



## Community Partners Application

**Grant Name - BCWMC Harrison Neighborhood Project**

**Grant ID - C17-7939**

**Organization - Bassett Creek WMC**

<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Community Partners 2017</b>	<b>Grant Contact</b>	<b>Karen Chandler</b>
Total Grant Amount Requested	\$150,000.00	County(s)	Hennepin
Grant Match Amount	\$67,000	12 Digit HUC(s)	070102060502 ,070102060703
Required Match %	25%	Applicant Organization	Bassett Creek WMC
Calculated Match %	45%	Application Submitted Date	
<b>Other Amount</b>			
<b>Project Abstract</b>	<p>This project engages private property owners including non-profits, businesses, and institutions, in the Harrison Neighborhood of Near North Minneapolis to install stormwater best management practices. The BMPs will reduce pollution in Bassett Creek including chlorides and bacteria, for which the creek is impaired. The primary focus is on Glenwood Avenue, a focal point in the community and a highly impervious area. We plan to engage a minimum of six property owners to install practices that filter/infiltrate stormwater runoff, diminish localized flooding, create native habitat, and beautify the neighborhood. Bassett Creek forms the southern boundary of Harrison Neighborhood and these projects directly address the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL and priorities within the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan. In addition, the projects will demonstrate the power of partnerships and the importance of community investment in water quality projects where environmental injustice is common.</p> <p>Project partners include Metro Blooms, the Metropolitan Council, the Harrison Neighborhood Association and</p>		

the City of Minneapolis.

## Narrative

### Questions & Answers

#### **What organization will serve as the Fiscal Agent for this grant?**

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

#### **Did your organization receive CWF grant dollars in FY 2014, FY 2015 and/or FY 2016? If less than 50% of the total grant amount awarded from FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016 grants have been spent, please explain your organization's capacity (including available FTEs or contracted resources) to effectively implement additional Clean Water Fund grant dollars.**

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) received CWF grant dollars in FY2016 for the Northwood Lake Improvement Project. In August 2015, the BCWMC entered into an agreement with the City of New Hope to design and construct the project. The City's consultant (Stantec) designed the project and the BCWMC approved final design plans in November 2015. The city awarded a construction contract to Northdale Construction Company in February 2016 and construction started in March and is continuing. A grant reimbursement request will be submitted to the BWSR by the end of 2016 once appropriate invoices and documentation are gathered.

#### **Clarity of Application: 1. (15 points) Describe how your organization will utilize the requested funds to engage citizens into taking action in managing their local resources. How will successful completion of this project lead to future projects or community partner involvement?**

In partnership with Metro Blooms, Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA), Metropolitan Council, and neighborhood businesses and organizations, this project emphasizes community resilience strategies through engagement and stormwater management. Project focus is the Harrison Neighborhood in Minneapolis. We will work with HNA's Glenwood Revitalization Team to address local water quality issues related to urban runoff by engaging at least six businesses, institutions, and/or non-profits to install stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

Interested property owners schedule a consultation with Metro Blooms. The consultation is used to educate participants and discuss opportunities on their property or in the public right-of-way for stormwater management, and environmental, aesthetic, and economic benefits. Metro Blooms creates plans detailing type(s) of BMPs proposed and runoff and pollutant capture. Proposed private property BMPs may include raingardens, permeable pavement, and underground infiltration. Proposed right-of-way BMPs may include boulevard swales and tree trenches. Implementation is subcontracted and overseen by Metro Blooms. Property owners contribute financially and commit to maintain their BMP(s) for at least 10 years. Private property BMPs may be eligible for reduced monthly stormwater utility fees, and Metro Blooms provides assistance with applications to the City. This reduction in fees is an additional incentive to maintain practices.

Few stormwater BMPs exist in the Harrison neighborhood. A previous survey of south Minneapolis businesses (Metro Blooms, 2013) revealed that few businesses are aware of them and how they function. This project leverages funding from multiple sources to implement

## Questions & Answers

demonstration sites throughout the Harrison Neighborhood. Using a collaborative model among agencies serving this community, the project engages and employs these businesses to build their community by protecting their local water body.

### **Clarity of Application: 2. (5 points) Who will be the primary audience(s) for your proposed program?**

The primary audience is business owners and community members within the Harrison Neighborhood of Minneapolis. The project will build on a demonstration boulevard bioswale project that was installed at Redeemer Church in Harrison. This project generated a lot of neighborhood interest in runoff management and native habitat. There will be an exhibit at Redeemer's Annual Block Party in August 2016 (800 attendees) to identify potential sites for this project.

With one of the largest Laotian populations in Minnesota, and a demographic of 45% African-American and 65% people of color, Harrison is a study in the inter sectional outcomes of racial inequity. In Harrison, 41% of household incomes are below the federal poverty line. There is a great need for locally-based community investment. The Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA) recognizes that racial disparities are linked to a lack of access by communities of color to the policy decisions that affect them. As part of their mission, they aim to establish a vibrant and functioning gardening, environmental, and food justice community, resulting in neighborhood voices that positively change the distribution of green space and healthy resources. This project proposes to facilitate neighborhood participation in a project that impacts community safety, beautifies the neighborhood, and provides a tool for the neighborhood to restore its environmental function and livability one property at a time.

### **Clarity of Application: 3. (20 points) How will this Clean Water Fund project benefit the general public? Describe the water resource benefits from a local and state perspective.**

The Harrison Neighborhood lies within the Bassett Creek and Mississippi River watersheds. The main stem of Bassett Creek, Harrison's southern boundary, is included on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Impaired Waters list for aquatic life (excess chlorides) and aquatic recreation (fecal coliform). This project addresses these impairments through education and implementation of stormwater BMPs. Project focus is on commercial properties bordering Glenwood Avenue. This highly urbanized, impervious corridor is a community focal point. Projects are proposed to improve water quality and neighborhood aesthetics, encourage pedestrian traffic, and create habitat. Bio-infiltration practices reduce runoff volume, sediment, and nutrients. Some projects (i.e., permeable pavement) also may reduce need for salt use during the winter, thereby reducing chlorides (on warm winter days water infiltrates rather than re-freezing on the surface). Projects have direct and immediate benefits for the community, Bassett Creek, and the Mississippi River.

This project builds on a broader Harrison Neighborhood project to engage youth and residents in green infrastructure practices. Partner funding is being used to engage residential property owners to install 'Blooming Boulevards' in conjunction with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Emerald Ash Borer Tree Replacement Plan. Boulevards are shaped into a swale upon tree removal and planted with low-growing plants, prior to a new tree being planted. Youth from the Mississippi River Green Team, Conservation Corps, and Step Up interns from

## Questions & Answers

Redeemer installed the boulevard bioswales at the church in 2016. They participated in daily 30-minute lessons on topics such as stormwater management, urban forestry, environmental justice, plant ID and maintenance as a pilot for an experiential, place-based education program. We hope to continue these partnerships and education programming during installation and maintenance of proposed projects.

**Relationship to Plan: 4. (30 points) Identify the specific water management plan reference by plan organization, plan title, section and page number. If applicable, also identify specific supporting plans such as a TMDL Implementation Plan, a WRAPS document, or Clean Water Partnership Diagnostic Study.**

**In addition to the plan language, provide a brief description regarding how the activities in this application relate to the plan reference(s).**

Upper Mississippi Bacteria TMDL Implementation Plan

“In the case of the Bassett Creek Subwatershed, pets are identified as the most likely bacteria source. High priority implementation actions include the installation of biofiltration/filtration BMPs where feasible.” - Bassett Creek Subwatershed, pg. 172-173

- Proposed projects focus on the installation of biofiltration practices that directly address the bacteria TMDL for the Mississippi River.

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan - adopted by Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) in September 2015.

The main stem of Bassett Creek is a BCWMC Priority 1 stream. Classification as such is relevant for eligibility for water quality improvement projects. - Surface Water Resources, pg. 2-23

- Priority 1 stream designation is a primary reason for the implementation of this project and our focus on the Harrison Neighborhood, which partially drains to the main stem of Bassett Creek. Proposed activities help achieve water quality improvement goals.

Plan goals include: “reducing stormwater runoff volume for the purposes of improving water quality,” and “raising awareness of the impact individuals, businesses, and organizations have upon water resources and motivating these audiences to change behaviors that have a negative impact on the watershed.” - BCWMC Vision & Purpose, pg. 1-3

- Project focus is on community education, engagement, and widespread behavior change through the installation and promotion of highly visible demonstration sites.

“The BCWMC seeks collaborative groups and partners to help achieve the goals set out in the plan. Some partners include Metro Blooms...MetCouncil...and Hennepin County.” - Appendix B, pg. 1

“BCWMC will partner with Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb to provide workshops and trainings, raingarden installations, native gardens, buffers, etc.” - Appendix B, pg. 2

## Questions & Answers

- Project is implemented in partnership with Metro Blooms, the MetCouncil & Hennepin County.

### **Assessing the Proposal's Impact: 5. (4 points) Describe how your organization will ensure the technical components of the program projects.**

Metro Blooms' Landscape Designers (MLA) and licensed Landscape Architect will work with City of Minneapolis Public Works staff during the design phase of these projects. If necessary, soil boring and analysis will be completed to determine infiltration rates and feasibility of proposed stormwater BMPs prior to completion of construction documents. Any projects within the City right-of-way will require approval and permits from the City.

### **Assessing the Proposal's Impact: 6. (4 points) Describe how your organization will ensure long-term assurance of public benefit.**

Private property projects are designed with input from City of Minneapolis Public Works staff to ensure compliance with stormwater credit requirements. If approved for credit, the City will monitor and evaluate the projects annually. If a property is not in compliance with the requirements of the stormwater credit, the credit will be revoked. Since the credit provides a financial incentive for property owners to participate in this project, it is in the owners' interest to maintain the practices. Public right-of-way projects require approval and permits from the City and will be maintained by the City.

### **Assessing the Proposal's Impact: 7. (4 points) What specific criteria will your organization use to evaluate projects?**

In working with HNA's Glenwood Revitalization Team, the goal is for 80% of projects to be on Glenwood Avenue to meet community revitalization goals and install projects that provide multiple community benefits.

Proposed projects reduce phosphorus, chloride, and bacteria concentrations in Bassett Creek and the Mississippi River. Phosphorus and volume reductions will be modeled using WinSLAMM upon completion of the projects.

The success and impact of the project will be directly measured in the following ways:

- Number of property owners engaged in site consultations
- Number of property owners that move forward with an installation
- Number of new property owners, in addition to those funded by the grant, that express interest in a project following installation and promotion of demonstration sites
- For installation projects we utilize WinSLAMM modeling software to determine: stormwater runoff volume and phosphorus reduction and percent impervious surface treated
- Number of participants, project budget and partners for each property

### **Assessing the Proposal's Impact: 8. (4 points) What is the projected impact of this proposed program?**

Direct project impacts focus on the improvement of water in Bassett Creek and the Mississippi River. We estimate a total reduction of 1.5-3 lbs of phosphorus, 500-1,200 pounds of sediment, and 450,000-700,000 gallons of runoff annually (WinSLAMM modeling for commercial properties similar to those bordering Glenwood).

## Questions & Answers

Indirect benefits focus on the inclusion of the Harrison neighborhood in a project to improve their community and their environment. This project brings much-needed funding to a lower income, diverse community and provides economic and social benefits. HNA is committed to creating a prosperous and peaceful community that equitably benefits all of Harrison neighborhood's diverse racial, cultural, and economic groups and this project enables them to do that, by engaging businesses that otherwise may not be able to afford the implementation of stormwater management features that beautify the neighborhood. This project is dedicated to ensuring that the expanding community of gardeners and engaged citizens are active participants in helping to restore the ecological function of the neighborhood in a way that ensures environmental justice goals are advanced.

### **Assessing the Proposal's Impact: 9. (4 points) How will your organization measure project outcomes?**

Project outcomes are measured in relation to Harrison's community revitalization goals and modeling of pollutant reductions as detailed previously. By working with HNA we are able to ensure the project is in alignment with their community goals for the neighborhood, such as increasing tree cover, improving safety, and encouraging sound economic development along Glenwood Avenue.

Water quality outcomes are measured through use of WinSLAMM modeling software. To measure community impact we'll work with HNA to promote projects at neighborhood art crawls, block parties, and community events. These events could be hosted at participating project sites to display and promote stormwater BMPs. The number of people engaged and any new project opportunities that arise through promotions will be tracked.

### **LGU Capacity: 10. (10 points) Briefly describe the organizational capacity and staff qualifications that will ensure the success of this project.**

The BCWMC has a history of successful project and program implementation as well as proper management and use of State grant funding. With proper oversight and through an appropriate contract, the BCWMC intends to contract with Metro Blooms to manage and implement this project. Metro Blooms will lead engagement, design, and installation activities. Metro Blooms designers (licensed Landscape Architect and graduate Masters of Landscape Architecture) have ample experience and expertise designing and implementing projects of this scope and scale. Through partnerships with the McKnight Foundation and City of Minneapolis Great Streets program they've worked with more than 30 businesses over the last 3 years to educate property owners, design stormwater BMPs, and in many cases manage the installation of recommended practices. In addition, experienced project management staff has overseen the successful implementation of more than 20 neighborhood-scale stormwater management installation projects ranging from 5-150 participants.

Another key partner is the Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA). The HNA is dedicated to supporting and creating pathways for economic development, environmental justice, leadership, and collective problem solving led by people of color and those most impacted by disparities. The Glenwood Revitalization Team acts as a steering committee for development in the Harrison Neighborhood, with a specific focus on economic development along Glenwood Avenue. HNA partners on project development and outreach/education.

### Questions & Answers

**The Constitutional Amendment requires that Amendment funding must not substitute traditional state funding. Briefly describe how this project will provide water quality benefits to the State of Minnesota without substituting existing funding.**

Funding for the proposed project does not substitute traditional state funding. The project supplements spending by the Metropolitan Council, Center for Prevention at Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota (funded Blooming Boulevard demonstration project at Redeemer to improve livability), and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission.

## Application Budget

Activity Name	Activity Description	Category	State Grant \$ Requested	Activity Lifespan (yrs)
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	Site consultations, stormwater management plans, designs, construction management and oversight for participating properties, stormwater credit applications, WinSLAMM modeling	TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE	\$8,000.00	
<b>Engagement and Outreach</b>	Engagement of a minimum of 6 business/institutional/non-profit properties (80% along Glenwood); promotion following installation, signage development	EDUCATION/INFORMATION	\$5,000.00	
<b>Project Management and Administration</b>	Coordination, scheduling, reporting, invoicing, communications, & travel	ADMINISTRATION /COORDINATION	\$6,000.00	
<b>Installation/Construction</b>	Contractor fees, plant material, mulch, soil/sod disposal, erosion control, landscape supplies (i.e. permeable pavers), signage	URBAN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	\$131,000.00	

## Proposed Activity Indicators

Activity Name	Indicator Name	Value & Units	Waterbody	Calculation Tool	Comments
<b>Installation/Construction</b>	PHOSPHORUS (EST. REDUCTION)	3 LBS/YR	Bassett Creek	WINSLAMM	
<b>Installation/Construction</b>	SEDIMENT (TSS)	1.2 TONS/YR	Bassett Creek	WINSLAMM	





## Map Image

