Progress Report: January 2020

In 2019, we completed projects at Ripley Gardens, KNOCK Inc, and Venture North Bike Shop. In addition to installed projects, stormwater credit applications, operations and maintenance plans and trainings, and as built documents are completed. Signage is underway. Construction documents are completed for a fourth site, Minnesota Builders Exchange, and we are in the preliminary design phase for Water in Motion. In conjunction with clean water practices, project focus remains on equitable engagement and development through the use of an equitable development scorecard, ongoing opportunities for community feedback, and training for local contractors. Many factors including property sale, soil contamination, and tenant issues have led to numerous properties dropping out prior to installation so we requested grant extensions to the end of 2020 from both the Clean Water Fund and Hennepin County.

By the numbers

- 11 sites engaged
- 3 completed project sites
- 11 raingardens (2,193 square ft)
- 6 native plantings (2,350 square ft)
- 2 fescue lawns (2,820 square ft)
- 15 sustainable landcare stewards trained

Additional funding and support provided by:
2019 Boulevard Bioswale Program

Project Summary
The boulevard bioswales program converts traditional, raised boulevards into lowered gardens to improve water quality and provide forage for pollinators in North Minneapolis. We targeted boulevards with ash trees, as these trees are being removed by the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, which provides us with a unique opportunity to reconstruct a boulevard during removal. We partnered with local neighborhood associations to recruit project participants, and collaborated with the Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) to contract local construction crews for the excavation work. Boulevards were then planted with pollinator-friendly plants with the help of local volunteers from the Mississippi River Green Team. The University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) led a community evaluation of the program to help Metro Blooms understand the intended and unintended impacts of the boulevard bioswale project.

By the numbers
- 37 boulevard bioswales installed
- 6,052 square feet of land
- 15 tree stumps removed
- 4 community block parties held

Projected Capture (annual)
- 283,569 gallons of runoff captured
- 233 pounds of sediment captured
- 1.1 pounds of phosphorus captured

*Green dots on map represent ash tree locations