Wilderness in the City

**Regional Park Turf to Pollinator Garden Project**

***Project Manager Qualifications***

Holly Jenkins has been identified as the project manager. Ms. Jenkins earned an MBA in Finance from the U of M's Carlson School of Management. She worked for many years at Piper Jaffray before turning her attention to the outdoor recreation industry and environmental advocacy.

In 2013, Ms. Jenkins founded a nonprofit, Wilderness in the City, and through this role has exhibited strong communication skills, enthusiasm for a mission, competence, and integrity. Ms. Jenkins has a proven ability to build commitment within a team and inspires a shared vision. It's that vision that is at the core of the *Turf to Pollinator Garden* project to restore and preserve high quality natural areas in an otherwise built environment. In turn, this vision provides opportunities to build communities of stewards, which has already started to establish in Dakota County precisely because of her leadership.

***Organization Description***

Wilderness in the City’ mission is dedicated to preserving and enhancing natural urban areas for future generations through natural resource stewardship, community outreach, and advocacy. We envision a legacy of parklands with healthy ecosystems for year-around nature-based recreation and educational opportunities, and enhanced wildlife habitats in an otherwise developed urban setting. We support natural spaces, close to home and accessible to all, that offer respite from the built world around us.

Since 2013, our grass-roots organization has supported Lebanon Hills Regional Park, followed closely by advocacy for natural resource stewardship across the Regional Parks System. Annually we partner with Dakota County on monthly environmental stewardship projects in Lebanon Hills, which provided over 3000 volunteer hours last year. In fall 2018 we closely followed and volunteered help with the county’s .3 acre, 13,500sf turf to pollinator garden, the model for our proposed grant project.