



Watershed Stewardship Grant Requirements for **HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS**

If you are doing a **habitat restoration project**, review the following statements. Do not submit your application if you do not agree with these statements. Reach out to the grant program coordinator if you have questions.

- I will use 100% native plants in their natural (wild) form.** The District defines native plants as native to the region between central Minnesota and central Iowa. Cultivars (cultivated varieties) of native plants are not permitted.
- I have a planting plan that states what plants will go where in my project area.** Plants do best where site conditions meet their sun exposure and soil moisture needs.
- I will not irrigate plants after the initial establishment period of two years.** Native plants are hardy and shouldn't need irrigation once established.
- I will only use herbicides sparingly and only where appropriate.** Herbicide use, including active ingredient and mix strength, must be outlined in the project proposal.
- I will not use insecticides or fungicides.** These products harm soil micro-organisms, insects, songbirds, and other wildlife.
- I will limit my use of fertilizer to those without harmful salts.** Natural fertilizers such as top-dressing with compost or compost tea are preferred.
- I have provided the approximate square footage (or similar size reference) for my project area.** This number may be noted on your project area map or planting plan.
- I will de-compact soils in my project area if recommended by a District representative.** We like to see no more than 200 PSI to a depth of 12 inches.
- I am prepared to test my soil if requested by a District representative.** Based on site history and current condition, the District may require you to test your soils for organic matter, composition, nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), and pH. Testing results must be provided to staff, and you may be asked you to amend deficient soils if needed. Testing is an eligible project cost.