

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 146-CH

Citizen-Based Boulevard Bioswales Installation during Ash Tree Replacement

Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

Sub-Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 198,600

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

Summary:

Installing Boulevard Bioswales during Ash Tree Replacement engages citizens losing their tree canopy due to Emerald Ash Borer in a clean water, pollinator habitat, environmental justice, and green workforce opportunity.

Name: Laura Scholl

Sponsoring Organization: Metro Blooms

Title: Project Manager

Department: _____

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Hennepin

City / Township: Minneapolis

Alternate Text for Visual:

Project Area includes neighborhoods with Households in poverty > 18%, People of color > 45%, Urban Heat Island Hotspots and boulevards where 50% trees are remaining ash trees

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2019 Main Proposal Template**

PROJECT TITLE: Citizen-Based Boulevard Bioswale Installations during Ash Tree Replacement

I. PROJECT STATEMENT Installing Boulevard Bioswales During Ash Tree Replacement converts a loss of tree canopy due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) into a clean water, pollinator habitat creation, environmental education, environmental justice, and green workforce development opportunity. With almost a billion ash trees, Minnesota has the highest volume of ash trees in the U.S.

The project educates and engages neighborhood project stewards and contracts with youth and adult outdoor jobs programs to install boulevard bioswales as part of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) ash tree replacement program.

MPRB will remove and replace an estimated 15,000 ash trees in city boulevards from 2018-2021. The ash tree replacement gives us once-in-a-lifetime access to the boulevard; allowing us to remove existing sod and soil, lower the grade of the boulevard, and replant with low-growing, native turf alternatives to capture stormwater runoff. New trees will be planted by MPRB in the boulevard the following spring.

Select, poverty-level property owners will also receive funding to have an ash tree on their private property removed. In neighborhoods where homeowners do not otherwise have the means to remove an infested ash tree, this project supports the health of the urban tree canopy with removal of 75 ash trees on private land and replacement with a diverse species of native trees. Replacement trees will be planted to maximize energy savings. The project focus area includes neighborhoods where there are areas of concentrated poverty, communities of color, and areas with the highest urban heat island effect. It engages local stakeholders to become stewards of their landscape. It builds on a community-level strategy to increase access to local jobs and training in green infrastructure for the youth and young adults interested in environment and outdoor jobs.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Education and Engagement of Project Stewards

Environmental education of neighborhood project stewards who will lead neighbor-to-neighbor engagement to support installation and maintenance of boulevard bioswales and replacement trees. Neighbors share information and resources to spur participation and build social cohesion and ongoing stewardship of project.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$40,300

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 50 neighborhood leaders are recruited and trained as project stewards and receive education and assistance to host 30-50 block get-togethers to share project information and enlist participation, and to host 10 tours of completed projects.	July 2020
2. 500 property owners participate in project, learn about sustainable land care, and agree to the long term maintenance of newly planted native tree in the public right-of-way adjacent to their property.	July 2022

Activity 2: Community jobs and field training in green infrastructure

Provide on-the-job training for community youth and young adults in outdoor jobs and interns from communities of color for the installation of 500 boulevard bioswales with pollinator-friendly, drought-tolerant, turf alternatives in conjunction with the MPRB Ash Tree Replacement plan.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2019 Main Proposal Template

ENRTF BUDGET: \$35,300

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 65 youth and adult outdoor job crew members, 8 interns, 2 private contractors and their 15 employees receive on the job training in Sustainable Landcare, Bee Lawn Turf Establishment, Native Plants and Weed Identification, and Vegetation Management.	June 2021
2. 500 boulevard bioswales installed to reduce stormwater runoff, create pollinator habitat: (10 million gallons of stormwater runoff captured annually and 60,000 square feet pollinator habitat created and maintained during establishment). Pending matching funds from the City of Minneapolis support this outcome.	June 2021

Activity 3: Removal of 75 ash trees and replacement with diverse native tree canopy

Where low-income participants also have an ash tree on their property, the project supports removal and replacement planting with a diverse native tree palette, contingent on private owner agreement to the long term care of 75 new trees on private land. Includes project management.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$123,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 75 ash trees and stumps removed, supporting the health of the urban tree canopy, and replaced with a diverse palette of native trees on private properties in low-income communities. 500 property owners agree to long term care of replacement trees in their yard and boulevard. 500 Property owners receive US Forest Service Tree Owner Manual.	July 2022

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Brian Miller	Regional Program Director	Conservation Corps MN & IA	Youth and Young Adult Jobs (16-24)
MaryLynn Pulscher	Director of Programs	MPRB	Youth Jobs (14-16 yrs)
Sheltonn Johnson	Proj Mgr - Social Enterprise	NEON	Adult Entrepreneurs
Jeff Voshell	Gen Mgr/Landscape Services	Tree Trust	Young Adult Jobs (ages 18-24)

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

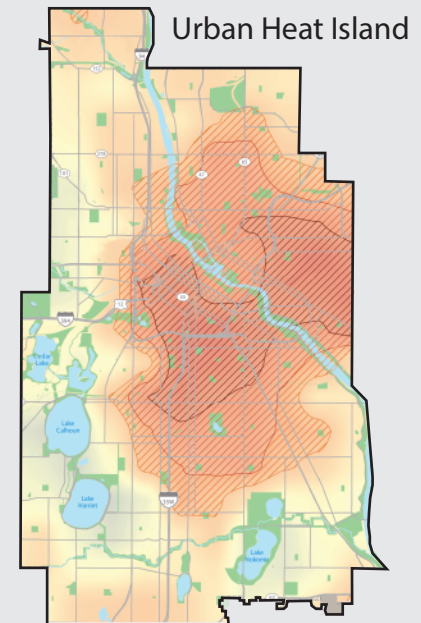
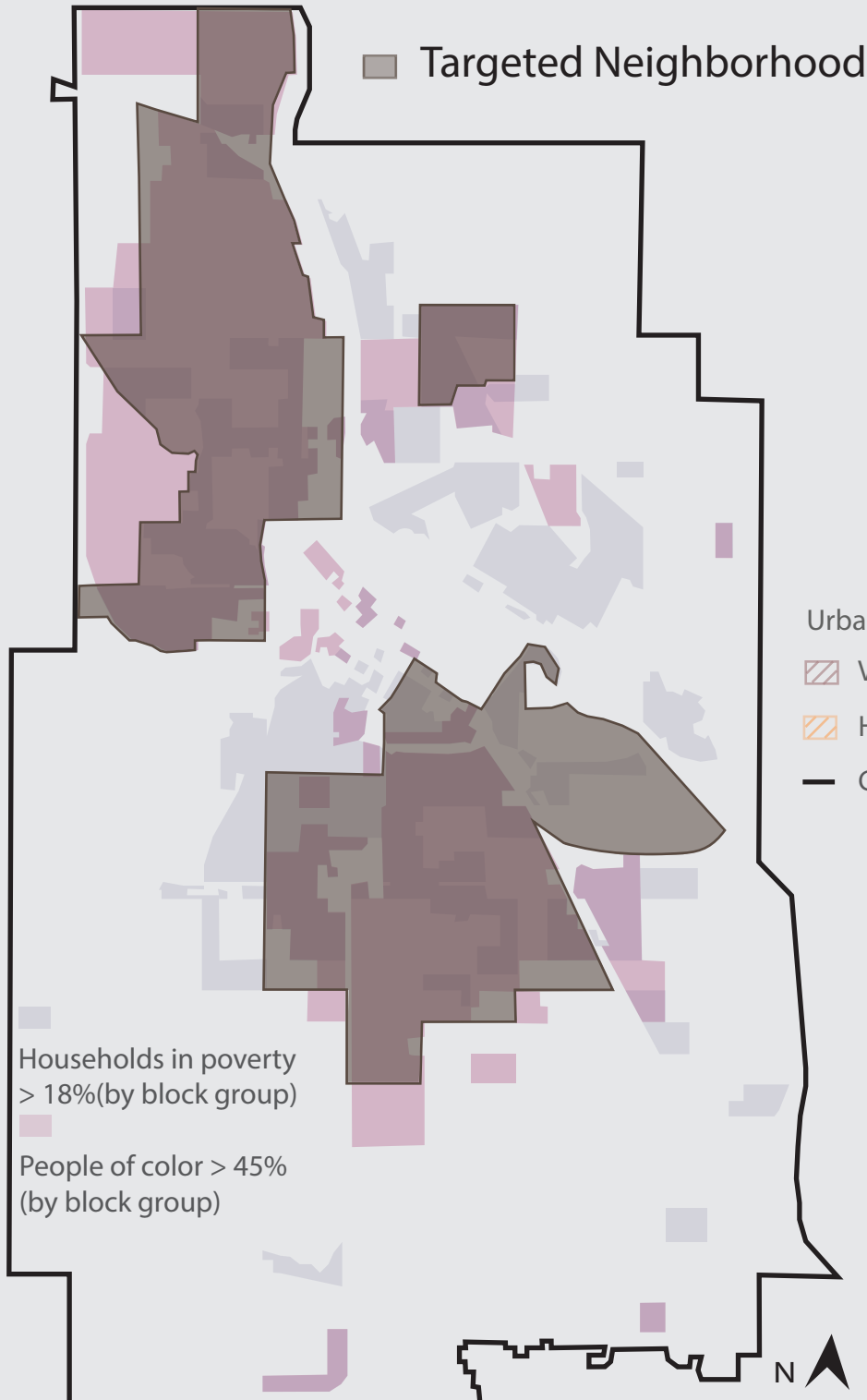
Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Elizabeth Stout	Water Resources Coordinator	City of Minneapolis	Bioswale Funding
Ralph Sievert	Director of Forestry	MPRB	Ash Tree Replacement

IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: n/a

V. TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS: July 1, 2019 - August 31, 2021

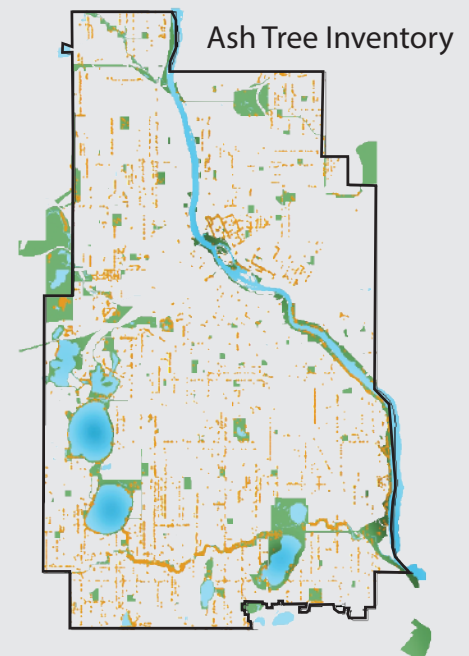
2019 Detailed Project Budget			
Project Title: Citizen-Based Boulevard Bioswale Installations during Ash Tree Replacement			
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [3] years			
<u>BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>		
Project Management: .1 FTE (Laura Scholl) for 3 years (salary 88% + benefits 12%)	\$ 16,800		
Community Engagement Manager (1 staff) 0.20 FTE for 3 years (salary 88% + benefits 12%)	\$ 30,300		
Graduate Landscape Architect (1 staff) 0.05 FTE for 3 years (salary 88% + benefits 12%)	\$ 15,600		
Sustainable Landcare Training Manager (1 staff) 0.025 FTE for 3 years (salary 88% + benefits 12%)	\$ 7,800		
Youth and Young Adult Outdoor Crews (Tree Trust) tree removal and replacement @ \$1,325/tree)	\$ 103,200		
Youth and Young Adult Outdoor Crews (CCM, Mississippi River Green Team, Project Sweetie Pie, NEON), includes field training @ \$1,200/5 member crew day.)	\$ 15,000		
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: rental equipment	\$ 3,000		
Educational materials: (education materials/signage/exhibits)	\$ 3,500		
Supplies: Replacement Trees on Private Property (75 trees) native trees and shrubs.	\$ 3,000		
Travel @ \$.55/mil @ 650 miles	\$ 400		
Additional Budget Items:	\$ -		
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 198,600		#
V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)			
<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>	
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: City of Minneapolis, City Council Agenda to Receive Staff Recommendation, May	\$ 750,000	Pending	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A		N/A	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Volunteer Hours (200 @\$15/hr)	\$ 3,000	Pending	
Funding History: Phase 1 for Project Development and Demonstration: Metropolitan Council - \$150,000; Bassett Creek WMC - \$8,000, BCBS Center for Prevention - \$25,000.	\$ 183,000	Complete	
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ -	N/A	

Boulevard Bioswale Target Neighborhoods



Urban Heat Island Hotspots

- Very hot (>96.71 degrees)
- Hot (> 93.17 degrees)
- Open water
- Ash trees
- City boundary
- Open spaces



Map adapted from The Trust for Public Land Urban Heat Islands and Social Vulnerability study



Organizational Capacity and Project Management

Organizational Capacity:

Metro Blooms, a 30-year old, Minneapolis based nonprofit organization has a strong history of implementing successful citizen based education and engagement projects to encourage property owners to take action on their own property to improve water quality. Our 12 member staff include 1 FTE Registered Landscape Architect and 6 (3 FTE) Graduate Landscape Architects. 3 FTE Project management staff engage neighborhoods in community-wide efforts to educate citizens and install raingardens to improve water quality in local lakes and streams.

Metro Blooms' popular Raingarden Workshop program which has been sponsored by the City of Minneapolis since 2005, and has educated more than 10,000 property owners in a do-it-yourself approach to raingarden installation. Metro Blooms partners with neighborhoods in civic engagement projects that employ youth and adult crews in outdoor jobs programs to install stormwater best management practices on private property. More than 1,000 stormwater BMPs have been installed, including raingardens, permeable pavement, trench drains, and native plantings. Our past neighborhood scale projects include the MN Environmental Trust Fund supported Powderhorn Lake Neighborhood of Raingardens (2009-2012) where 130 raingardens were installed on mostly residential properties in the Central and Powderhorn neighborhoods of Minneapolis. 2018 completed project of similar scale includes the Clean Water Funded project Lake Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water. This project targets alleyway runoff through source control by working with blocks of residents to implement 160 stormwater BMPs adjacent to alleys.

We rely on strong and enduring partnerships with local units of government and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota, Hennepin County Master Gardeners, MN GreenCorps, Minneapolis Public Schools, and neighborhood partners who have worked with us year after year to educate and engage residents to take action to install stormwater BMPs on their property. Our partners know that they can count on us to deliver what we promise on time and on budget. In 2015, Metro Blooms was selected as licensed operator of the Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water partnership. Blue Thumb, is an award winning public private partnership of 40+ local water governing bodies, private landscape contractors and native plant nurseries who share resources to promote planting for clean water.

Project Manager Qualifications:

Laura Scholl, Environmental Project Director, Metro Blooms serves as project manager. Laura has a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota and a minor in Spanish Studies. She has lead 15 community-based installation projects in partnership with 50+ local government and community organizations through Metro Blooms' Neighborhood of Raingardens and Blooming Alleys programs.