

**Project Report: July – December 2017 (with Jan – June 2017 activities for reference)
Northside Neighborhood Engagement & Opportunities in Clean Water Initiatives**

Goal 1: Improve water quality in Bassett Creek by engaging community members to install and maintain boulevard bioswales in collaboration with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Emerald Ash Borer tree replacement program.

Objective 1: Work with the HNA to identify 5- 6 target blocks within the Harrison Neighborhood based on interest in participation, opportunity for runoff capture, and timing of ash tree removal.			
Activity	Unit	Project Activities (Jan - June 2017)	Project Activities (July – Dec 2017)
Identify block captains	5-10	7 boulevard captains were identified and engaged to reach out to their neighbors to participate in a Blooming Boulevard installation in 2017. Captains were identified through neighborhood events, flyers, block parties and word of mouth. We held a boulevard captain training on May 1. Since then, we’ve held 4 block parties (some parties hosted multiple blocks). Some parties were standalone events and others were in conjunction with other planned block events. Metro Blooms worked with block captains to invite neighbors to the events and created a number of educational/outreach materials to assist with engagement.	No updates
Notify MPRB for tree marking/stump removal	50-70 trees	21 ash trees were marked; all 21 were removed by MPRB. Ash stumps were ground by MPRB. Metro Blooms subcontracted with NEON to deep grind the stump and lateral roots and begin excavation for each boulevard bioswale (45-50 total).	NEON’s work completed throughout July 2017.
Excavate and Plant Boulevards	50 – 70 boulevard bioswales	8 boulevard bioswales on Logan (both sides of street), Morgan and N. 4 th Ave. were installed spring 2017.	Boulevard bioswales installed at 37 individual properties in July & August 2017 totaling 10,825 square feet (estimated size of boulevard bioswales was 120 sq ft each. Based on this estimate, we installed 90 boulevard bioswales).
MPRB replants Blvd trees	50 – 70 trees	Planned replanting in spring 2018.	No updates

Objective 2: Establish and implement an equitable framework to evaluate change in the knowledge, attitudes and practices of project participants that provides measurable outcomes and guides the future replication of the project.			
Activity	Unit	Project Activities (Jan - June 2017)	Project Activities (July – Dec 2017)
Establish & administer pre-test framework		Metro Blooms contracted with Lune, LLC (an evaluation & research firm) to develop and administer quantitative and qualitative research tools. Metro Blooms gathered qualitative data in May/June 2017 to advise KAP survey development (see qualitative data report by Lune in Attachment B). Initial KAP survey was distributed via mail to each Harrison resident (approx. 600) in June 2017.	
Final evaluation		Planned for August 2018	No updates

Goal 2: Provide opportunities for neighborhood youth to access job training and career pathways in green infrastructure

Objective 1: Contract with youth and young adults in outdoor jobs programs for installations. Connect with current underutilized business contractors and develop new local connections to perform contract work.			
Activity	Unit	Project Activities (Jan - June 2017)	Project Activities (July – Dec 2017)
Contract/Schedule youth outdoor jobs programs to complete boulevard excavation and planting	15 -50 neighborhood youth	An application for Conservation Corps youth crew time for this project was submitted and approved for 2017. We worked with Conservation Corps young adult crews for 2 days to plant bioswales along Morgan Ave in spring 2017.	We worked with Conservation Corps youth crew for 10 days in July 2017 to complete excavation, mulching and seeding of the boulevard bioswales. We also worked with a crew of Step Up Interns from Wilderness Inquiry and 50 high school youth from Wilderness Inquiry to plant completed boulevards. Following completion of training with Metro Blooms, Step Up Interns reported interested in learning more about careers in landscape design, inspections, native plants, and green infrastructure installation.
Purchase/install turf alternatives in boulevard bioswales	100-300 grasses, sedges, low grow forbs per property and or seed mix	Turf alternative plantings installed in boulevard bioswales on the block of Morgan and Logan and N. 4 th Ave.	Boulevards installed in July 2017 planted/seeded with one of 5 plant palettes developed by Metro Blooms. Each participant selected their palette of choice. Boulevards planted with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota, 50 high school youth from Wilderness Inquiry and through 2 volunteer events hosted by Utepils Brewing Co.

Contract with local landscape contractor(s) for excavation assist.	1-2 local contractors	Northside Economic Opportunities Network (NEON), a local landscape contractor removed 5 ash tree roots on Morgan Avenue and prepped 3 boulevard bioswales along Morgan this spring. We've contracted with them to deep grind roots and begin excavation in each of the boulevard bioswales planned for installation in July (55-60 total).	We contracted with them this summer to deep grind roots and begin excavation in each of the boulevard bioswales installed in July (90 total at 37 properties).
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Objective 2: Develop a Stormwater and Sustainable Landscape Inspections and Maintenance Training Program for youth and young adults in outdoor jobs programs which can be implemented as an on-the-job training program.

Activity	Unit	Project Status (June 2017)	Project Activities (July – Dec 2017)
Development and pilot implementation of maintenance training program	5 segments	Project partners were recruited and have committed. Project development is underway with a focus on Plant ID (native and top 20 most troublesome invasive) as well as recommended management. Three pilot tests have taken place or are scheduled for the coming weeks. These include two youth trainings (Mississippi River Green Team-complete and Wilderness Inquiry Ste Up Interns-scheduled for July) and one train-the- trainer event for Master Gardeners, Master Water Stewards, and Metro Blooms staff-scheduled for July. We are scheduling trainings with NEON and the Conservation Corps for August/September.	Four modules developed (1. Intro to stormwater BMPs, 2. Inspections & Maintenance Planning, 3. Plant/Weed ID and Management, 4. Structural Maintenance). Five pilot trainings took place in 2017. These included three youth/young adult trainings (Mississippi River Green Team, Wilderness Inquiry Step Up Interns, Conservation Corps), one train the trainer event for Master Gardeners, Master Water Stewards, and Metro Blooms staff, and one training for NEON contractors focused on general stormwater management principles, structural maintenance and weed ID. Piloting the Sustainable Landcare training in 2017 was invaluable to the program. We learned lessons from every pilot training and received great feedback so we are able to adapt program resources to fit the needs of our audiences. One lesson learned was the importance of including maintenance of small scale structural BMPs such as trench drains and permeable pavement. While Stormwater U offers training in these

			<p>topics, the level at which the training is presented is meant for professionals in stormwater management, making them daunting and less accessible for contractors that don't currently offer these services. We hope to work with Stormwater U to refine these trainings to meet our audience.</p>
<p>Revisions and publications</p>		<p>Draft of pocket guide book for plant/weed identification is complete and printed. One revision has been made to incorporate field activities into the guide.</p>	<p>During the fall/winter of 2017 we refined the Sustainable Landcare Guide to focus on weed identification, as this was the need described by training participants and partner associations. Rather than include plans for each training module in the guide book, we've created separate lesson plans for each training module that work in conjunction with the guide. (Current draft of weed ID guide available upon request. Weed ID section will be expanded according to Blue Thumb partner input).</p> <p>In 2018, we will work with Blue Thumb partners to refine the Blue Thumb Guide to Sustainable Landcare and Weed Identification and publish the final version, both in print for purchase and make it available online for partners and homeowners.</p> <p>Also in 2018, we'll continue to pilot the training program with interested groups and develop a formalized fee structure for the training program.</p>

Project Budget Status

Project Tasks (2016 – 2018)	Grant Budget	Match Budget	Updated Match Budget (April '17) ¹	UPDATED TOTAL BUDGET (April '17)	Grant Funds Spent to Date	Match Spent to Date	TOTAL SPENT TO DATE
Project Management and Engagement	\$24,840	\$20,150	\$6,852.25	\$31,692.25	\$23,162.50	\$10,852.25	\$34,014.75
Education and Exhibit Materials ²	\$2,500	\$6,700	\$403.72	\$2,903.72	\$1,810.28	\$403.72	\$2,214
Job Training + Maintenance & Inspections Development and Pilot Implementation	\$25,000	\$6,500	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$21,050	\$31,395.96	\$52,445.96
Landscape Contractor and Landscape Supply	\$32,810	\$39,700	\$16,027.67	\$48,837.67	\$33,032.54	\$16,027.67	\$49,060.21
Landscape Design + Oversight ³	\$9,000	\$11,750	\$13,282	\$22,282	\$11,723.00	\$13,282	\$25,005.00
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500	\$5,727.44	\$0.00	\$5,727.44
Local Travel ⁴	\$350	\$550	\$434.46	\$784.46	\$953.71	\$434.46	\$1,522.76
TOTAL	\$100,000	\$90,850	\$62,000.10	\$162,000.10	\$97,459.47	\$72,396.06	\$169,855.53

Budget Notes:

¹ (Same notes as 7-1-17 grant report) Metro Blooms was awarded grants from Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's Cynthia Krieg fund (\$10,000) and Hennepin County's Green Partners program (\$15,000) to develop and implement pilot programs for the sustainable landcare maintenance training program.

¹ (Same notes as 7-1-17 grant report) We were planning to submit an Opportunity Grant application to Hennepin County to expand the boulevard project but the County requested that we focus an Opportunity Grant application on working with commercial properties along Glenwood Avenue instead. The potential \$50,000 from Hennepin County was removed from the updated match budget below.

¹ 2017 match of \$4,000 from BCWMC was added for engagement and education.

² Education Materials: (Same notes as 7-1-17 grant report) The 2016 funding from the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross Blue Shield and from Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission was spent primarily on plant material and installation of the demonstration boulevards at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The money allocated to education and exhibit materials was utilized primarily for landscape supply. In the budget below, \$2,500 was re-allocated from Landscape Contractor & Supply to Education Materials in order to cover education and outreach materials including signage, doorhangers, display boards for plant palettes, etc.

³ Landscape Design + Oversight: We were able to utilize this project as a job training opportunity for local contractors and youth crews that had little to no experience in landscape installation prior to the Blooming Boulevards experience. Because of this, these crews required much more training, oversight, and guidance from our Landscape Design team than we typically provide our landscape contractors. Also, because it was a training experience for them, the installations took longer than we anticipated. In addition, this was the first year that Metro Blooms installed more than 5 Blooming Boulevards. The quick expansion of the program was a learning experience, and required project development time from our landscape designers.

⁴ Local Travel: The Harrison Neighborhood is a diverse, low income community. This type of community has historically not been engaged in clean water projects. Working with this new community to gain trust, we found it necessary to have a strong presence in the neighborhood. This was often accomplished by Metro Blooms' Community Engagement Manager spending time "in the field" in Harrison working with boulevard captains and neighborhood partners to talk with their neighbors face-to-face. The installations also required more staff support to complete than we anticipated.