



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2022 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2022-280

Proposal Title: Trees for Equity

Project Manager Information

Name: Rebecca Rice

Organization: Metro Blooms

Office Telephone: (612) 865-0248

Email: becky@metroblooms.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Pilot project engaging residents in environmental justice areas of concern in three cities statewide to plant native trees in bioswales to maximize environmental benefits and stewardship and to measure impact.

Funds Requested: \$598,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (C)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro, SE,

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

Region(s): SE, Metro,

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

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

Tree canopies provide a wide range of environmental, health and social benefits, yet a legacy of inequities have left low-income communities across Minnesota with a lack of tree cover, resulting in heat islands and poorer air quality than higher income neighborhoods. The loss of urban ash trees compounds this problem in environmental justice areas of the state. This project will support and leverage community efforts to remove and replace ash trees, and engage residents in stewardship of installed projects, including boulevard bioswales with native ground plantings where ash trees have been removed; and with multi-family affordable housing communities.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

This project prioritizes tree plantings that will protect residents in some of the most heat-vulnerable demographics that have few to no trees. This project proposes to use the Planit Geo Tree Plotter software to support local community partners and government agencies to engage communities in native tree and ground plantings, and to measure the estimated impact of this work related to temperature reduction and other microclimatic effects; removal of air and stormwater pollutants to further increase stewardship and equitable investment in the environment. This project builds on the success of a Boulevard Bioswales project in Minneapolis and the LCCMR-funded Lawns to Legumes (L2L) Program. These programs prioritize native trees and shrubs in residential planting designs (L2L) and adjacent public right of ways (blvd bioswales), and with multi-family affordable housing communities who are too often left out of environmental projects.

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?

Planting will be conducted in boulevards, public right of ways and at affordable housing sites, with a goal of planting 350–500 new native trees, many in conjunction with 135 newly-installed boulevard bioswales filled with 10,000 ground-layer native plants. The project works with local communities to engage 3,000 residents and volunteers in a citizen outreach and engagement effort to expand stewardship of local trees. It supports local economies with 18 green infrastructure summer jobs and workforce training by hiring local contractors and providing expert oversight and training, to gain highly sought skills in the green economy.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Collaborate with cities in pilot effort to engage environmental justice communities to expand native tree and ground plantings

Activity Budget: \$83,000

Activity Description:

Planning and coordination with city public works and forestry departments, including focus area planning, tree removal and replacement. Contracting, communication, plan development, administration, record keeping, invoicing. Map, track and evaluate approach and impact, data collection and mapping.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Community approach finalized, partner roles and timelines established and mapped.	September 30 2022
30% of project stewards educated and engaged, sites finalized.	December 31 2022
100% of project stewards educated and engaged, sites finalized.	June 30 2023
Source all landscape materials, including native trees and ground plantings	December 31 2024

Activity 2: Subcontract to provide technical assistance and local community and contractors; source local landscape materials, native trees and ground plants

Activity Budget: \$485,000

Activity Description:

Virtual and onsite technical assistance for property owners to discuss project, site design, native tree and ground planting selection, and maintenance training. Boulevard Bioswale installation following tree removal and stump grinding, tree and ground cover plantings (in some cases) and follow-up maintenance visits. This includes sourcing materials

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Multi-Family site designs completed and approved	March 31 2023
Site assessment with 50% residents to discuss project, native tree and ground plantings and care	June 30 2023
Site assessment with 100% residents to discuss project, native tree and ground plantings and care.	October 31 2023
50% Boulevard bioswales excavated and ground plantings installed	October 31 2023
100% Boulevard Bioswales excavated and ground plantings installed	October 31 2024
100 trees planted in boulevards and in multifamily affordable housing sites	November 30 2024

Activity 3: Collaboration with Local Community Partners

Activity Budget: \$30,000

Activity Description:

Collaborate with local community based partners to co-create engagement protocol and timelines, resident and volunteer educational, planting and maintenance events

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Community partner agreements and plan co-creation and timelines finalized.	December 31 2022

50% resident participants engaged, attend educational trainings and sign maintenance agreements.	May 31 2023
100% resident participants engaged, attend educational trainings and sign maintenance agreements	September 30 2023
Community planting events engaging 1,000 of volunteers	October 31 2023
Community planting event, engaging 1,000 volunteers	October 31 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Dan Shaw	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Plant ecologist advisory and coordination with state and local conservation agencies, city public works and forestry departments to establish structure for statewide collaboration around the topics of urban tree canopy and equity.	No
Stephanie Hatzenbihler	City of Rochester	Project contact for local collaboration.	No

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 be funded?

The use of

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Rebecca Rice

Job Title: Sustainable Landcare Manager

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

James Wolfin graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor's degree in Ecology, and minors in Biology and Wildlife Conservation. James then went to the University of Minnesota for his Master's degree in Entomology, where he focused on describing the bee communities that forage on flowering bee lawns in Minneapolis. James joined Metro Blooms in 2019 as project manager for the Minneapolis Boulevard Bioswales project, a collaboration between the City of Minneapolis and MPRB forestry staff's Emerald Ash Tree replacement program to engage residents to create boulevard bioswales wherever ash trees have been removed in the environmental justice community of North Minneapolis. Thirty five households engaged to care for 35 boulevard bioswales, 15 ash removed and trees replanted and more than 6,000 sq ft of habitat to improve water quality, provide forage for pollinators, and engaging more than 100 residents in stewardship of the new plantings.

Organization: Metro Blooms

Organization Description:

Metro Blooms is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, since 1983. We partner with communities to create resilient landscapes and foster clean watersheds, embracing the values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges. Our 16 member staff, includes a registered landscape architect, 4 landscape designers, project managers, administration, education and engagement staff. In 2020, our community based programs engaged 160 residents in 25 communities to install beautiful, native plantings in clean water projects, building stewardship and changing societal norms around traditional lawns. In 2021, we are working with 9 multi-family affordable housing sites with more than 6,500 residents to create more livable outdoor spaces including native habitat, clean water projects and natural play spaces. We are committed to creating opportunities that center equitable engagement and bring natural resource investment to underserved communities. We intentionally reach out in underserved communities that include – but are not limited to – people of color, lower-income neighborhoods and affordable housing communities.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Project Manager		Planning and coordination with city public works and forestry departments, including focus area planning, tree removal and replacement. Contracting, communication, plan development.			28%	0.42		\$30,800
Office Manager		Administration, record keeping, invoicing.			28%	0.06		\$3,000
Technology Associate		Map, track and evaluate approach and impact, data collection and mapping.			28%	0.06		\$4,200
Engagement Manager		Outreach and engagement with residents of environmental justice communities, including residential neighborhoods and multi-family, affordable housing communities. Partnering with local community based partners. Co-create engagement protocol with local community partners, including social media, project signage, education materials, maintenance guides. Dedicated web page link on home page with project information.			28%	0.45		\$32,000
							Sub Total	\$70,000
Contracts and Services								
Metro Blooms Design + Build	Sub award	Technical Assistance for landscape architecture, construction oversight and materials sourcing.				0.72		\$334,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Boulevard Bioswale installation following tree removal and stump grinding, local contractors (18 green infrastructure, seasonal jobs) removes and disposes of sod and soil, reshapes boulevard, install mulch and other erosion control, plants or overseeds, and plants new tree, includes follow-up maintenance visit in year				0.6		\$164,000
TBD	Sub award	Community engagement				0.3		\$30,000
							Sub Total	\$528,000

Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$598,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
In-Kind	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Project collaboration and coordination	Secured	\$3,500
In-Kind	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Communications collaboration and assistance	Secured	\$2,500
			State Sub Total	\$6,000
Non-State				
In-Kind	City of Rochester	Tree planting and mulch	Secured	\$7,500
In-Kind	City of Winona	Project management and coordination, tree removal and stump grinding.	Secured	\$10,000
In-Kind	City of Brooklyn Park	Project collaboration and establishment period maintenance	Secured	\$10,000
In-Kind	City of Minneapolis	Communications and promotional materials development	Pending	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$37,500
			Funds Total	\$43,500

Attachments

Required Attachments

Financial Capacity

File: [cda8cafd-96f.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
board authorization	87a95411-558.pdf
Trees for Equity: Equitable Urban Forests with Measurable Impact	e908897e-770.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

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



Trees for Equity

PILOT PROJECT: CITIZEN
ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN FOREST
INITIATIVES

FOCUS: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

WORKFORCE TRAINING: 80 LOCAL
CONTRACTORS & RESIDENTS OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITIES

TREES PLANTED: 500

NATIVE PLANTS PLANTED: 10,000



PARTNERS: ROCHESTER, WINONA,
BROOKLYN PARK, MINNEAPOLIS,
BWSR, METRO BLOOMS

EQUITABLE URBAN FORESTS WITH
MEASURABLE IMPACT

TREES FOR EQUITY



WORKFORCE TRAINING: LOCAL
CONTRACTS (80 GREEN
INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS AND
TRAINING)

**RESIDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED** 3,000

TREES PLANTED: 500

NATIVE PLANTS PLANTED: 10,000

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS
ESTIMATED:

MICRO CLIMATE
IMPACTS

POLLUTANT
REDUCTIONS



PILOT PROJECT FOR CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN FOREST INITIATIVES

Rochester, Brooklyn Park, Winona

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS OF CONCERN