.75ac) of habitat in community and residential places. The grantees for Demonstration Neighborhood also leveraged \$111,468 in matching funds. We've also seen large number of DIY projects being implemented through residents using program technical resources and participating in program outreach and education. We've had around three-quarters of a million visits to program websites demonstrating the reach and momentum of the program.

### Activity 1

The 15 Demonstration Neighborhood grantees, reported to have installed over 279 projects, creating over 642,496 square feet of habitat in residential and community spaces. This included, 65,008.0sq. ft of Pocket Planting 7,200sq ft of Pollinator Lawns, 7963 sq ft. of Tree/Shrub Planting, 547,962 sq ft of pollinator meadow and 14,280sq ft of shoreline planting. , Over 50% of the Demonstration Neighborhood grants were fully expended, however based on the nature of voluntary habitat conservation on residential property , some of the grantees returned unused funds. This grant program proved to be very successful in creating a community spaces and community of practice activities, specifically in Environmental Justice Areas.

*(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

#### 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**

see the attachments tab.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update June 1, 2024

**Date Submitted:** April 18, 2024

**Date Approved:** May 14, 2024

### Overall Update

Phase 2 of the program (for this Lawns to Legumes workplan in the spring of 2022 with new demonstration neighborhood projects started. Phase 2 Individual Support projects were started in the fall of 2022. This was followed by funding additional Individual Support projects in the spring of 2023 and summer/fall of 2023 having around 2600 new Minnesota residents working on projects in 2023. 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 and guided by the program's education and outreach campaign. The education and outreach campaign also continues to connect with a large number of residents across the state

### Activity 1

Demonstration Neighborhood Groups working under this workplan include the Armatage Neighborhood Association, Bassett Creek Water Management Commission, City of Boyd, City of Brooklyn Park, Carlton SWCD, Chisago SWCD, The Crystal Waters Project, The Hamline Midway Coalition, Kanabec SWCD, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, Olmsted SWCD, Scott SWCD, South St. Louis SWCD, The Trust for Public Land, Washington Conservation District. Of the 15 grantees listed on this workplan the total allocation is \$471,112.00 to date, \$294,661.00 is spent ( 6 grants are closed out) \$176,451 remaining.

Of the 6 grants that are closed out, just under 70 pollinator projects were in installed.

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

### Activity 2

The following are phase 2 Individual Support Outcomes

Spring 2023 and Fall 2023 Cohorts

- Total number of residents who completed Individual Support projects: 1,835
- Total square feet of new pollinator habitat: 2,653,984 (61 acres)
- Total square feet of pocket plantings: 351,140 (8 acres)
- Total square feet of pollinator lawn plantings: 1,097,322 (25 acres)
- Total square feet of trees/shrubs planted (estimated 9 square feet per tree or shrub): 37,116 (0.85 acres)
- Total square feet of pollinator meadow planted: 1,199,203 (28 acres)

Total Phase 2 (Fall 2022 through Fall 2023 cohorts)

- Total number of residents who completed Individual Support projects using phase 2 funding: 2,128
- Total square feet of new pollinator habitat: 3,137,287 (72 acres)
- Total square feet of pocket plantings using phase 2 funding: 408,252 (9.4 acres)
- Total square feet of pollinator lawn plantings using phase 2 funding: 1,250,795 (28.7 acres)
- Total square feet of trees/shrubs planted (estimated 9 square feet per tree or shrub): 41,580 (1 acre)
- Total square feet of pollinator meadow planted using phase 2 funding: 1,471,922 (33.8 acres)

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

### Activity 3

The following are outreach numbers since the April Report

Facebook:

Total posts: 8



Total reach: 17,308

Twitter/X:

Total posts: 15

Total impressions: 10,361

Instagram:

Total posts: 3

Total reach: 1,010

Total # of news articles printed about L2L: 29

Misc. outreach activities of note:

- Developed new program “swag,” which included magnets, vinyl stickers, outreach postcards
- Promoted Lawns to Legumes at the Minnesota State Fair, an event with approximately 1.8 million attendees
- Upcoming feature in Landscape Architecture Magazine
- Refreshed partner website: <https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/>

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

### **Dissemination**

The ENRTF logo is being included on program outreach materials and the yard signs for the program. As phase 2 of the program gets closer to completion we are planning to develop fact sheets for phase 2 of this program summarizing outcomes.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update December 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** February 2, 2024

**Date Approved:** February 19, 2024

### Overall Update

Phase 2 of the program (for this Lawns to Legumes workplan in the spring of 2022 with new demonstration neighborhood projects started. Phase 2 Individual Support projects were started in the fall of 2022. This was followed by funding additional Individual Support projects in the spring of 2023 and summer/fall of 2023 having around 2600 new Minnesota residents working on projects in 2023. 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 and guided by the program's education and outreach campaign. The education and outreach campaign also continues to connect with a large number of residents across the state

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- Total number of residents who completed Individual Support projects using phase 2 funding: 2,128
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- Promoted Lawns to Legumes at the Minnesota State Fair, an event with approximately 1.8 million attendees
- Upcoming feature in Landscape Architecture Magazine
- Refreshed partner website: <https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/>

### **Dissemination**

The ENRTF logo is being included on program outreach materials and the yard signs for the program. As phase 2 of the program gets closer to completion we are planning to develop fact sheets for phase 2 of this program summarizing outcomes.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update June 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** June 1, 2023

**Date Approved:** June 26, 2023

### Overall Update

We started focusing on phase 2 of the program (for this Lawns to Legumes workplan with funding of new demonstration neighborhood projects in the spring of 2022, but we also started funding phase 2 individual support projects in the fall of 2022. This was followed by funding additional Individual Support projects in the spring of 2023 having 1600 new Minnesota residents working on projects. 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 and guided by the program's education and outreach campaign. The education and outreach campaign also continues to connect with a large number of residents across the state.

### Activity 1

In March of 2022, twenty organizations were awarded L2L Demonstration Neighborhood grants. These grants range between \$20,000 to \$40,000, and are used by grantees for community projects on residential properties, community spaces, and educational landscapes and are intended to enhance pollinator habitat in key corridors, raise awareness for residential pollinator protection, and showcase best practices. \$638,587.00 was awarded to these grantees. As of May 2023, \$302,272.35 had been expended. Grantees' project statuses range from full completion to planning/just getting started. Grantees have until 2024 to fully utilize their grants.

Groups working under this workplan include the Armatage Neighborhood Association, Bassett Creek Water Management Commission, City of Boyd, City of Brooklyn Park, Carlton SWCD, Chisago SWCD, The Crystal Waters Project, The Hamline Midway Coalition, Kanabec SWCD, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, Olmsted SWCD, Scott SWCD, South St. Louis SWCD, The Trust for Public Land, Washington Conservation District.

### Activity 2

304 residents completed Individual Support projects in the fall of 2022 using phase 2 funding. These projects resulted in 31 acres of new pollinator habitat. This included:

Pocket planting: 58278 square feet

Pollinator Lawn: 154297 square feet

Trees/Shrubs: 496 (around 9 square feet estimated per tree or shrub)

Pollinator meadow: 272718 square feet

1600 residents also accepted awards for new Individual Support grants in March of 2023 and are currently working on projects.

### Activity 3

For the program's Education and Outreach Campaign the following are a few key updates.

- Press release announcing awards of spring individual support grants 4/13
- Talking with the U article about the Lawns to Legumes Program 4/20
- Interview for radio programming on multiple stations 4/24
- Lawns to Legumes Kickoff event webinar 2/21 267 unique attendees including 660 views on Youtube
- Lawns to Legumes Kickoff event webinar 2/28 253 attendees

**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 December 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** December 1, 2022

**Date Approved:** December 16, 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 and guided by the program. We've received many reports of pollinators including the Rusty Patched Bumblebee benefitting from projects. 21 demonstration neighborhood projects were funded in the spring of 2022 with Phase 2 funding and they have made significant progress with projects through the summer and fall completing over 80,000 square feet of plantings. 811 residents were also awarded funding through the Individual Support part of the program in August (257 were funded with phase II funding). 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. The following are key outcomes following their reporting: 106 Individual Projects, 81,707 square feet of projects, 77 native pocket plantings, 9 pollinator meadows, 6 pollinator lawns, 14 trees and shrubs and \$83,856 of match funding contributed.

### Activity 2

As part of a fall cohort of Individual Support Grantees 811 residents moving ahead with projects and were 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 projects. New gardeners were lined-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. Fall Participants were required to confirm acceptance of award and given shorter time period to finish projects (4 months vs. unlimited time). 1,400 participants were selected, 811 grantees confirmed participation in the program, and 463 (57%) completed and 185 (23%) requested an extension into spring. Of the completed projects this fall 257 were completed using phase II funding (\$78,236). The projects resulted in the following outcomes:

Pocket planting: 189, 47,649.35 SQ FT

Pollinator Lawn: 54, 45,403.56 SQ FT

Trees/Shrubs: 82

Pollinator meadow: 42,

### Activity 3

For the program's Social Media and Education and Outreach Campaign the following are a few key updates.

-Interview by PBS Prairie Sportsman – July

-Coaching Celebration (8/10) 24 participants

- Grantee Webinar about Program Logistics (8/30) – We had 118 Fall 2022 Grantees attend our first workshop (grant logistics) and 321 views of the recording afterwards.

We had 125 Grantees attend our second (project implementation), and 258 views of the recording afterwards.

-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

Facebook (since June 1):

- 9 total posts
- 231 total post likes
- 52,606 total post impressions
- 49,375 total post reach
- 4,998 total post engagements

Twitter (since June 1):

- 12 total posts
- 6,399 total post impressions
- 269 total post engagements

### **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 June 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** May 27, 2022

**Date Approved:** June 15, 2022

### Overall Update

The Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood grant recently close for 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 Metro Blooms 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

Development of grant criteria and request for proposal was completed in October 2021. The RFP opened on November 2nd, 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 (for all individual support grants through is appropriation starting with funding that will be awarded this summer) 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