

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 7, 2024

M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Restoring Turf to Native Pollinator Gardens Across Metro

Project Manager: Maryann Passe

Affiliation: Wilderness in the City

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Website: <https://www.wildernessinthecity.org/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08I

Appropriation Amount: \$197,000

Amount Spent: \$197,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Turf to Pollinator Gardens Project transformed six areas of turf grass into diverse pollinator plantings in parks across the metro. The gardens serve as demonstration sites to inspire park visitors to restore some of their home yards to pollinator beneficial native plantings.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Across the state, high-quality pollinator habitat has been declining, contributing to our current pollinator crisis. In the metro region, nature-based regional parks meant to preserve quality natural areas have seen land transition to mowed turfgrass or otherwise lose their diversity of native plants, limiting available food sources and nesting sites for native pollinators. We saw an opportunity to work directly with community members to restore native plants to regional parks through pollinator gardens designed to inspire all park visitors to create space in their home landscapes to support pollinators.

The completed gardens in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Maplewood, Eagan, and Coon Rapids add up to 50,000 square feet of new pollinator habitat in areas that were previously turfgrass and other invasive species. Over the course of installing

the gardens, we hosted 37 planting and maintenance events that engaged around 550 community volunteers of all ages. Among these volunteers were students from 4 different schools and 5 youth employment programs. Beyond the in-kind time contributed by volunteers, our project partners contributed nearly \$60,000 in matching funds and staff hours to enhance the parklands with pollinator habitat.

These new gardens may have a small footprint in comparison to the size of the regional parks, but their installation in highly visible areas of the parks brings park visitors closer to the beauty of our Minnesota native plants and pollinators. Between the highly designed nature of the gardens and the educational signage with information on where you can go to learn more, we hope that park visitors will feel inspired to join the movement of reintroducing native plants to their landscape. Supporting native plants in our parks, neighborhoods, and communities has a lasting and restorative effect on soil and water quality and improves habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Design and planting templates were created in partnership with Blue Thumb Partners, Park Staff, and in the case of Keller Lake, Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi staff. Educational signage to highlight the plants in the garden and techniques for planting for pollinators at home were created and installed. Primary promotion of the project was through active social media posts, including accounts of park partners, blog posts, and webpages established on the Wilderness in the City and Metro Blooms' websites.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 18, 2024

ID Number: 2020-078

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: Restoring Turf to Native Pollinator Gardens Across Metro

Project Budget: \$197,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Maryann Passe

Organization: Wilderness in the City

Office Telephone: (612) 414-1667

Email: maryannp@wildernessinthecity.org

Web Address: <https://www.wildernessinthecity.org/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: October 7, 2024

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: October 7, 2024

Project Completion: June 30, 2024

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08I

Appropriation Language: \$197,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Wilderness in the City to transition turf to native gardens for pollinator habitat, establish long-term volunteer stewardship networks, and help connect diverse populations with nature throughout the metropolitan regional park system. A letter of commitment from the respective regional park implementing agency must be provided before money from this appropriation is spent at a regional park within the agency's jurisdiction.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Six to ten .25-acre or larger resilient gardens throughout the metropolitan regional parks system will be planned, planted, and maintained involving stewardship volunteers, including underserved populations

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

The environmental problem we are proposing to address is the decline in high-quality habitat for critical pollinators, which has led to our pollinator crisis. Here in the metro region we have a Nature-based regional parks system which was wisely established by the legislature to preserve and protect the highest quality natural areas in the metro region. Ironically, over the course of several decades, extensive areas throughout this nature-based parks system have been transitioned into mowed turf, at times imitating the landscape of a soccer field complex. Turf lawns, while welcoming for our bare feet, provides virtually no habitat for pollinators and other animals and plants that are required for a healthy, diverse ecosystem. In fact, these lawns can do substantial harm to the environment. The enemy of Bees Butterflies and Birds shouldn't be our Nature-based regional parks - these places should be their safe havens -- and this is where we see an critical and timely opportunity throughout expansive lawns of the regional parks system.

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.

Our project will increase habitat in the metro area using the best available science to transition ecologically degrading turf into pollinator friendly habitat in the form of resilient native gardens. In addition the gardens will serve to engage, educate and inspire people of all backgrounds to take on similar projects in their own yards or local parks. In other words, each of the ten gardens will serve as "seeds" for future gardens outside regional park boundaries, resulting in increased high quality pollinator habitat throughout the metro region.

For our project, we will partner with up to ten regional park agencies, native landscape professionals and ecological consultants, to restore turf lawns at regional parks throughout the metro area with native flora and fauna to attract bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Establishment of these interactive and inspiring gardens will be based on the best available science and will be strategically placed in highly visible locations to improve the ecology of the park and also to enrich visitor experiences. Additionally, we will engage diverse communities to be part of the planting and ongoing stewardship events for these gardens.

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?

Specifically, our project will increase in high quality pollinator habitat throughout the metro region. Additional benefits include:

- Informed public will more likely support initiatives and policies to improve habitat
- Engages underserved populations and helps to build awareness of regional parks (which is #1 barrier to visitation)
- Creating communities of stewards for ongoing care of the gardens.
- Immerses kids in a natural setting and thereby establishing roots for future environmental stewards

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Site-Planning for six to ten .25-acre (minimum) Pollinator Gardens with Regional Park Agencies and Native Landscape Professional Services.

Activity Budget: \$45,800

Activity Description:

Starting in Dakota County, we will work with up to ten regional park agencies on garden site selection and, in consultation with native landscape professionals, determine native plant selection, areas for wildlife and bird concentration, bee-lawn alternative turfs, and/or edible plants.

Park agencies: Anoka Co, Carver Co, Dakota Co, Scott Co, Washington Co, City of Bloomington, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Saint Paul and Ramsey Co, and Three Rivers Park District.

Through RFP, contract for professional services, including with Conservation Corp MN, for site prep including hydrology review, soil, geology, topography and other relevant factors that will provide the best chance for long-term success and durability of the restoration project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
3 garden sites selected in coordination with Regional Park Agencies and native landscape designers	April 30, 2022
5 garden sites selected in coordination with Regional Park Agencies and native landscape designers	April 30, 2023
2 garden sites selected in coordination with Regional Park Agencies and native landscape designers	April 30, 2024

Activity 2: Public Engagement and Underserved Community Outreach Plans for Planting and Maintaining Pollinator Gardens

Activity Budget: \$30,000

Activity Description:

Develop a public engagement and underserved community outreach plan. Build a volunteer database for each garden and use various communication channels (local bulletin boards, social media, personal outreach, etc.) to establish engaged volunteers to help plan, plant, and maintain each garden.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
For 3 gardens, develop and implement a community outreach plan and build a volunteer database.	May 31, 2022
For 5 gardens, develop and implement community outreach plans and build volunteer databases.	May 31, 2023
For 2 gardens, develop and implement community outreach plans and build volunteer databases.	May 31, 2024

Activity 3: Community Pollinator Garden Planting Event and Garden Volunteer Network Established and Database Built

Activity Budget: \$67,000

Activity Description:

Each project will culminate in a community pollinator garden planting event, including planting thousands of purchased native grasses and forbs. Public awareness and involvement, in an effort to engage diverse and underserved

populations, will be facilitated through multiple lines of communication and outreach to local community leaders.

To help ensure ongoing community involvement, a garden volunteer database will track project participation and build a network of ongoing garden maintenance and greater park conservation support.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
3 regional park pollinator garden volunteer planting events completed.	September 30, 2022
5 regional park pollinator garden volunteer planting events completed.	September 30, 2023
2 pollinator garden volunteer planting events completed.	June 30, 2024

Activity 4: Regional Park "Turf to Pollinator Garden" Project Management

Activity Budget: \$54,200

Activity Description:

Hire project manager to oversee all aspects of projects. Responsibilities include:

- Working with park agency staff to plan and schedule garden projects.
- Hiring native landscape professionals to advise, prepare, and supply each garden.
- Establishing and building garden volunteer networks with specific outreach to local underserved communities.
- Administrative duties such as budgeting and project documentation.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Manage complete implementation of 3 garden projects. Build park agency relationships for next gardens.	December 31, 2022
Manage complete implementation of 5 garden projects. Build park agency relationships for next gardens.	December 31, 2023
Manage complete implementation of 2 garden projects. Evaluate garden project outcomes, determine future needs/plans.	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Various	Artisan Environments, Metro Blooms	Native plant landscapers to collaborate on design plans for various garden sites and lead community planting events.	Yes
Nathan Almquist	Webknowledgy	This organization will build the volunteer database into our website.	Yes
Various	Regional Park Implementing Agencies	We will collaborate with willing park agencies to determine location and design for gardens, and to coordinate volunteer planting events.	No
Rebecca Rice	Metro Blooms	Metro Blooms will have a project management agreement with Wilderness in the City to manage the garden project. The role will be responsible for all management tasks for the implement of the garden project to meet the grant requirements.	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 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.

Additionally, to disseminate to the public information and education about the pollinator gardens:

- Create new Facebook pages and events, Twitter, Instagram and other social media accounts as appropriate to reach the local community for each pollinator garden or use the park agencies' social media sites.
- Print and post announcements, materials, posters, and fliers at commercial and social sites and through local media outlets that reach each garden's local underserved communities.
- Community organizations and other nonprofits will be identified and contacted to help build awareness and support.
- When feasible, coordinate with park agencies to use their existing and appropriate communication channels: websites, facebook pages, other social media, newsletters, and volunteer listservs.
- A volunteer database will be generated for each pollinator garden to gather contact information and track volunteer hours and participation. Email blasts will be generated from this to inform, update, and keep in contact.

For presentation and educational purposes:

- Documentation of the garden planning, volunteering, planting, growing, and results will be done with photography and video.
- Slide show and video programs will be created for continuing volunteer engagement, promotional, and informational purposes. They also will be geared toward the goal of future educational programming built around each garden as it matures.

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?

Integral to each Turf to Pollinator Garden is outreach to create long-term stewardship volunteer communities

established with a volunteer database and collectively, these knowledgeable, caring gardeners, together with ongoing regional park natural resource management staff will facilitate long-term garden maintenance with minimal future costs to the park.

Additional grant funding may be sought to:

1. Record and measure garden growth and impact on pollinator populations through time-lapse photography documentation with wildlife and environmental photographer Benjamin Olson.
2. Monitor and measure impacts on endangered, threatened, and special concern species such as the rusty-patch bumblebee.
3. Expand educational programming and opportunities.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
Various Landscape Designers	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Conduct site analysis; develop a site plan consistent with highest quality conservation and long-term resiliency in accordance with the Board of Soil and Water resources guidelines; coordinate site preparation as needed; provide plan for ongoing management.				0.75		\$58,687	\$58,687	-
Webknowledgy	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contract with Webknowledgy to integrate Little Green Light volunteer tracking software with existing Wilderness in the City website. Webknowledgy built, hosts, and manages Wilderness in the City's website and are the most efficient contractor for this work.				0.3		\$1,000	\$1,000	-
Metro Blooms	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Work with park agency staff to plan and schedule garden projects. Hire native landscape professionals to advise, prepare, and supply each garden. Establish and manage garden volunteer networks with specific outreach to local under-served communities. Administrative duties such as budgeting and project documentation. Includes travel and volunteer communications/printing				1.5		\$59,427	\$59,427	-
Metro Blooms	Professional or Technical Service Contract	To act as Wilderness in the City's fiscal agent in relation to the grant.		X		0.3		\$19,800	\$19,800	-
Little Green Light	Professional or Technical	Volunteer tracking and management software. Little Green Light is already				0		\$600	\$600	-

	Service Contract	used by Metro Blooms, familiar to their staff, and is the most efficient and effective tool for this purpose.								
							Sub Total	\$139,514	\$139,514	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
	Tools and Supplies	Field supplies including gardening gloves and trowels of up to 100 each will be purchased (not to exceed \$1,000 total); quantities of plugs/seeds will be determined with unique site plans (total allocation \$49,000); interactive displays for education purposes (\$1,000 per garden).	Field supplies are needed for volunteer planting events; plugs/seeds will be acquired for the gardens; and displays will help educate and inspire visitors to the garden.					\$57,486	\$57,486	-
							Sub Total	\$57,486	\$57,486	-
Capital Expenditures										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										

							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$197,000	\$197,000	-

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Contracts and Services - Metro Blooms	Professional or Technical Service Contract	To act as Wilderness in the City's fiscal agent in relation to the grant.	Wilderness in the City does not have the staff or infrastructure to manage large sums of money, therefore, we have contracted with Metro Blooms to assist in administering these funds. ENRTF funds will only be spent for actual costs incurred.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
In-Kind	Volunteer Time	650 Volunteer hours @ \$20/hour	Secured	\$13,000	\$13,000	-
Cash	Ramsey County and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District	Additional maintenance, sign production and installation, partnership with Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi	Secured	\$7,600	\$7,600	-
Cash	Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board	Additional plants, signs, fencing, boulders, staff hours at Theodore Wirth and Minnehaha Regional Park	Secured	\$19,733	\$19,733	-
Cash	Dakota County Parks	Mulch, additional plants, gravel pathway, volunteer coordination, sod and soil removal	Secured	\$14,800	\$14,800	-
Cash	Anoka County Parks	Additional seeding, bench installation, additional signs, sign installation	Secured	\$16,313	\$16,313	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$71,446	\$71,446	-
			Funds Total	\$71,446	\$71,446	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

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

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.

All ten of the native gardens will occur on public land throughout the Metropolitan Regional Parks System

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.

Each of the project areas will individually be evaluated to assure restoration plans consider the given soil, geology, topography and other relevant factors. Through this evaluation, native plant professionals will develop a site plan consistent with highest quality conservation and long-term resiliency. Plans will be kept electronically and in print by Wilderness in the City, and available to implementing agencies for their records. Overall strategy for long-term implementation will be ongoing through community volunteer efforts in partnership with regional park implementing agencies and Wilderness in the City.

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.

Every native garden project will readily follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources Guidelines (dated January 2019), including the Pollinator Toolbox, toward achieving the goal for highest quality ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement. Additionally, the gardens will serve to educate people about the BWSR guidelines when creating their own urban native gardens.

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.

Most ongoing maintenance will be provided by community volunteers, including garden clubs. If additional financial investment is required, funding would be requested through the regional parks system as part of their annual maintenance expense.

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

Contracting with Conservation Corps will be considered for all ten projects, especially for site prep stage

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.

Site evaluation will be completed at each garden initially after completion and at least three years later as follow up. The evaluations will include an estimate of visitors to the site and educational programs held at each, as well as information based on the restoration plans and will identify any problems that need to be addressed. These evaluations will help to determine best steps to further expand the native gardens.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [59a4cfb9-a17.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Google Map printout showing approximate locations of 6 installed gardens....

Financial Capacity

File: [63316301-cf6.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	95ae9c05-513.pdf
Board Resolution	f310cd00-eb2.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Signed Fiscal Agent Agreement with Metro Blooms	b56a0440-acc.pdf
Signed Park Agreement: Ramsey County	fe0e0026-c1b.pdf
Signed Park Agreement: MPRB	abe72e85-c5f.pdf
Signed Park Agreement: Bunker Hills	072a80a5-74c.pdf
Signed Park Agreement: Dakota County	152e8efb-369.pdf
Battle Creek Educational Sign	02dcee99-0ea.pdf
Bunker Hills Large Educational Sign	82edb889-e03.pdf
Bunker Hills Small educational signs	7dd6c6b5-906.pdf
Lebanon Hills educational sign	05d28e2b-531.pdf
Lebanon Hills educational sign	d8335226-320.pdf
Keller Lake educational sign	3854aa15-e94.pdf
Theodore Wirth Educational Sign	1d6661af-686.pdf
Minnehaha Educational Sign	53f9fdeb-cbc.pdf
Bunker Hills Design	a19447c1-acd.pdf
Eloise Butler Plant List	e53e1647-05d.pdf
Lebanon Hills Design	2b0094a1-c60.pdf
Battle Creek Design	6349ac83-d1f.pdf
Keller Lake design	22a88b64-942.pdf
Minnehaha Glen Project Report	f4b6abac-4db.pdf
Keller Planting 1	2af81443-d69.jpe
Keller Planting 2	ec6be09b-038.jpe
Keller Planting 3	4ffd802d-6ad.jpe
Lebanon Hills Planting 1	4296765f-5c0.jpe
Lebanon Hills planting 2	3b0bd91d-8db.jpe
Lebanon Hills planting 10 months later	44ac3af3-119.png
Theodore Wirth planting 1	06f53295-571.jpe
Theodore Wirth Planting 2	796b43f0-122.jpe
Theodore Wirth Planting 3	6cabb998-6d2.jpe
Theodore Wirth 10 months later	685c7f07-932.jpe
Theodore Wirth Bee in Flight	12263f9f-e69.jpe
Battle Creek Planting 1	89195794-d09.jpe
Battle Creek Planting 2	d54efea6-6d1.jpe
Battle Creek Maintenance and Planting	0cd49706-2a4.jpe

Media Links

Title	Link
Wilderness in the City Website	https://www.wildernessinthecity.org/
Lebanon Hills Pollinator Garden Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/p/CyyGRHmgf4c/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
Theodore Wirth Pollinator Garden Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/p/CxDVqlDAPQ1/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
Battle Creek Pollinator Garden Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/p/Ctyz0l AWYk/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==
Theodore Wirth Public Planting Notice	https://www.minneapolisiparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Public-Planting-Dates-Entrance-Meadow-2023.pdf
Metro Blooms Turf to Pollinator Garden Webpage	https://metroblooms.org/turf-to-pollinator-gardens/
Metro Blooms Blog Post on Turf to Pollinator Garden Project	https://metroblooms.org/turf-to-pollinator-gardens-in-twin-cities-regional-parks/
Homegrown National Park Article including project at Theodore Wirth Park	https://homegrownnationalpark.org/6-cities-lighting-up-the-hnp-biodiversity-map/

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Wilderness in the City

LCCMR Workplan updates – 2/21/22 by Maryann Passe

Project Collaborators

1. Added Metro Blooms as fiscal agent
2. Updated Maryann Passe's contact information and Project Manager Qualifications.
3. Project Partner Info:
 - o Added Metro Blooms as garden project manager for Wilderness in the City
 - o Changed Pete Widen at Artisan Environments to: Various at Artisan Environments and Metro Blooms

Narrative

- Project Summary: Changed first word from "Ten" to "six to" ten .25 acre or larger

Activities & Milestones

- Activity 1
 - o Title - Changed to read Site-Planning for "six to" ten .25-acre....
 - o Left number of gardens as originally listed (3, 5, 2)

ENRTF Budget (\$)

Reduced amount to \$45,800.

- Activity 2
 - o Left number of gardens as originally listed (3, 5, 2)

- Activity 3

Description: Changed "Public awareness and involvement will be facilitated through multiple lines of communication and outreach to local community leaders will facilitate engaging diverse and underserved populations." to read as

"Public awareness and involvement, in an effort to engage diverse and under-served populations, will be facilitated through multiple lines of communication and outreach to local community leaders.

- o Left number of gardens as originally listed (3, 5, 2)

- Activity 4

- o Title - Deleted the word "Ten" in title: "Ten" Regional Park...
- o Left number of gardens as originally listed (3, 5, 2)

ENRTF Budget (\$)

Increased amount to \$54,400.

Budget

- Personnel

- o Deleted the Project Manager position and moved funds under Professional/Technical Contracts project manager

- Professional/Technical Contracts

1. Changed Artisan Environments Landscape Design to "Various Landscape Designers" and reduced budget from \$80,000 to \$60,000 (moved funds to fiscal agent and travel)
2. Webknowledgy – reduced budget amount to \$1,000 and changed description to reflect moving of part of the work to Little Green Light (\$600) and part to project manager (\$4,400).
3. Added Project Manager - Metro Blooms and added \$4,400 moved from Webknowledgy for volunteer database work that will be part of project manager responsibilities
4. Added Fiscal Agent - Metro Blooms with \$19,800 moved from Artisan Environments Landscape Design
5. Added Little Green Light – added budget of \$600 moved from Webknowledgy.

- Travel and Conferences

- o Did not include any travel expenses - those will be part of MetroBlooms Project Management budget (\$200)

- Printing/publications

- o Removed this item - those expenses will be part of MetroBlooms Project Management budget (\$1000)

DISSEMINATION

- Second bullet: added copy to include using park agencies' social media
- Third bullet: took out "Wilderness in the City" as this will be part of Metro Blooms project management responsibilities

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?

N/A

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?

Yes, Metro Blooms

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"> • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	Removed non ENRTF match for graphic design and web design. Plan to utilize grant budget to cover graphic design. Updated non ENRTF match for volunteer hours based on current projected hours and 6 garden sites rather than 10. Did not work with web designer. Moved \$5,000 from designers to project management based on current projected expenses.	June 5, 2024	Yes	August 23, 2024
2	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024 New Completion Date: 12/31/2024	LCCMR Staff workaround for final reporting system logic conundrum	August 23, 2024	Yes	August 23, 2024
3	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 12/31/2024 New Completion Date: 06/30/2024	LCCMR Staff workaround for final reporting system logic conundrum	August 23, 2024	Yes	August 23, 2024
4	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachments • Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	Addition of all final reporting material and documentation after submission via email on 8/14/24 due to dashboard accessibility issue. All budget changes shown here reflect actual spending and final invoicing.	August 28, 2024	Yes	September 12, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: August 28, 2024

Date Approved: September 12, 2024

Overall Update

We completed the installation of 6 new native gardens! The completed projects are at Battle Creek Regional Park, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Theodore Wirth Regional Park, Minnehaha Regional Park, Keller Regional Park, and Bunker Hills Regional Park. The gardens add up to 50,000 square feet of new pollinator habitat in areas that were previously turf grass and other invasive species.

At each site, we engaged with community volunteers of all ages to plant the new gardens. Overall, we engaged around 550 volunteers across the sites during 37 planting events. During our planting events, we spoke with park visitors aside from our volunteers, and there was clear excitement about adding gardens into park spaces and restoring areas with beneficial plants instead of turf grass. At the close of the grant, we had almost \$60,000 in matching funds from our park partners. We know that dedication to continued maintenance will result in additional invested funds and we are grateful to our partners for continuing to care for these projects alongside community volunteers.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 3

1. Lebanon Hills: Planting events with School of Environmental Studies and community members September 2023. Network established with Wilderness in the City and Park Agency staff for ongoing stewardship.
2. Battle Creek: Planting events with L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School, Lionsgate Academy, American Indian Magnet, and community members June-October 2023. Ramsey County to maintain.
3. Bunker Hills: Installation completed with Anoka County Parks staff and Minnesota Native Landscapes. Anoka County to maintain garden. Anoka County Master Gardeners identified for future education and maintenance. Incorporated play spaces and educational signs to invite visitors into the garden.
4. Theodore Wirth: Ongoing stewardship established with Friends of the Wildflower Garden. Community Planting events August-October 2023. Regular involvement of Conservation Corps, and Mississippi River Green Team in planting and site preparation.
5. Keller Lake: Planting events with American Indian Magnet, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Conservation Corps, Ramsey County Master Gardeners, and community volunteers May-June 2024. Additional signs sharing indigenous cultural knowledge to be installed by RWMWD and Ramsey County Parks. Ramsey County to maintain.
6. Minnehaha Creek: Planting events May-June 2024 with Friends of Minnehaha Park and Mississippi River Green Team. Ongoing stewardship established with Friends of Minnehaha Park.

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

Activity 4

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Dissemination

ENRTF logo on all signs at garden sites.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: June 5, 2024

Date Approved: August 23, 2024

Overall Update

Amendment request

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 3

Amendment request

Activity 4

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Dissemination

Amendment request

Status Update Reporting

Status Update May 1, 2024

Date Submitted: May 1, 2024

Date Approved: August 23, 2024

Overall Update

Installation completed for three gardens converting turf to approximately 19,120 square feet of new pollinator habitat in regional parks. Site preparation is being completed at remaining 3 parks for planting in May and June. Educational signs in final design and fabrication phases across park sites. Planting events scheduled with fifth grade classes from American Indian Magnet school in St. Paul and community volunteers with Friends of Minnehaha Park.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

1. Lebanon Hills: Outreach plan completed. Volunteer engagement and events managed by Dakota County Parks and tracked through the Dakota County Parks Volunteer Database.

2. Battle Creek: Outreach plan completed. Volunteer recruitment and engagement managed through Metro Blooms' existing volunteer database.

3. Bunker Hills: Outreach plan completed. Engagement and outreach efforts planned in partnership with Anoka County Parks and Anoka County Master Gardeners.

4. Theodore Wirth RP: Outreach plan completed. Volunteer engagement and recruitment planned in partnership with Metro Blooms and MPRB. Continuing volunteer involvement being tracked by MPRB and volunteer partner group, Friends of the Wildflower Garden.

5. Keller Lake: Outreach plan completed. Volunteer recruitment and engagement planned in partnership with Metro Blooms and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

6. Minnehaha Creek RP: Outreach plan completed in partnership with MPRB and Friends of Minnehaha Park. Continuing volunteer involvement being tracked by volunteer partner group, Friends of Minnehaha Park.

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

Activity 3

1. Lebanon Hills: Planting events with students from School of Environmental Studies and community members held September 2023. Network established with Wilderness in the City and Park Agency staff for ongoing stewardship.

2. Battle Creek: Planting events with students from L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School, Lionsgate Academy, American Indian Magnet, and community members held June-October. Project intended to establish a volunteer network with RWMWD and partners for ongoing stewardship, however, Ramsey County requested full ownership of garden maintenance utilizing staff and crews from the Conservation Corps of MN and IA.

3. Bunker Hills: Park opening and education event for community members led by Anoka County Master Gardeners pending for spring 2024.

4. Theodore Wirth: Ongoing stewardship established with Friends of the Wildflower Garden. Community Planting events held August-October. Regular involvement of Conservation Corps Crew of Minnesota and Iowa, and Mississippi River Green Team in planting and site preparation.

5. Keller Lake: Planting events scheduled May 2024 with students from American Indian Magnet in partnership with RWMWD and Ramsey County Master Gardeners. Ramsey County to maintain park.

6. Minnehaha Creek: Planting events scheduled May 2024 in partnership with Friends of Minnehaha Park. Ongoing stewardship established with Friends of Minnehaha Park.

Activity 4

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Dissemination

The ENRTF logo is being incorporated on all signs to be installed at garden sites.

We have partnered with Wakan Tipi Awayankapi to incorporate indigenous cultural knowledge in garden design and educational signage.

Promotion of the volunteer events at Minnehaha Park are managed by Friends of Minnehaha Park using their Facebook volunteer page and in partnership with volunteer coordinator at MPRB.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update November 1, 2023

Date Submitted: November 1, 2023

Date Approved: December 11, 2023

Overall Update

Specifically, our project will increase high quality pollinator habitat throughout the metro region. Additional benefits include:

- An informed public who will more likely support initiatives and policies to improve habitat.
- Engaged under-served populations with greater awareness of regional parks (which is #1 barrier to visitation)
- Communities of stewards for ongoing care of the gardens.
- Children's access to an inviting natural setting where we can establishing roots for future environmental stewards

We have completed installation for three gardens with community volunteers, and converted environmentally degrading turf to approximately 19,120 square feet of new pollinator habitat in our regional parks. Across the three installations, we had over 200 volunteers participate in events to plant and weed the new gardens.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

1. Lebanon Hills: Outreach plan completed. Volunteer engagement and events managed by Dakota County Parks and tracked through the Dakota County Parks Volunteer Database.

2. Battle Creek: Outreach plan completed. Volunteer recruitment and engagement managed through Metro Blooms' existing volunteer database.

3. Bunker Hills: Outreach plan completed. Engagement and outreach efforts planned in partnership with Anoka County Parks and Anoka County Master Gardeners.

4. Theodore Wirth RP: Outreach plan completed. Volunteer engagement and recruitment planned in partnership with Metro Blooms and MPRB. Continuing volunteer involvement being tracked by MPRB and volunteer partner group, Friends of the Wildflower Garden.

5. Keller Lake: Outreach plan pending. Database pending.

6. Minnehaha Creek RP: Outreach plan pending. Database pending.

Activity 3

1. Lebanon Hills: Planting events with students from School of Environmental Studies and community members held September 2023. Network established with Wilderness in the City and Park Agency staff for ongoing stewardship.

2. Battle Creek: Planting events with students from L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School, Lionsgate Academy, American Indian Magnet, and community members held June-October. Project intended to establish a volunteer network with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and partners for ongoing stewardship, however, Ramsey County requested full ownership of garden maintenance utilizing staff and crews from the Conservation Corps of MN and IA.
3. Bunker Hills: Park opening and education event for community members led by Anoka County Master Gardeners pending for spring 2024.
4. Theodore Wirth: Ongoing stewardship established with Friends of the Wildflower Garden. Community Planting events held August-October. Regular involvement of Conservation Corps Crew of Minnesota and Iowa, and Mississippi River Green Team in planting and site preparation.
5. Keller Lake: Planting events and volunteer network pending—Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi; students from Saint Paul Public Schools in partnership with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District; MN Water Stewards associated with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District; Ramsey County Master Gardeners.
6. Minnehaha Creek: Planting event and volunteer network pending

Activity 4

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Dissemination

All park agencies signed commitments to the ongoing maintenance for gardens within their parks. We connected park agency staff with volunteers who participated in planting projects at their local parks in an effort to build a relationship between the park and visitors most interested in assisting with the continued stewardship of each park site. By asking the park or another connected volunteer organization to manage the volunteer database for ongoing stewardship, we envision clearer communication between volunteers, visitors, and park maintenance staff on the needs of the gardens going forward.

In an effort to increase outreach around projects in each Metro region and educate residents about these pollinator habitat projects, we have maintained updated project website pages on both the Metro Blooms and Wilderness in the City websites. Social media campaigns for both organizations also partnered with park agencies to share about the projects and opportunities to get involved in the planting of the new gardens.

To share with Minnesotans in an accessible way the work being accomplished with help from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. All media communications about the project acknowledge funding and logo of ENRTF. All garden signs will include ENRTF funding acknowledgement and logo.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update May 1, 2023

Date Submitted: April 28, 2023

Date Approved: May 15, 2023

Overall Update

Site-Planning for six to ten .25-acre (minimum) Pollinator Gardens with Regional Park Agencies and Native Landscape Professional Services.

Activity 1

6 sites have been selected

Projects and Status:

1. Lebanon Hills RP, Dakota County Parks - Site approved. Site visit completed. Design approved. Contract with park agency pending. Planned installation Fall 2023.
2. Battle Creek RP, Ramsey County Parks - Site approved. Site visit completed. Design pending. Planned installation begins Spring 2023 and completed in Fall 2023. Contract with park agency pending.
3. Bunker Hills RP, Anoka County Parks - Site approved. Site visit completed. Design pending. Contract with park agency pending. Planned installation for Fall 2023.
4. Theodore Wirth RP, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - Site approved. Site visit completed. Design in progress. Contract with park agency pending. Planned installation in Fall 2023.
5. Keller Lake RP (Island), Ramsey County Parks - Site approved. Site visit pending. Contract with park agency pending. Planned installation Fall 2023.
6. Minnehaha Creek RP, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board- Site Approved. Site visit pending. Contract with park agency pending. Planned installation Spring 2024.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Public Engagement and Underserved Community Outreach Plans for Planting and Maintaining Pollinator Gardens For 2-6 gardens, develop and implement community outreach plans and build volunteer databases. December, 2023

1. Lebanon Hills: Outreach plan completed. Database pending.
2. Battle Creek: Outreach plan completed. Database pending.
3. Bunker Hills: Outreach plan completed. Database pending.
4. Theodore Wirth RP: Outreach plan completed. Database pending.
5. Keller Lake: Outreach plan pending. Database pending.
6. Minnehaha Creek RP: Outreach plan pending. Database pending.

Activity 3

Activity 3: Community Pollinator Garden Planting Event and Garden Volunteer Network Established and Database Built

2-6 regional park pollinator garden volunteer planting events completed. September 30, 2023

1. Lebanon Hills: Planting event with students from School of Environmental Studies Fall 2023. Network established with volunteer leaders with Wilderness in the City and Park Agency staff for ongoing stewardship.

2. Battle Creek: Planting event with students from L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge USFWS Interns. Volunteer network established with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Ramsey County Master Gardeners, Minnesota Water Stewards for ongoing stewardship.

3. Bunker Hills: Planting event and network for stewardship plan pending with Anoka County Master Gardeners.

4. Theodore Wirth RP: Planting event and volunteer network established with Friends of The Wildflower Garden. Mississippi River Green Team to install mulch at site.

5. Keller Lake: Planting event and volunteer network pending with students from Farnsworth Aerospace, Hazel Park Academy, American Indian Magnet, Weaver Elementary, Central Park Elementary, and MN Water Stewards associated with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Ramsey County Master Gardeners

6. Minnehaha Creek RP: Planting event and volunteer network pending

Activity 4

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Dissemination

To ensure longevity of gardens, all park agencies have verbally agreed to their ongoing maintenance. We are making connections between Park Agency staff and local volunteer groups who are participating in planting projects and/or have agreed to their maintenance.

To promote changes in behavior to better protect, conserve, or enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Signage at each site will identify native plants and will include information about DIY resources for pollinator plantings available through the Lawns to Legumes: Your Yard Can Bee the Change program on the BWSR website.

To share with Minnesotans in an accessible way the work being accomplished with help from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. All media communications about the project acknowledge funding and logo of ENRTF. All garden signs will include ENRTF funding

Status Update Reporting

Status Update November 1, 2022

Date Submitted: October 29, 2022

Date Approved: November 7, 2022

Overall Update

Due to the lateness of our grant approval (M2022), we determined that we needed to adjust our plan from completing some gardens each year to just planning all gardens this first year. We established that we needed to build our park partnerships and site the gardens in Fall 2022, design and plan them over winter 2022-23, and install them over summer and fall 2023 and spring 2024. Current costs also dictate the grant will cover a total of six gardens.

Toward that end, we have been meeting with regional park agencies to present our garden proposal. To select garden sites and create a schedule and project agreement we've met with natural resource directors, maintenance staff, water conservation district staff, and other staff as deemed necessary. Additionally we've connected with community groups near each park to create partnerships in establishing the gardens and providing long-term garden stewardship.

We are on schedule to have all gardens sited in Fall 2022 in six metro regional parks. Planning meetings are ongoing with each park agency to finalize scope of project agreements. Professional site preparation and plant growing contracts will be made as needed to meet garden planting schedules through Fall 2023.

Activity 1

Due to the lateness of our grant approval, we needed to adjust our work schedule to the following:

ACTIVITY 1

November 30, 2022 - Site 6 gardens

- Partner with park agencies to site six turf-to-pollinator gardens.
- Begin working project details, budgets, & schedules with park agencies for scope of project agreements to be signed before any work in park begins.

STATUS

3 Completed

- Dakota County Parks, Lebanon Hills Regional Park
- City of St. Paul, Lake Phalen Regional Park
- Minneapolis Parks, Wirth Regional Park

Site visits with some or all: park natural resource staff, park maintenance staff, water district member, project manager, garden designer

Site selected and work, materials, and draft budget discussed. Next planning meeting scheduled.

1 Near Completion

- Ramsey County Parks, Battle Creek Regional Park.

We've met with the natural resource director several times and previewed two garden sites. Site visit is scheduled, it was delayed due to staff and water conservation district member's availability.

2 On Schedule

Final 2 gardens discussions on schedule

- City of Bloomington, Highland Regional Park
- City of St. Paul, Hidden Falls Regional Park

Activity 2

Due to the lateness of grant approval, our Activity 2 work schedule changed to reflect that the gardens will be planned the first year and created the following years. Additionally, each park agencies has valid concerns about long-term maintenance since that is not included in the grant. We need to meet both our grant goals and the parks' maintenance concerns.

ACTIVITY 2

May 31, 2023 - Public Engagement and Under-served Community Outreach Plans for Planting and Maintaining Pollinator Gardens

- Make community group connections for each garden
- Establish engaged volunteers to help plan, plant, and maintain each garden.
- Build a volunteer database for each garden

STATUS - On Schedule (some updates below)

Dakota County: Volunteer garden steward identified. Talking with ISD196 School of Environmental Studies to establish a student garden stewardship partnership.

City of St. Paul - working to partner with Urban Roots Youth Conservation Corp to plan, establish, & maintain the Lake Phalen garden.

Minneapolis Parks - will start with their established volunteer base and explore potential for nearby under-served population participation.

Ramsey County - identified several potential groups with stewardship experience.

Meeting scheduled to begin building "Little Green Light" volunteer

Activity 3

Due to the lateness of grant approval, our work schedule has changed for Activity 3. All garden siting will be completed in Fall 2022, garden planning will be done over winter 2022-23 and will include community stewardship groups as much as possible. Garden preparation and planting will be done over summer and fall 2023 and spring 2024.

ACTIVITY 3

May 30, 2024- Community Pollinator Garden Planting Event, Garden Volunteer Network Established, and Database Built

STATUS - On Schedule (some updates below)

City of St. Paul, Lake Phalen Regional Park. We are in discussion to have Urban Roots Youth Conservation Corp plan the garden over winter 2022-23 and also manage the site preparation and garden planting event.

Meeting scheduled with developer to begin building "Little Green Light" volunteer database.

Activity 4

Regional Park "Turf to Pollinator Garden" Project Management

Metro Blooms has been hired as project manager and is on task. After Wilderness in the City makes the initial regional

park connections, MetroBlooms is managing all aspects of the projects as listed below.

Hire project manager to oversee all aspects of projects. Responsibilities include:

- Working with park agency staff to plan and schedule garden projects.
- Hiring native landscape professionals to advise, prepare, and supply each garden.
- Establishing and building garden volunteer networks with specific outreach to local underserved communities.
- Administrative duties such as budgeting and project documentation.

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

Dissemination

Wilderness in the City and MetroBlooms are following the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines. Recognition in wording and logo is being included on our web pages and all other pollinator garden communications, as it will for all garden signage.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update May 1, 2022

Date Submitted: May 15, 2022

Date Approved: May 19, 2022

Overall Update

Our grant workplan was just approved in March and the Grant Contract has not yet been signed. Therefore, only preliminary work has begun. As such, we will be reviewing our workplan in coordination with LCCMR staff to adjust the grant activity schedule accordingly. Metro Blooms has been reviewing the workplan to adjust it to accomplish the goal of installing 6-10 gardens by the end of the grant period as required. Details are yet to be completed, but the grant goals should be able to be accomplished by adjusting the workplan to include coordination with park agencies, garden planning, and community outreach in 2022. Summer 2023 - Spring 2024 will involve the actual garden planting and other activities. Again, any workplan adjustments will be made only in coordination with and the approval of LCCMR staff.

Activity 1

We have begun informative garden project discussions with Dakota County. Once the grant contract is signed, Dakota County will provide a letter of agreement and begin work with Metro Blooms to confirm a site and begin garden planning. Discussions and agreements with other park implementing agencies will follow with the goal of getting all 6-10 garden agreements as soon as possible.

Activity 2

As the grant contract is not yet signed, no official work has begun on this goal.

Activity 3

As the grant contract is not yet signed, no official work has begun on this goal.

Activity 4

As the grant contract is not yet signed, no official work has begun on this goal.

Dissemination

As the grant contract is not yet signed, no official work has begun on this goal.