



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: 12/20/2019

Date of Next Status Update Report: Nov. 1, 2020

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: Dec 17, 2022

Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Restoring Turf to Native Pollinator Gardens Across Metro

Project Manager: Holly Jenkins

Organization: Wilderness in the City

Mailing Address: PO Box 211453

City, State, Zip Code: Eagan, MN 55121

Project Manager Direct Telephone Number: 651-271-1257

Email Address: hollyj@wildernessinthecity.org

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Location: Regional Parks throughout the Metro region

Total Project Budget: \$197,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$197,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2020, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Ten .25-acre or larger resilient gardens throughout the metropolitan regional parks system will be planned, planted, and maintained involving stewardship volunteers, including underserved populations:

1. Remove underused ecologically-degrading turf
2. Create high-quality native gardens
3. Provide urgent and critical pollinator habitat
4. Serve to educate and inspire visitors
5. Establish stewardship volunteer communities
6. Engage underserved park visitor population

To attain the highest quality conservation and ecological goals, Wilderness in the City will contract with native landscape professionals and Conservation Corps MN when feasible. To assure broad public access, we will partner with ten regional park implementing agencies across the metropolitan region. Together we will:

- Identify turf lawns to be replanted as pollinator gardens and assess each garden site to appeal to specific wildlife, birds, bees and insects, or edible plants.
- Design the gardens for education on native plantings, to showcase a variety of pollinator garden styles, to accommodate educational programming, and to inspire visitors to plant their own gardens.
- Ensure community awareness and involvement and create opportunities to engage diverse and under-served populations. This is integral to both physically building the gardens and to creating strong regional natural resource stewardship communities.
- Coordinate, organize, and schedule the project, culminating in a community garden planting event, and establish a garden stewardship community to provide long-term maintenance.
- Explore the use of technology (such as videos and cameras) to measure and document plant growth, pollinator impacts, wildlife interactions, and human educational opportunities.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update: Nov 1, 2020

Second Update: May 1, 2021

Third Update: Nov 1, 2021

Fourth Update: May 1, 2022

Final Report: Between Nov 1 and Dec 15, 2022

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Site-Selection, Review, & Preparation for Ten .25-acre (minimum) Gardens
Description:

- Starting in Dakota County, we will work with the ten metropolitan regional park agencies on garden site selection and, in consultation with native landscape professionals, determine native plant choices, areas for wildlife and bird concentration, bee-lawn alternative turfs, and/or edible plants. Each garden will offer inspirational plant varieties and layout ideas, resulting in a range of ten native pollinator gardens offering a broad spectrum of garden types and plant varieties across the region
- We will work with native landscape professionals to prepare sites including hydrology review, soil, geology, topography and other relevant factors that will provide the best chance for long-term success and durability of the restoration project. The professional site review will take into consideration previous assessments and provide additional current data as needed to assure adequate site preparation. Any assessment undertaken will complement, not duplicate, existing approved park master plans.
- Through RFP, contract for professional services, including with Conservation Corp MN, for site prep including turf killing, soil tilling, erosion control, seeding, and prep site for volunteer planting event.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$80,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Site selection with Dakota County and native landscape professionals for garden location and design. Site review completed, if needed, for hydrology, soil, topography, etc. to ensure garden’s long-term success. Site preparation completed for planting.	Nov 1, 2020
2. Site selection with four metro regional park agencies and native landscape professionals to determine garden location and design. Site reviews completed, if needed, – hydrology, soil, topography, etc. to ensure garden’s long-term success. Site preparations completed for planting.	Nov 1, 2021
3. Site selection with five metro regional park agencies and native landscape professionals to determine garden location and design. Site reviews completed, if needed – hydrology, soil, topography, etc. to ensure garden’s long-term success. Site preparations completed for planting.	Nov 1, 2022

First Update: Nov 1, 2020

Second Update: May 1, 2021

Third Update: Nov 1, 2021

Fourth Update: May 1, 2022

Final Report: Between Nov 1 and Dec 15, 2022

ACTIVITY 2 Title: Community Garden Planting Events for Ten Gardens

Description:

Purchase native plant plugs and host community volunteer stewardship event for each garden to plant native grasses and forbs. Events will be promoted broadly across the region and also to local community organizations. Each event may incorporate a social element after the gardens are planted. This event will be the starting point toward building stewardship communities for each garden.

ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$60,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Dakota County: large community planting event held for one .25-acre (minimum) garden.	Nov 1, 2020
2. Four gardens in four parks: large community planting events held in four regional parks for four .25-acre (minimum) gardens (.25-acres x 4 regional parks = 1-acre total).	Nov 1, 2021
3. Five gardens in five parks: large community planting events held in five regional parks for five .25-acre (minimum) gardens (.25 acres x 5 parks = 1.25 acres total).	Nov1, 2022

ACTIVITY 3 TITLE: Community Involvement and Volunteer Network for Ten Gardens

Description:

- Public awareness and involvement will be facilitated through multiple lines of communication.
- Outreach to local community leaders will facilitate engaging diverse and underserved populations.
- To help ensure ongoing community involvement, a database will track project participation and build a network of ongoing maintenance and park conservation support.
- With the metropolitan regional park agencies, establish an ongoing-maintenance plan for each garden. Continue to engage stewardship volunteers, including underserved populations, to build a community of stewards.
- Database will be maintained by Wilderness in the City (WITC) while a stewardship volunteer committee is established. Once established, management of each garden’s volunteer database will be transferred from WITC to the garden’s designated ongoing garden stewardship organization, the park agency or a park “friends” group, at their request.

ENRTF Budget:

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Dakota County: public engagement and underserved community outreach plan in place. Volunteer database created.	Aug 1, 2020
2. Dakota County: garden volunteer network established, volunteer hours tracked, ongoing-maintenance plan for volunteer stewardship developed	Dec 1, 2020

Outcome	Completion Date
3. Four gardens in four parks: public engagement and underserved community outreach plans in place. Volunteer databases created	<i>May 1, 2021</i>
4. Four gardens in four parks: garden volunteer networks established, volunteer hours tracked, on-going maintenance plans for volunteer stewardship developed.	<i>Dec 1, 2021</i>
5. Five gardens in five parks: public engagement and underserved community outreach plans in place. Volunteer databases created.	<i>May 1, 2022</i>
6. Five gardens in five parks: garden volunteer networks established, volunteer hours tracked, on-going maintenance plans for volunteer stewardship developed.	<i>Dec 1, 2022</i>

First Update: Nov 1, 2020

Second Update: May 1, 2021

Third Update: Nov 1, 2021

Fourth Update: May 1, 2022

Final Report: Between Nov 1 and Dec 15, 2022

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

Additionally, to disseminate to the public information and education about the pollinator gardens:

- Create new Facebook pages and events, Twitter, Instagram and other social media accounts as appropriate to reach the local community for each pollinator garden.
- Print and post announcements, materials, posters, and fliers at commercial and social sites and through local media outlets that reach each garden’s local underserved communities.
- Wilderness in the City will identify and contact community organizations and other nonprofits to help build awareness and support.
- When feasible, coordinate with park agencies to use their existing and appropriate communication channels: websites, Facebook pages, other social media, newsletters, and volunteer listservs.
- A volunteer database will be generated for each pollinator garden to gather contact information and track volunteer hours and participation. Email blasts will be generated from this to inform, update, and keep in contact.

For presentation and educational purposes:

- Documentation of the garden planning, volunteering, planting, growing, and results will be done with photography and video.

- Slide show and video programs will be created for continuing volunteer engagement, promotional, and informational purposes. They also will be geared toward the goal of future educational programming built around each garden as it matures.

First Update: Nov 1, 2020

Second Update: May 1, 2021

Third Update: Nov 1, 2021

Fourth Update: May 1, 2022

Final Report: Between Nov 1 and Dec 15, 2022

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 3,120 for 3-year total	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 1.5
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 2,000 for 3-year total	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 1
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding:

- *Artisan Environments* is a native plant landscaper who will help prepare design plans for various sites.
- *Webknowledgy* will build the volunteer database into our website
- *Benjamin Olson Photography* may provide time-lapse images of one or more of the garden projects, which can then be used for educating and training in years ahead.

B. Partners outside of project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

- *Regional Park Implementing Agencies* including: Dakota County Parks, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Anoka County Parks, Carver County Parks, Minneapolis Park and Recreation, Ramsey County Parks, Saint Paul Parks, Washington County Parks
- *Community Organizations including:* Wild Ones, Pollinator Friendly Alliance, Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

Integral to each Turf to Pollinator Garden is outreach to create long-term volunteer stewardship communities. These will be established with a volunteer database and communication channels (social media, email blasts, etc.) to be handed over to the park agencies, if desired, and integrated with their volunteer base. Collectively, these knowledgeable, caring gardeners, together with ongoing regional park natural resource management staff will facilitate long-term garden maintenance with minimal future costs to the park.

Additional grant funding will be sought to:

1. Record and measure garden growth and impact on pollinator populations through time-lapse photography documentation with wildlife and environmental photographer Benjamin Olson.
2. Monitor and measure impacts on endangered, threatened, and special concern species such as the rusty-patch bumblebee.
3. Expand educational programming and opportunities.
4. Continue to engage and expand community outreach targeted at equitable use of parks.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted May 1 and November 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between Nov 1 and Dec 15, 2022

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

A. Budget Spreadsheet (Attached)

B. Visual Component or Map (Attached)

C. Parcel List Spreadsheet (N/A)

Parcels will be identified during implementation of the project. As stated in Activity 1, this plan is predicated on working with up to ten metropolitan regional park agencies on garden site selection in consultation with native landscape professionals and community input. Each garden will be sited and designed to inspire park visitors with a visual layout and plant types to conceptualize in their own home pollinator gardens.

Additionally, the project manager overseeing the garden site selections will assure broad geographic distribution across the region.

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements (Attached)

E. Research Addendum (N/A)

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet



Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Holly Jenkins

Project Title: Turf to Pollinator Garden

Organization: Wilderness in the City

Project Budget: \$197,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 2.5 years / July 2020 thru Dec 2022

Today's Date: December 20, 2019

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Project Manager; \$50,000 (100% Salary); .5 FTE each year for 3 years			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
\$5k/design + \$3k/service = \$8k/garden	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ 80,000
Specific contractor has not been selected. The type of contractor sought will be native landscape designer to (1) conduct site analysis and develop a site plan consistent with highest quality conservation and long-term resiliency in accordance with the Board of Soil and Water Resources Guidelines, and ongoing maintenance plan for 10 gardens @ \$5,000 per garden and (2) coordinate site preparation as needed for each unique garden, contracting with Conservation Corps when feasible, 10 gardens @ \$3,000 per garden.			
Website upgrade for volunteer database/community engagement	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000
Contract with Webknowledge to build volunteer database and integrate with existing Wilderness in the City website. Webknowledge was selected because they built, host and manage Wilderness in the City's website and are the most efficient contractor for this work.			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
\$5k/field supplies and plant plugs + \$1k/interactive displays = \$6k/garden	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000
Field supplies including gardening gloves and trowels of up to 100 each will be purchased; final quantity will be based on dates of planting events, not to exceed \$1,000 total.			
Quantities of plugs/seeds will be determined with unique site plans. Ten gardens; \$4,900 allocated to each.			
Interactive displays for educational purposes; exact quantity and style will be determined through design phase; Ten gardens; \$1000 per garden			
Printing			
Fliers will be printing and distributed throughout the 3-year period to (1) educate people on the gardens and (2) promote and recruit volunteers for the planting event. Printing will be sourced through Dunwoody Institute, which offers very reasonable rates to help the dollars go further.	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other			
		\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 197,000	\$ -	\$ 197,000

SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:		\$ 45,350	\$ -	\$ 45,350
Webknowledge: Discounted amount for nonprofit \$1,350				
Planting Events: 200 Volunteer hours @ \$20/hour x 10 gardens				
Design of Promotional Pieces: 80 volunteer hours @ \$50/hour = \$4,000				

Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -