

Committed to Equity & Excellence

**Hopkins Public Schools**

1001 Highway 7

Hopkins, MN 55305-4723

952.988.4000

**HOPKINS**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**Meadowbrook Elementary School**

5430 Glenwood Avenue

Golden Valley, MN 55422-5120

**Greta Evans-Becker, Ed.D.**

Principal

(952) 988-5100 • (952) 988-5115 fax

greta\_evans-becker@hopkins.k12.mn.us

January 29, 2010

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
C/O Barr Engineering Company  
4700 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55435-4803

Attention: Ginny

Re: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Grant

Dear Ginny,

We are requesting reimbursement, \$992.08, payable to Hopkins ISD 270, for expenses from above grant. The expenses are as follows:

\$130.00	Rain barrels
\$200.00	dirt and compost
\$192.08	wood for raised garden beds
\$60.00	course taken by two employees at the MN Landscape Arboretum
\$410.00	plants
\$992.08	Total expenses

Documentation is attached. Please send check, payable to Hopkins ISD 270, to Meadowbrook Elementary School, 5430 Glenwood Ave, Golden Valley, MN 55422.

Thank you for providing this important learning experience for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan C. Bursack', written in a cursive style.

Joan C. Bursack  
Administrative Assistant

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)  
Water Quality Education Grant -- \$1,000  
Meadowbrook Elementary

### **Final Report**

In late July 2009, Meadowbrook Elementary School received a grant award from the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)'s education small-grant program totaling \$1,000. This is the final report describing the use of the grant funds.

Meadowbrook Elementary used the grant funds to support the ongoing development of its Outdoor Classroom project. Started in late 2008, the Outdoor Classroom project has grown to include the development of new raised vegetable garden beds, a new prairie plants area including seating for students, the inclusion of water conservation efforts in the school's fall festival, and a regular column promoting connections between children and nature in the school newsletter.

These efforts have touched the lives of students, staff, families and even our surrounding community. Students were involved in the planting of the vegetable garden in the spring of 2009. Families volunteered to adopt the garden by the week over the summer – watering, weeding and harvesting. Staff led Kids & Company kids in numerous projects involving the garden including harvesting vegetables for healthy snacks, and even incorporating some of the produce into creative art projects. Staff helped with the ongoing care and maintenance of the garden, and the school's principal made salsa for the back-to-school open house using produce from the garden. Students and parents from Meadowbrook also delivered fresh produce from the vegetable garden to PRISM, the local food shelf. Staff, students, parents and community members are involved with the ongoing development and expansion of Meadowbrook's Outdoor Classroom.

Excitingly, this BCWMC grant has helped the Meadowbrook community leverage over \$1,800 in cash grants from other sources (the school's PTO, and the University of Minnesota's School Ecology Exploration grant program) as well as \$2,000 in new trees through a recent award with TreeTrust. Additionally, numerous hours of in-kind donations have been donated by parents and staff to the development of the outdoor classroom.

The following is an overview of how the BCWMC grant funds were used:

- **Two rain barrels purchased (\$130).** These rain barrels will be used to help water the raised vegetable garden and prairie planting areas. This is the first time Meadowbrook has taken advantage of rain barrels.
- **Raised vegetable garden beds developed and filled with dirt (\$392.08).** Parents designed and built 4 new raised garden beds as a result of this grant. The new beds are located in a highly visible spot right outside the main corridor of the building and will provide new space to expand the garden in 2010.

- **Staff attend a Children and Nature training (\$60).** In October 2009, 2 staff from Meadowbrook attended a Children and Nature symposium at the University of Minnesota's Arboretum.
- **Plants were purchased for the native prairie planting area (\$350).** These plants will be used to develop a new component to the Outdoor Classroom – a prairie planting areas. This area will include seating so that classrooms can have lessons in this area. The prairie planting area is on the school's playground, so will be easily accessed informally by students as well over their recess.

In addition to the cash grant, Meadowbrook is very appreciative of the educational support by BCWNC volunteers. Three BCWMC volunteers participated in the Meadowbrook Fall Festival on October 24, 2009. Information was shared about water conservation and preventing run-off, including a hands-on activity for kids and their parents to try. Meadowbrook families appreciated including this level of involvement and would welcome future opportunities to share information in festivals held at the school.