



Stewardship Grant Program Proposed 2025 Updates

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Board of Managers, December 11, 2024

Overview



- 2025 budget
- New application windows
- Refine native plant definition and requirements
- Revise requirements for project types and maximum awards
- Add project type: Shoreland Health
- Refine project quote requirements
- Add learning module requirement for some project types

Goals in 2025



Prioritize first-time applicants



Set clear expectations before application is submitted



Reduce application review time for staff



Promote ecological health



Enhance education value



Offer support for improvement of lake shoreland health evaluation scores

Stewardship Grant Basics

PROJECT TYPES

- Native Plants
- Rain Barrel
- Turf Alternative
- Habitat Restoration
- Natural Shoreline Restoration
- Waterbody Buffer
- Stormwater BMP
- Shoreland Health (new)

APPLICANT CATEGORIES

- Resident
- Non-profit
- Municipal
- Business
- Schools



Maximum awards vary for each project type and applicant category.



Once a grant is awarded, grantee has 12 months to build their project.

THE PROCESS

Site visit

Apply

Build

Inspection

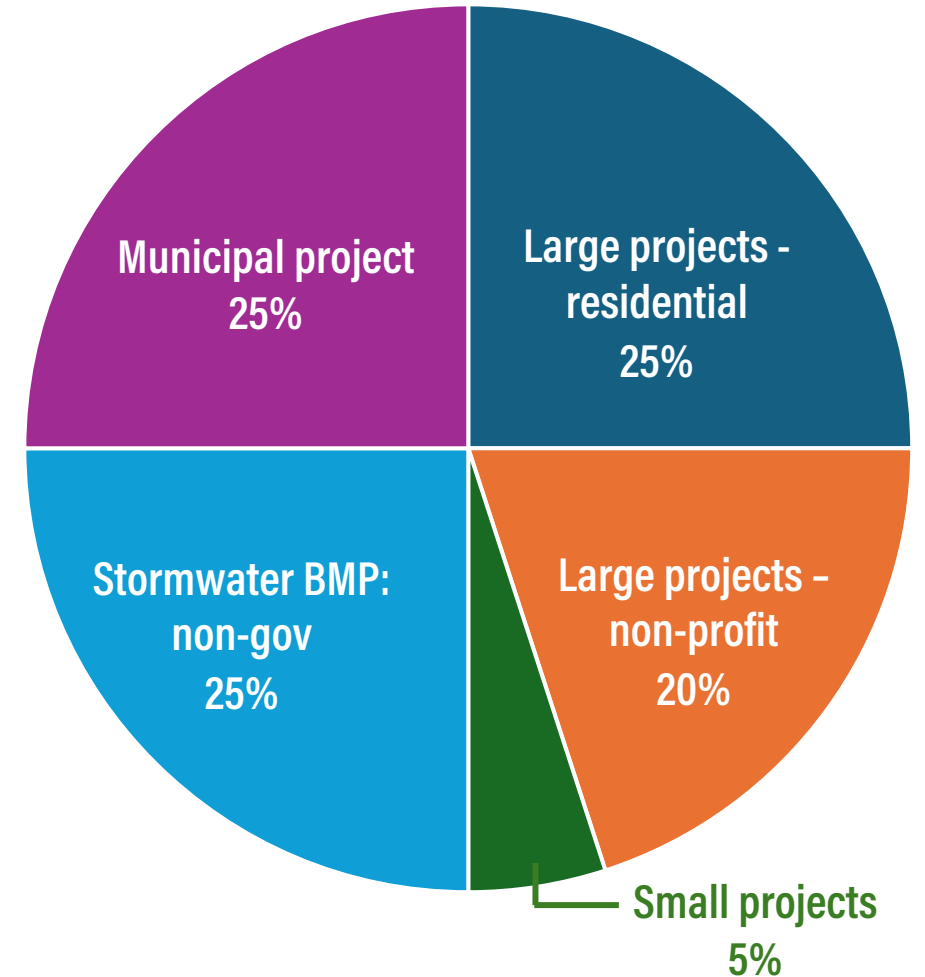
Reimbursement

Maintenance

2025 Budget: \$200,000

| PROJECT TYPE/APPLICANT | Max per project | Subtotal | Percent of budget |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Large projects - residential: Habitat resto, shoreline resto, waterbody buffer, stormwater BMP | \$5,000 Residential (count of 10) | \$50,000 | 25% |
| Large projects – non-profit: Habitat resto, shoreline resto, waterbody buffer, stormwater BMP | \$20,000 Non-profit (count of 2) | \$40,000 | 20% |
| Small projects: Native plants, rain barrel, lawn alternative, shoreland health | \$100 Rain barrel; \$500 Other | \$ 10,000 | 5% |
| Stormwater BMP (non-gov): business or school Reserve \$ until 7/1 | \$50,000 | \$ 50,000 | 25% |
| Municipal project Reserve \$ until 7/1 | \$50,000 | \$ 50,000 | 25% |
| TOTAL | | \$ 200,000 | 100% |

2025 STEWARDSHIP
GRANT PROGRAM BUDGET



“Reserved” money will be made available to all project/applicant types on July 1st.

Grantees have 12 months to complete project so may be approved in one year and reimbursed the next.

Two Application Windows

New!



Round 1 **February 1-May 15** (4 months)

Open to **FIRST-TIME** applicants only
(cities exempt)

Round 2 **May 15-October 31** (5 months)

Open to all applicants

**Applicant must have had a site visit
within the last year.**

*Applications are **reviewed** in the order they are received.*

*Applications are **approved** in order of completeness.*

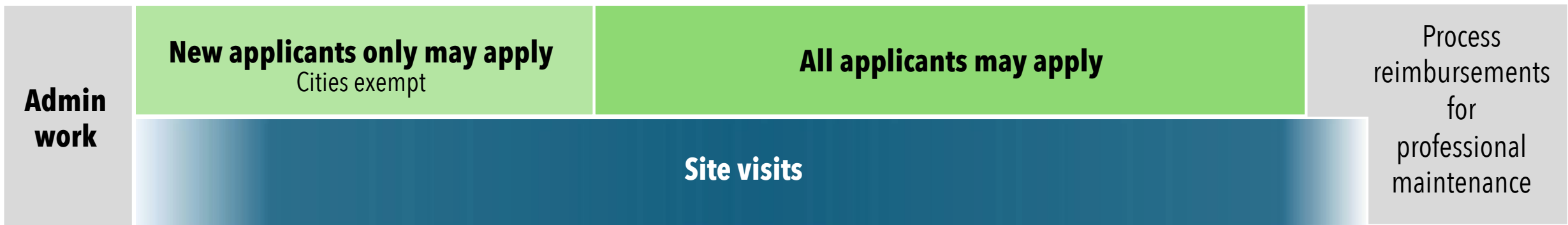
Goal of change

To allow more time for
NEW applicants to:

- become aware of program
- complete a site visit
- plan a project
- prepare/submit application

before budget is committed.

Key Dates



Grantees have 12 months to install project, so we have "active" grants throughout the year.



We should be able to begin using **MS4Front** to manage applications in the 2025 grant season.

Maximum Awards

Applicant may apply for more than one project per grant season **but may not be awarded more than yearly maximum.**



YEARLY MAXIMUM PER APPLICANT
 Residential property: \$5,000
 Non-profit property: \$20,000
 City/school/business: \$50,000

| PROJECT TYPE | Residential owner | | Non-profit | | Government, schools, business | |
|---|-------------------|--|------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| | Max % | Max \$ | Max % | Max \$ | Max % | Max \$ |
| SMALL PROJECTS | | | | | | |
| Native Plant Project | 75% | \$500 | 75% | \$1,500 | 50% | \$1,500 |
| Rain Barrel | 75% | \$100/barrel | Ineligible | --- | Ineligible | --- |
| Turf Alternative (e. g. bee lawn) | 75% | \$500 | 75% | \$1,500 | 50% | \$1,500 |
| LARGE PROJECTS | | | | | | |
| Habitat Restoration Project | 75% | \$5,000 | 75% | \$20,000 | 50% | \$50,000 |
| Natural Shoreline Restoration | 75% | \$5,000 | 75% | \$20,000 | 50% | \$50,000 |
| Waterbody Buffer | 75% | \$5,000 | 75% | \$20,000 | 50% | \$50,000 |
| Stormwater BMP | 75% | \$5,000 | 75% | \$20,000 | 50% | \$50,000 |
| SHORELAND HEALTH (shoreland areas of major lakes) – NEW!! Goal is to encourage residents to add native plants to shoreland areas. | | | | | | |
| Shoreland Health For residential lake lot owners including associations that own property for deeded lake access to neighborhood residents. | 75% | \$1,500 (plant specific) Minimum project cost must be \$200. | Ineligible | --- | Ineligible | --- |

Professional Maintenance Support

We will continue offering professional maintenance support for 36 months (3 years) following installation of these project types:

- Habitat Restoration
- Natural Shoreline Restoration
- May offer professional maintenance support for significant native plant habitat component of a Stormwater BMP

Professional maintenance policy

- Applicant must commit to professional maintenance for three years and submit quote before grant agreement is signed.
- Maximum award is 30% of project cost and will be distributed over three years
- Reimbursed once per year at end of year
- Reimbursement per year may not exceed 75% of the cost for that year

Who's eligible?



- Residential
- Non-profit

EXAMPLE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Project type | Residential habitat restoration |
| Project award | \$5,000 |
| Professional maintenance award | \$1,500 (to be distributed over 3 years) |

Native Plant Minimum Requirements

- **Native to **specified area****
- **Form:** wild, non-cultivated variety
- **Selection:** Choose for site conditions
- **Source:** Grown within **specified area** from a trusted grower
- **Diversity:** At least 9 different species
- **Species per bloom time:**
3 in spring, 3 in summer, 3 in fall
(no species overlap; 9 different species)
- **Quantity:** 3 count per species
(unless shrub/tree)

Updated!



Native Plant Allowable Costs

New!

Encourages grantee to buy younger plants & multi-packs • Doesn't prohibit large sizes • Less effort than set size limits



Yellow Coneflower
Ratibida pinnata

| SUN | SOIL MOISTURE | HT | BLOOM | SPACING | ZONES |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----|---------|---------|-------|
| ☀️ FULL PART SHD | 💧 WET W/M MED M/D DRY | 5' | Jul-Sep | 18-24" | 3-9 |

Butterflies and bees love these flowers. Hardy, drought-tolerant, and transplants well. Pair with Wild Bergamot (pg. 21) & Anise Hyssop (pg. 19).

SEED: (1,000 seeds/pkt - 30,000/oz.) GERM CODE: C(30)

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| packet | 1/2 oz | 1 oz |
| \$3.00 | \$4.00 | \$5.00 |

PLANTS: 3-pack potted: \$21 • potted tray: from \$129 pg. 6-8

| Native plant type | Maximum cost share | Maximum reimbursable amount per individual plant or seed packet* | EXAMPLES | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Item | Item cost | Cost per individual plant | 75% cost share |
| Forbs, grasses, sedges, etc. | 75% | Up to \$5.50 each | Seed | \$3 | Varies | \$2.25 |
| | | | Bare root | \$7 | \$7 | \$5.25 |
| | | | 3-pack 3" pots | \$21 | \$7 | \$5.25 |
| | | | Potted tray of 38 | \$129 | \$3.40 | \$2.55 |
| | | | 1-gallon container | \$11 | \$11 | \$8.25 (\$5.50 reimbursable) |
| Shrubs | 75% | Up to \$20 each | Bare root (Serviceberry) | \$12 | \$12 | \$9 |
| | | | #5 container | \$33 | \$33 | \$24.75 (\$20 reimbursable) |
| Trees (native, non-cultivar only) | 75% | Up to \$500 | 2" B&B (maple) | \$469 | \$449 | \$351.75 |

In January 2025, we will review vendor pricing and update maximum allowable if needed.

Allowable costs are for native plants and not labor. Labor must be a separate line item on estimates.

All native planting projects (except Shoreland Health Projects) must have at least 3 each of 9 species with bloom times distributed through the seasons.

Shoreland Health Project

New!

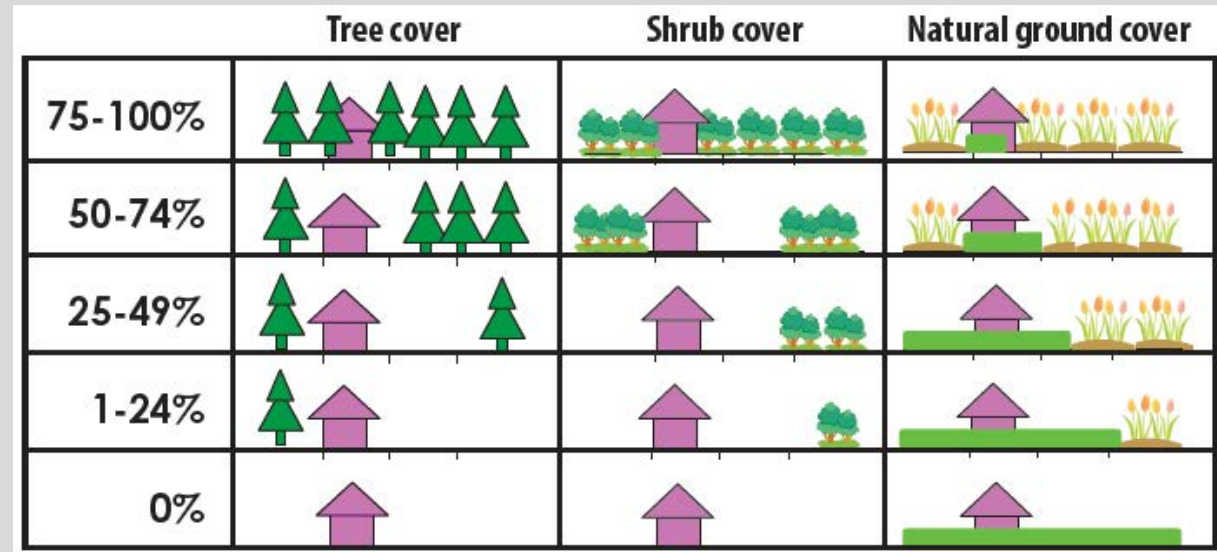
Maximum award for Shoreland Health Grant: \$1,500

Minimum project cost: \$200 (\$50 out of pocket)

| OPTIONS | ELIGIBLE COSTS | MAXIMUM REIMBURSABLE AMOUNT |
|--|---|--|
| Plant one or more native shade trees (DNR list; no cultivars except for native elms) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of tree(s) Installation cost Wood mulch Tree staking and protection | 75% of cost up to \$500 per tree up to \$1,500 total |
| Plant native groundcover (shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, sedges) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of native plants Installation cost Erosion control including mulch Protective fencing from herbivore damage | 75% of cost up to \$1,500 |



Goal is to increase natural groundcover within shoreland.



Aligns with our Shoreland Health Evaluation program.

Shoreland Health Project

New!

Like a Native Plant Project but fewer requirements. Goal is to increase shoreland plant cover.

- **Native to specified area**
- **Form:** wild, non-cultivated variety
- **Selection:** Choose for site conditions
- **Source:** Grown within specified area from a trusted grower



What area qualifies for the Shoreland Health Grant?

- Residential property immediately adjacent to major lake
- Project area is within the “shoreland zone” (up to 50 feet from OHWL)

- **No minimum on species diversity, bloom time, or quantity**
- **Project cost minimum:** Minimum \$200 of eligible costs (\$50 out of pocket)
- **Existing condition:** Must be an improvement to vegetation cover type such as conversion of lawn, impervious surface, bare/eroding soil.
- **Coverage minimum:** At maturity, plants must provide at least 100 sq. ft. of NEW shoreland vegetation.
- *Not eligible* for Professional Maintenance Award (unless applicant chooses to do a habitat or shoreline restoration)

Support Documents



Stewardship Grant Program Habitat Restoration Project Requirements

Do You Meet the Existing Condition Requirement?

The qualify for a habitat restoration, the project area must be a turfgrass (lawn), impervious surface (such as a driveway), highly eroded natural area, or other condition as deemed eligible by staff. **During your pre-application site visit**, staff can help determine if your project idea would qualify as a habitat restoration project or other project type.

Required Application Materials

In addition to filling out the online application form, you'll need to submit:

1. **Current photos** of your proposed project site
2. **Site map** that shows project boundary in relation to applicant's property lines.
3. **Design plan** to show layout of project; if installing plants, a planting plan will be needed
4. **Detailed, itemized cost estimate** with separate line items for materials, labor, etc.
5. **Detailed native plant list** (refer to RPBCWD Native Plant Requirements)

Habitat restoration plan

The application requires a habitat restoration plan that provides a detailed description of methods and materials proposed for restoration. At minimum, the restoration plan must include:

- Site preparation methods including weed control
- Erosion control techniques and materials
- Seeding technique and rate (if seeding is used)

Maintenance plan

A plan to maintain the habitat restoration after installation must also be provided. You should plan to maintain your site at least 5 years (residential grantees) or 10 years (other grantees). At minimum, the maintenance plan should answer these questions:

- How often do you plan to monitor and perform maintenance of the restoration site?
- What chemical and/or mechanical methods will you use to control invasive and weedy species?
- If you plan to use herbicide, what products/active ingredients do you plan to use? Always follow herbicide label instructions.

Interested In a simple project?
If you are looking to simply add native plants to your yard or existing landscaping, check out the **Native Plant project**. This simple Stewardship Grant provides cost share money to offset the cost of purchasing native live plants and seeds. RPBCWD native plant requirements apply.



Design plan

PLANTING PLAN

- Blue False Indigo
- Ohio Spiderwort
- Smooth Blue Aster
- Shrewy Milkweed
- Butterfly Milkweed
- Black-eyed Susan
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Leopland
- Meadow Blazingstar

Stewardship Grant Program Native Plant Project Requirements

A Native Plant Project Grant provides cost share money to offset the cost of purchasing native live plants or seeds. This project type is ideal for people who want to add native plants to existing landscaping, add native seed to an existing natural area, or create a small project such as a butterfly garden or pocket prairie.

Native plants are more than wildflowers!
Explore the many beautiful native grasses, sedges, shrubs, and trees available from local native plant nurseries.

Required Application Materials

In addition to filling out the online application form, you'll need to submit:

1. **Current photos** of your proposed project site
2. **Site map** that shows project area(s) in relation to applicant's property
3. **Planting plan** to show what plants will go where. *This may be combined with the site map.*
4. **Detailed native plant list and costs:** See the RPBCWD Native Plant Requirements for an example.

What's Eligible for Reimbursement?

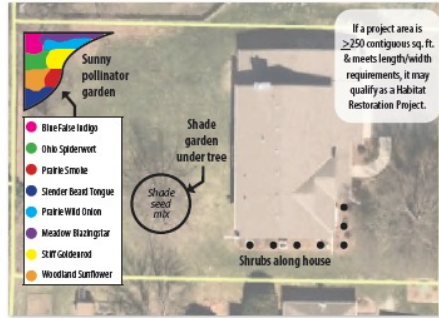
For a Native Plant project, only the cost to purchase native live plants (includes bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes) and seeds are eligible for reimbursement.

Non-native plants, in-kind or hired labor, and other components are not eligible for reimbursement.

Live native plants and seeds are the ONLY reimbursable items for a Native Plants Project grant.

Labor, mulch, edging, and other materials are **NOT** eligible for reimbursement through a Native Plants Project grant.

Example: Site map & planting plan



Example: Plant list

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Bloom | Size Desc. | Price each | Qty. | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| SHRUBS ALONG HOUSE | | | | | | |
| Bush Honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera</i> | SUMMER | #1 container | \$999 | 7 | \$6993 |
| SHADE UNDER TREE | | | | | | |
| Shade Seed Collection | Seed list separate | SPRING TO FALL | 20 sq. ft. | \$25.00 | 1 | \$25.00 |
| SUNNY POLLINATOR GARDEN | | | | | | |
| Blue False Indigo | <i>Baptisia australis</i> | SPRING | 4-pack plugs | \$12.00 | 1 | \$12.00 |
| Ohio Spiderwort | <i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i> | SPRING | 3-in. pot | \$3.99 | 3 | \$11.97 |
| Prairie Smoke | <i>Cornus triflorum</i> | SPRING | 6-pack plugs | \$18.00 | 1 | \$18.00 |
| Slender Beard Tongue | <i>Parastemon gracilis</i> | SUMMER | 6-pack plugs | \$18.00 | 1 | \$18.00 |
| Prairie Wild Onion | <i>Allium stellatum</i> | SUMMER | 3-in. pot | \$3.99 | 3 | \$11.97 |
| Meadow Blazingstar | <i>Liatris ligulistylis</i> | FALL | 9-pack plugs | \$22.50 | 1 | \$22.50 |
| Stiff Goldenrod | <i>Solidago rigida</i> | FALL | 6-pack plugs | \$18.00 | 1 | \$18.00 |
| Woodland Sunflower | <i>Helianthus strumosus</i> | FALL | 6-pack plugs | \$18.00 | 1 | \$18.00 |
| | | | | TOTAL COST | | \$225.37 |

Stewardship Grant for Shoreland Health

Up to \$5,000 for projects that improve the health of your shoreland.

Begins in 2025!

Shoreland is the area between your house and the lake.

It is a transition zone that can serve as a protective buffer to the lake, reducing stormwater runoff that carries pollution and causes erosion. The level of protection largely depends on the type of vegetation in the shoreland.

Help improve the water quality of your lake by installing one or more shoreland health projects.

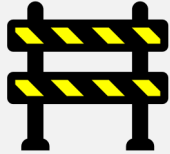
| What is the goal of the grant? | Who is eligible? Residents on: | Where is eligible? | When can I apply? |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| To reduce stormwater runoff into lakes, reduce soil erosion, support soil health, and provide wildlife habitat. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ann Duck Lotus Lucy Mitchell Red Rock Riley Silver Susan | From lake to 50 feet into the yard. | Beginning in 2025. Learn about grant programs at rpbcdw.org/grants |

Eligible Shoreland Health Projects

| Project Type | Maximum Award* | Eligible Costs | Requirements |
|---|--|--|--|
| Plant a native shade tree | 75% of cost up to \$500 per tree. May install up to three trees with maximum award of \$1,500. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of tree(s) • Installation cost • Wood mulch (non-dyed preferred) • Tree staking and protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree species must be considered by the MN DNR to be native to Minnesota. • Form: Tree must be the straight, non-manipulated native form. Cultivated varieties (cultivars/natives) are NOT eligible. • Cultivar exception: Due to Dutch Elm Disease, cultivars are allowed for the three native elms including American Elm, Red Elm, and Rock Elm. • Ineligible: Due to widespread invasion of Emerald Ash Borer, ash trees are not eligible. • Source: We recommend purchasing tree from a tree nursery, landscape supplier, or reputable garden specialty store. Avoid purchasing trees from big box stores. City trees sales are an eligible source. Tree must be locally sourced. |
| Plant native groundcover (shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, sedges) | 75% of cost up to \$1,500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of native plants • Installation cost • Erosion control materials including wood mulch (non-dyed preferred) • Protective fencing from herbivore damage • Edging (maximum reimbursable amount is \$2/foot) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit rpbcdw.org/native-plants for resources related to the below requirements. Staff are also happy to help! • Minimum number of species: Project must include at least three different species. • Bloom time: Project must include one species that blooms in spring, one species that blooms in summer, and one species that blooms in fall. • Origin: Live plants and seeds must be native and grown within lower half of Minnesota, lower half of Wisconsin, and northern half of Iowa. • Forms: Plants must be the straight, non-manipulated native form. Cultivated varieties (cultivars/natives) are NOT eligible. • Source: We recommend purchasing plants from a local native plant specialist. Wild Ones and the MN DNR have lists of vendors. |
| Restore part or all of your shoreline with a Shoreline Restoration Project | 75% of cost up to \$5,000 <i>These projects may also be eligible for more funds to support 3 years of professional maintenance.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of native plants • Installation cost • Wildlif-friendly erosion control materials including bio-log, wood mulch, etc. • Protective fencing from herbivore damage • Edging may be eligible (maximum reimbursable amount is \$2/foot) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native plants are required. See requirements above. • The project must be at least 25 feet long or 25% of shoreline, whichever is greater, with a minimum average width of 10 feet with at least 5 feet above the Ordinary High-Water Line. • A permit may be needed for a project located below the ordinary high water line. Staff will help you make this determination. Visit rpbcdw.org/shoreline-permit for more information. • Be aware that shoreline restoration may require skills or knowledge beyond those of a standard landscaping company. |

* Property owner may apply for more than one grant in a year, but the maximum award per residential property per year is \$5,000.

Maintenance Declaration



We have found that requiring a maintenance declaration is a barrier to some applicants and requires an abundance of hand-holding by staff.

WHAT IS IT?

A maintenance declaration is a legal document that the property owner must file with their county.

WHO IT APPLIES TO

Past grant policy has required these applicant types to file a maintenance declaration for any project type:

- **Non-profits**
- **Businesses**
- **Schools**

ISSUES

- **Each county has different filing requirements & fee**
 - Property owners find process difficult to navigate
 - RPBCWD staff are unfamiliar with county requirements and unable to answer questions
 - Requirement may include a professional land survey (added cost)
- **RPBCWD provides a template as a courtesy, but property owner is informed their attorney should review.**
 - Property owners may not have/use an attorney.
 - RPBCWD staff get questions about the template we're unqualified to answer.
- **A business owner may not be the property owner and have the right to file.**

Maintenance Declaration



PROPOSED SOLUTION

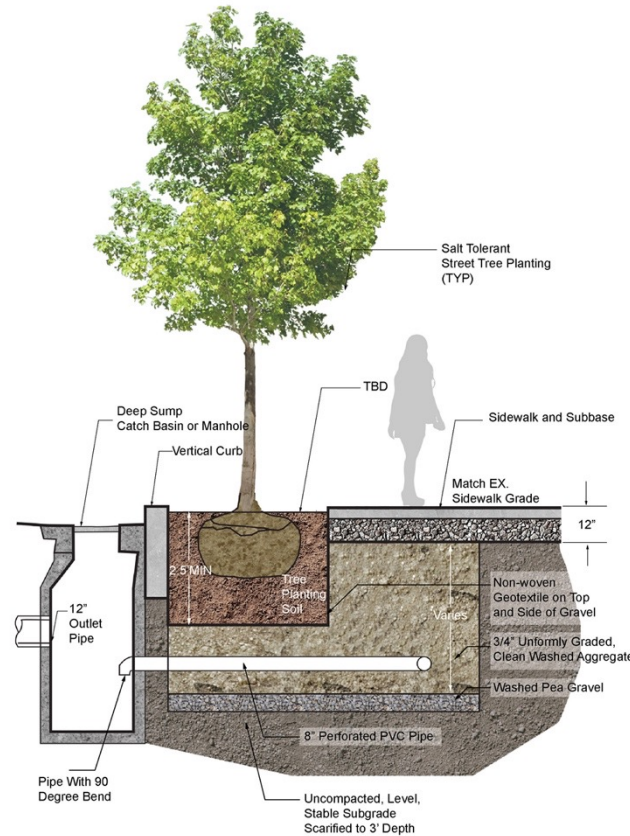
Residential applicants sign a maintenance agreement instead of a maintenance declaration.

The maintenance agreement becomes an appendix of the cost share agreement.

We proposed that all applicants sign a **maintenance agreement** instead of a **maintenance declaration** except for a stormwater BMP that requires a civil design plan (tree trench, rain garden, pervious parking lot etc.).

Stormwater BMP requiring a Civil Design Plan

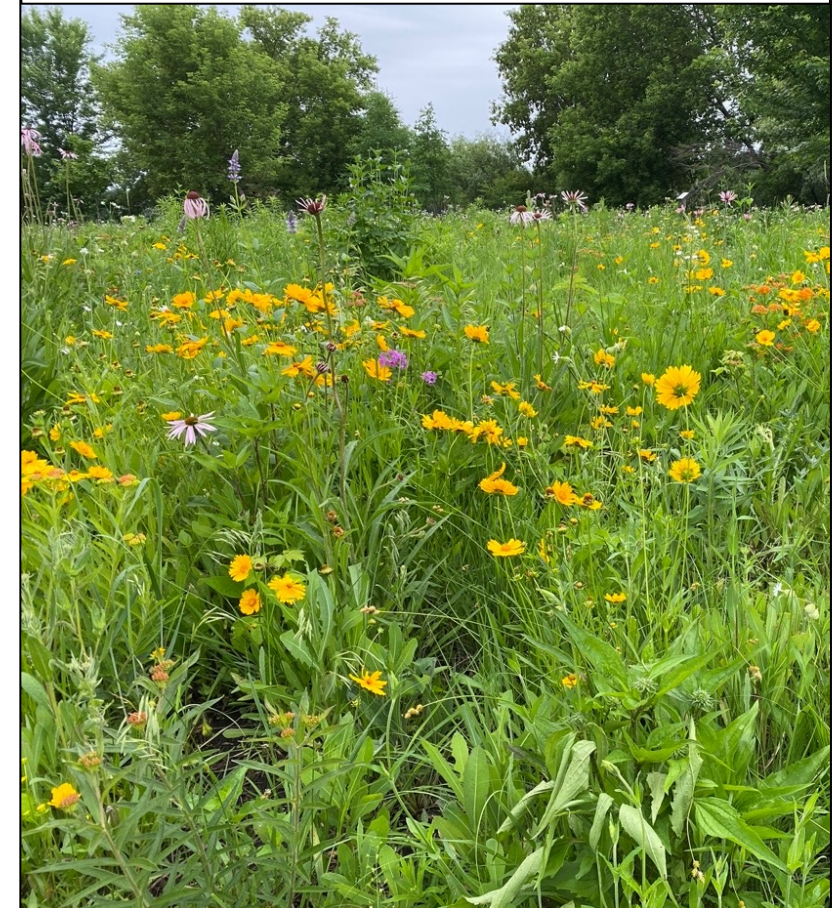
Require a signed **maintenance DECLARATION** to be filed with the county.



STORMWATER TREE TRENCH CROSS SECTION
NOT TO SCALE

Other project types

Require a signed **maintenance AGREEMENT** as appendix of grant agreement.



Stewardship Grant Program

New!



DRAFT LEARNING MODULES

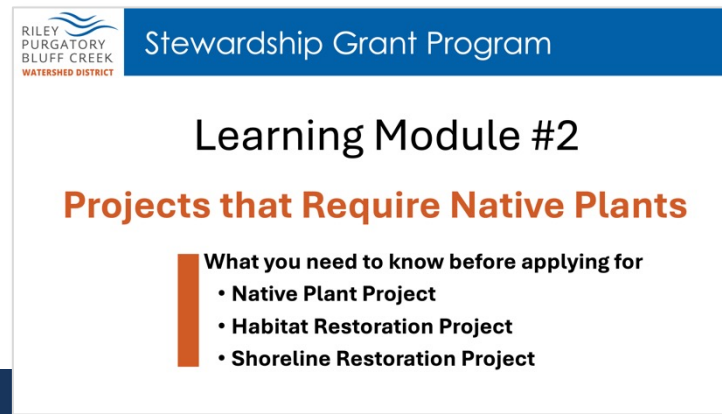
Applicant required to watch before submitting application.

DRAFT LEARNING MODULES

PROPOSED



- #1 **Application Basics** – all applicants
- #2 **Requirements for native plants** – for project types requiring native plants
- #2 **Native Plant Project** – for this specific project type
- #3 **Habitat Restoration Project** – for this specific project type
- #4 **Natural Shoreline Restoration & Waterbody Buffers** – for these specific project types



Final product will likely be a voiceover PowerPoint presentation available on YouTube.

Learning Module #1

Application Basics

DRAFT

Stewardship Grant Program

The Stewardship Grant Program offers financial support for projects that support clean water.



The maximum awards and requirements vary for each project type.



Visit the Stewardship Grant web page for more information.

rpbcwd.org/grants

What Projects are eligible?



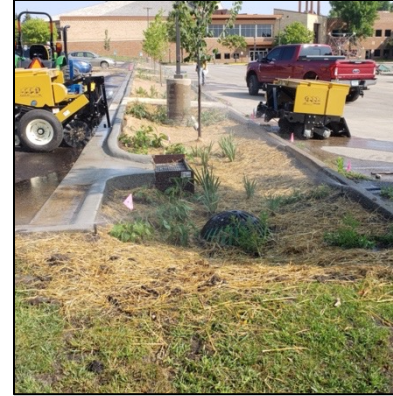
**Native
Plant Project**



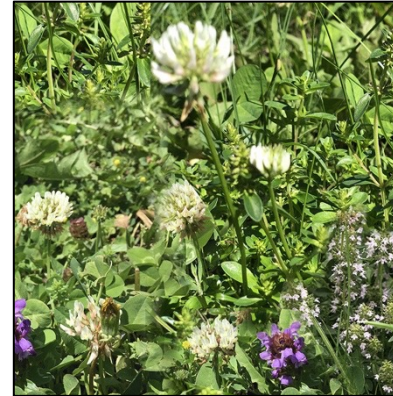
**Habitat
Restoration
Project**



**Shoreline
or Buffer
Restoration
Project**



**Stormwater
BMP Project**



**Turf
Alternative
Project**



**Rain barrel
project**

Who May Apply?

Property owners

- Residential
- Non-profit
- Municipality
- Business
- School



Not all property owners are eligible for all grant project types.



Grant awards vary by project and property owner category.

rpbcwd.org/grants



Homeowners: You must submit an application yourself.

A contractor or consultant may put together plans, but you must complete and submit the application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I begin the project before I get a grant award?

No. You or your consultant/contractor may not begin any work before a grant agreement has been signed.

Can I give a downpayment to a contractor before I get a grant award?

No. Anything you purchase or pay to a contractor *before a grant agreement is signed* is NOT eligible for reimbursement.

The ONLY exception is for a project design fee from a consultant.

Permit



A permit from RPBCWD may be needed for a project if you plan to:

- Alter or remove 5,000 sq. ft. or more of land or vegetation
- Place, alter, or remove 50 cubic yards or more of soil
- Perform work below the Ordinary High-Water Line (OHWL) of a public water
- Disturb a waterbody (wetland, lake or stream) or its buffer

Staff will review your application for permit triggers.



Quote Requirements

Quote must be itemized and include:

- Item name
- Item description/purpose
- Item cost
- Materials and labor must be separate line items

Can I submit a single quote from a contractor that includes the grant project as well as other work?

In most cases, NO.

A quote from a contractor that incorporates a lot of non-grant elements makes it difficult for staff to evaluate an application and determine which pieces are grant eligible. Sorting out receipts at the end of the project is also challenging. Ask your contractor to provide a quote for only the proposed grant project. Get a separate quote for any other work you want that contractor to perform.



Erosion Control Material Requirements

Major considerations:

- Installed materials must be plastic-free
- Materials must be made of 100% biodegradable natural materials such as coir, jute, wood mulch, and straw
- Straw must be certified weed-free
- Wood mulch must be non-dyed



| Choose wildlife friendly Erosion Control Products (ECP) | | |
|--|---|--|
| NOT Wildlife Friendly | Less Risk to Wildlife | Wildlife Friendly |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Square plastic netting that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Degradable - Photodegradable - UV-degradable - Oxo-degradable - Oxo-biodegradable • Made from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Polypropylene - Nylon - Polyethylene - Polyester • ECPs left longer than needed • Silt fences reinforced with metal or plastic mesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elongated mesh netting • Mesh greater than 2.54 cm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural fiber netting or no netting • 100% biodegradable materials • Loose weave, non-welded, movable jointed netting (leno or gauze) • Secure ECPs with wooden stakes or live stakes • Bury edges of blankets & mats • Remove ECPs when no longer needed • Spray on mulch • Seed & plant native vegetation |

Ordinances, rights-of-way, & easements

Some cities have **ordinances** that may relate to your project.

Your property may also have a **right-of-way** and/or **easement** that prohibits activities or alterations.

Please check with your city to see if your project conflicts with any of these.

EXAMPLES

- Utility easement/right-of-way (typically 10-15 feet from curb)
- Drainage easement
- Conservation easement
- Vegetation height restrictions to maintain sight lines
- Zoning ordinance



Maintenance Declaration

- **Project type:** Stormwater BMP requiring a civil design plan
- **Who:** Business, school, or non-profit such as HOA
- **What:** Record a property maintenance declaration with county
- **Why:** Protects watershed district's financial investment

NOTE: County recording offices charge a fee.



Stewardship Grant Program

For more information



Visit rpbcwd.org/grants



Call **952-607-6512**

Learning Module

Native Plant Project

DRAFT

Native Plant Project

Stewardship Grant Requirements

What you'll need to apply for a grant for a Native Plant Project.



1. **Online application form** from rpbcwd.org/grant



2. **Current photos** of proposed project site



3. **Site map** that shows where on your property you want to plant native plants



4. **Planting plan** that shows what plants you want to place where (may combine with site map)

Why? To make sure sun/shade plants are going in right place.



5. **Detailed native plant list with costs**

Live native plants and seeds are the ONLY reimbursable items for a Native Plants Project grant.



Labor, mulch, edging, and other materials are **NOT eligible for reimbursement** through a Native Plants Project grant.



Example Native Plant List



At least 9 different species



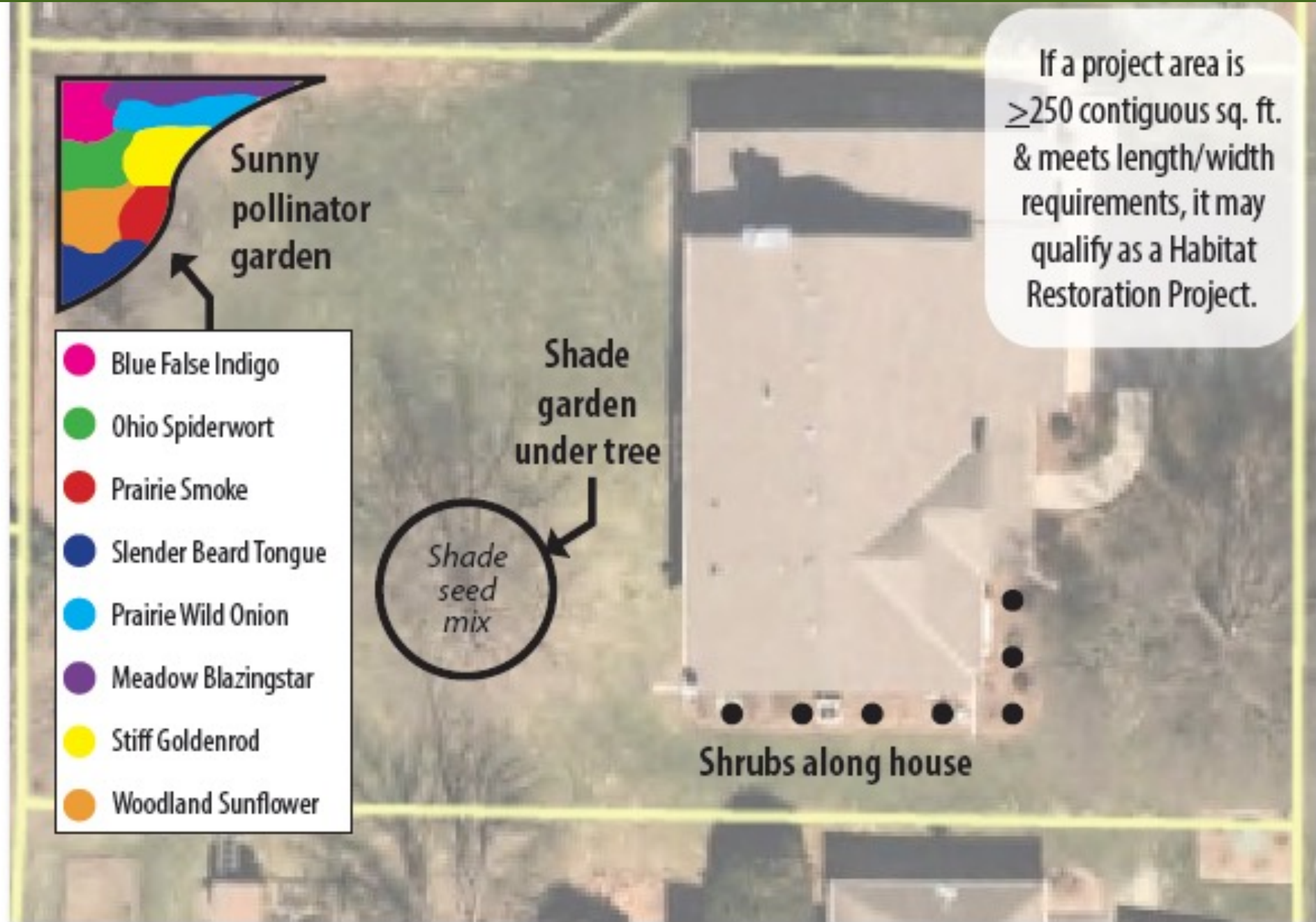
At least 3 species blooming per season



At least 3 individuals of forb species

| | Common Name | Scientific Name | Bloom | Size Desc. | Price ea. | Qty. | Total |
|----|--------------------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-----------|------|----------|
| 1 | Blue False Indigo | <i>Baptisia australis</i> | SPRING | 6-pack plugs | \$18.00 | 6 | \$108.00 |
| 2 | Ohio Spiderwort | <i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i> | SPRING | 3-in. pot | \$3.99 | 6 | \$23.94 |
| 3 | Bur Oak | <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> | SPRING | #5 cont. | \$40.00 | 1 | \$40.00 |
| 4 | Black-eyed Susan | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> | SUMMER | ¼ oz. seed packet | \$5.00 | 1 | \$5.00 |
| 5 | Leadplant | <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | SUMMER | 3-in. pot | \$3.99 | 6 | \$23.94 |
| 6 | Showy Milkweed | <i>Asclepias speciosa</i> | SUMMER | 9-pack plugs | \$22.50 | 4 | \$90.00 |
| 7 | Bush Honeysuckle | <i>Diervilla lonicera</i> | SUMMER | #3 cont. | \$12.99 | 3 | \$38.97 |
| 8 | Meadow Blazingstar | <i>Liatris ligulistylis</i> | FALL | 9-pack plugs | \$22.50 | 4 | \$90.00 |
| 9 | Stiff Goldenrod | <i>Solidago rigida</i> | FALL | 6-pack plugs | \$18.00 | 6 | \$108.00 |
| 10 | Smooth Blue Aster | <i>Symphotrichum laevis</i> | FALL | 6-pack plugs | \$18.00 | 6 | \$108.00 |

Example of Site Map with Planting Plan



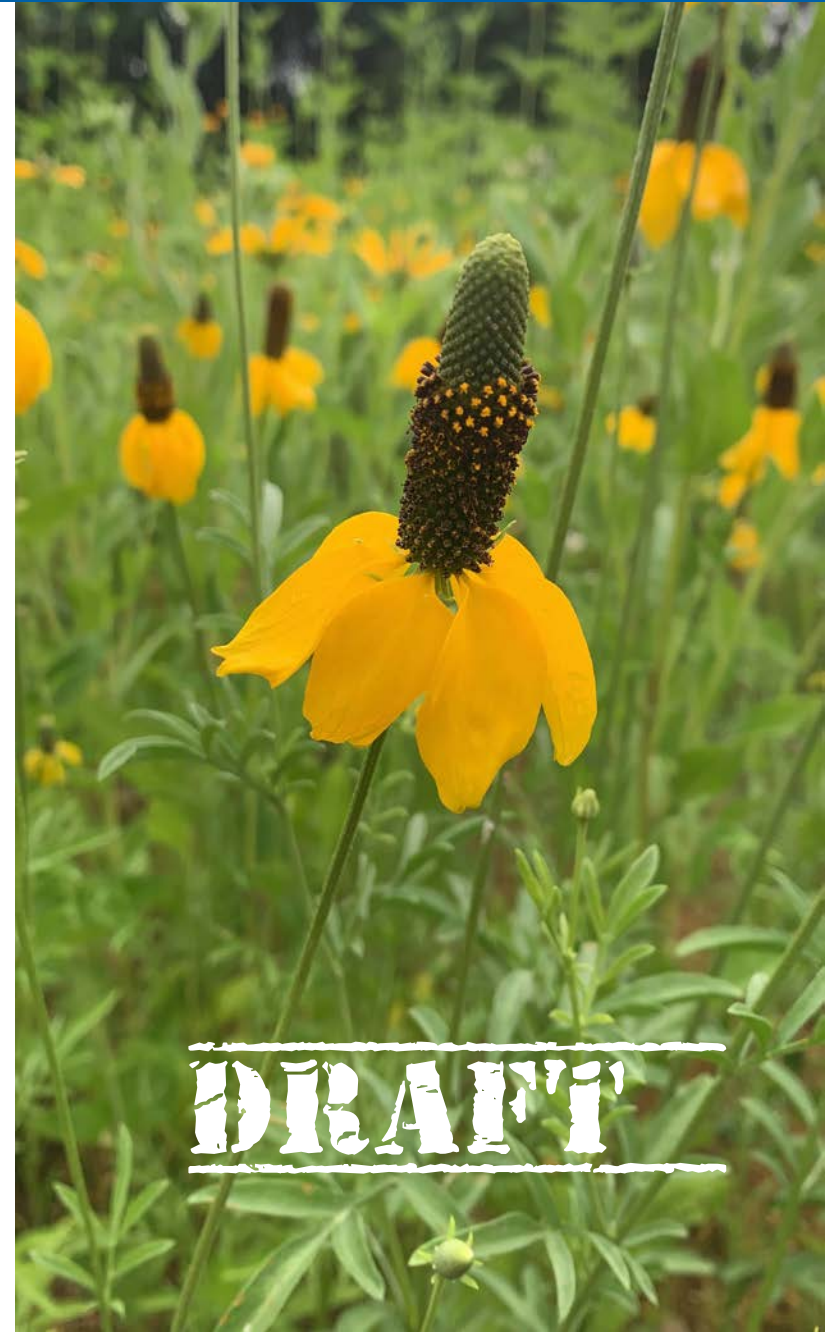
Habitat Restoration Project

Stewardship Grant Requirements

DRAFT

Requirements

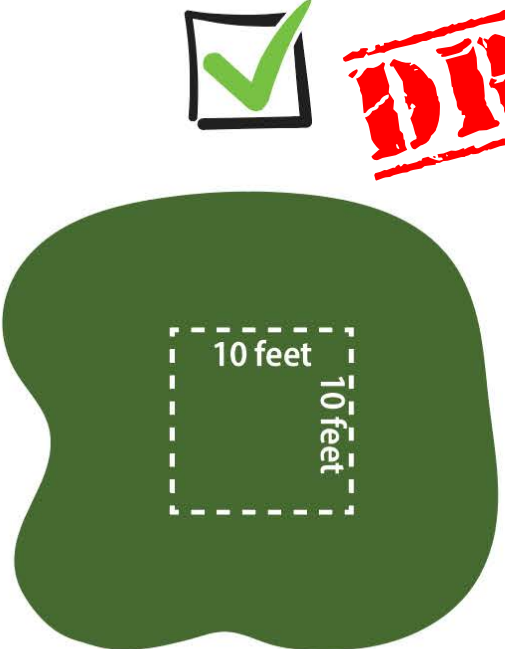
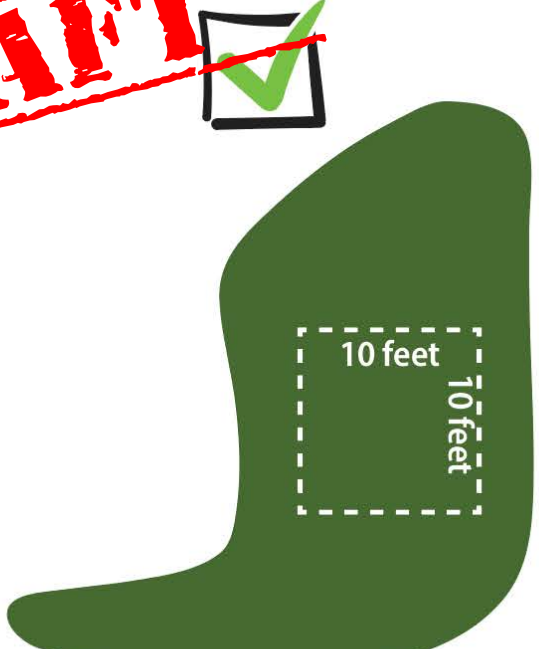
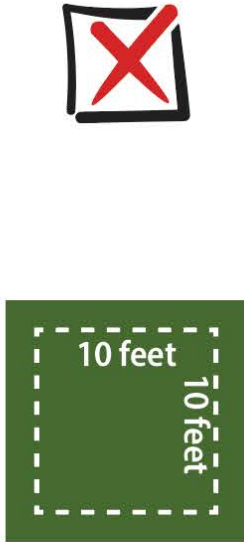
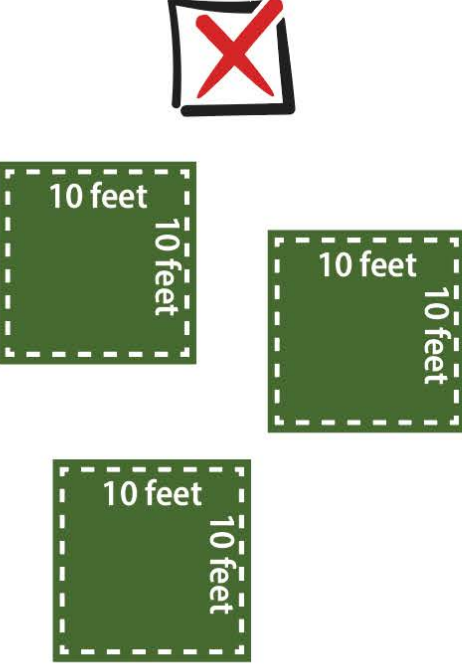
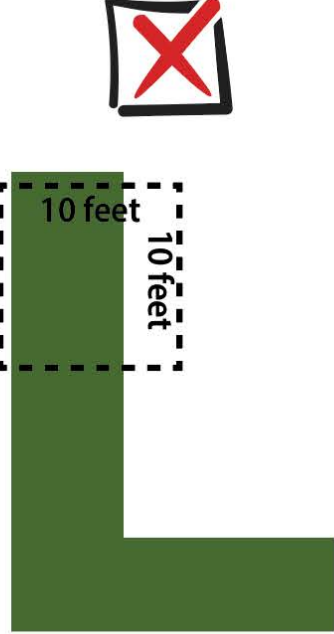
- **Size minimum:** 250 contiguous square feet and able to fit a 10x10 ft square within project boundary.
- **Only native plants** within the project area
- **Native plant requirements:** Source, diversity, bloom time, quantity
- **Spacing:** The goal is to have plants fill in the gaps.
- **Maintenance:** Control weeds at least every season. Leave dead, non-diseased plant material in place for habitat. Replenish plants as needed.
- **Mulch:** Use non-dyed wood to provide erosion control in first growing year. Plants will begin to mulch themselves.



HABITAT RESTORATION: Size & Shape

≥250 contiguous sq. ft.
+
10x10-foot square

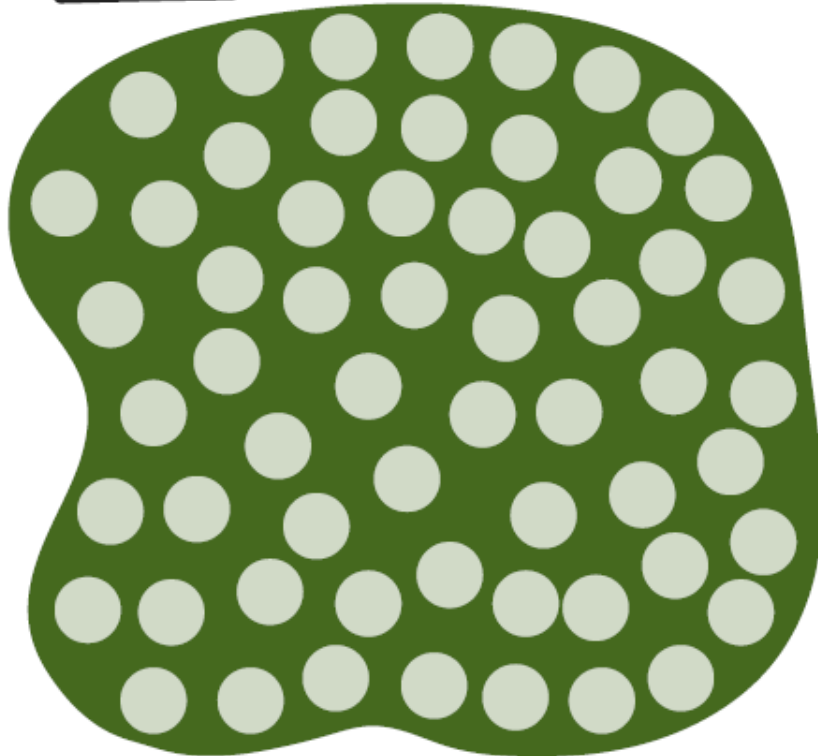
Any shape works if it is at least 250 contiguous square feet in area
AND the shape accommodate a 10x10-foot square fully within.

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
|  <p>WHY DOES THIS SHAPE WORK?</p> <p>Project area is at least 250 contiguous square feet in size and can fit a 10x10 ft square within.</p> |  <p>WHY DOES THIS SHAPE WORK?</p> <p>Project area is at least 250 contiguous square feet in size and can fit a 10x10 ft square within.</p> |  <p>WHY IS THIS SHAPE NOT ALLOWED?</p> <p>Project area is NOT 250 square feet in size.</p> |  <p>WHY IS THIS SHAPE NOT ALLOWED?</p> <p>Project area is at least 250 square feet in size but it's NOT contiguous (area is not in one piece).</p> |  <p>WHY IS THIS SHAPE NOT ALLOWED?</p> <p>Project area does NOT fit a 10x10 ft square inside its boundary.</p> |
|---|---|--|--|--|

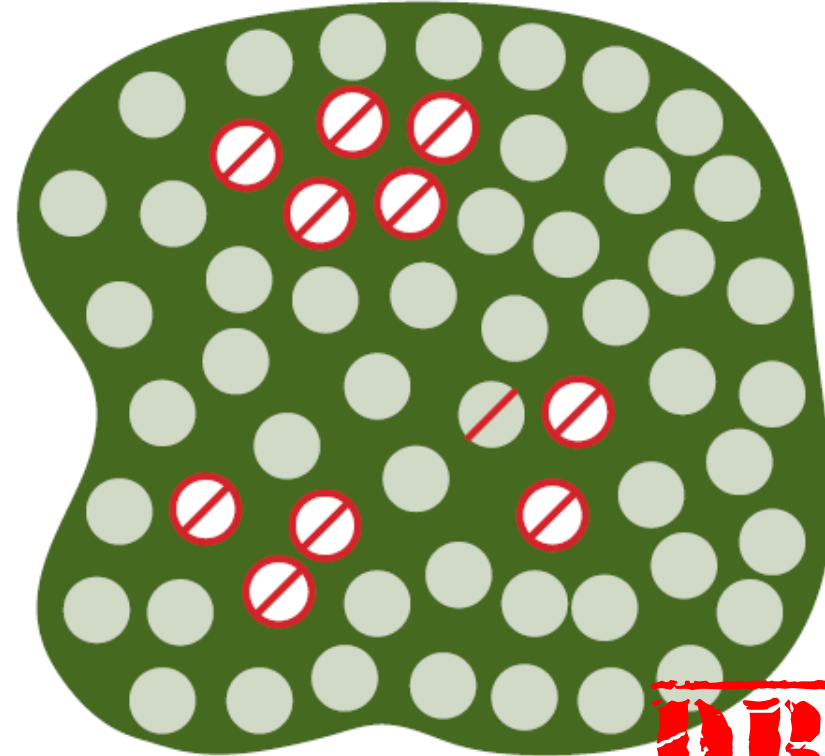
Only native plants within the project area



**ALL NATIVE
PLANTS**



**INCLUDES NON-
NATIVE PLANTS**

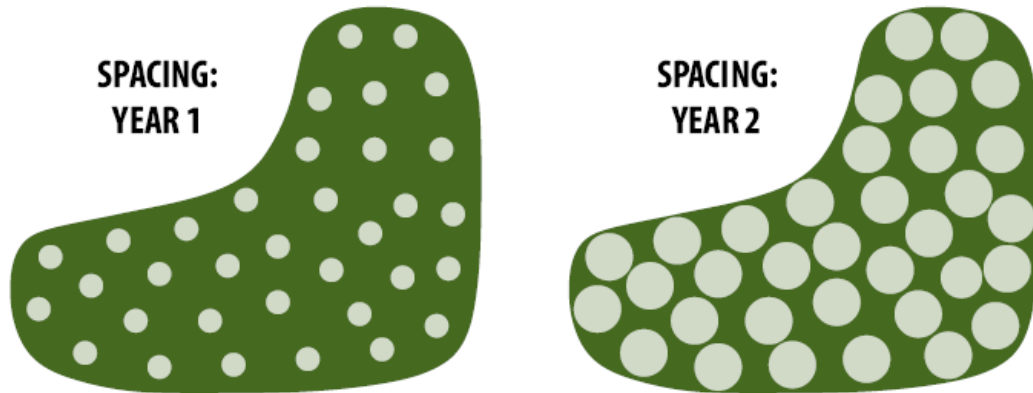


DRAFT

An exception may be made for an already established, non-invasive plant such as a large tree.

Mimic Nature

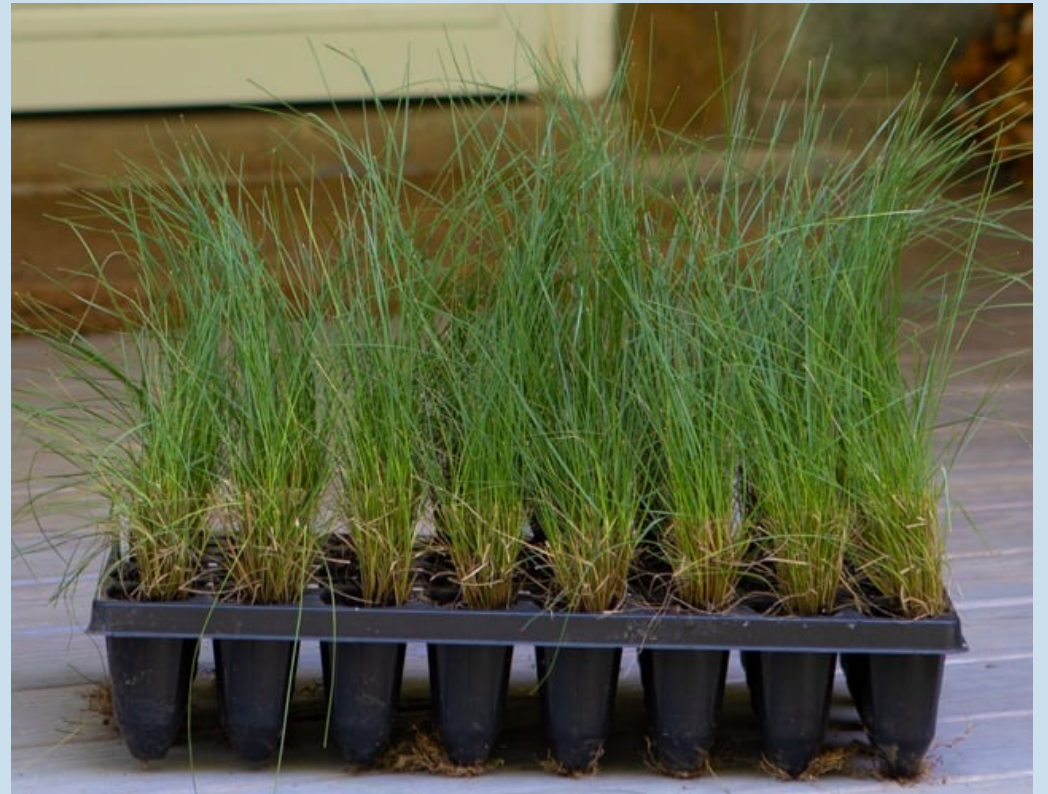
The goal is to, over time, have plants fill in many of the gaps within the project area.



Some bare spots in your project are beneficial for ground-nesting insects.

Buy Small

Buy a tray of plugs (multi-pack) to get more for your money. These young plants tend to have less root issues and nutrient deficiencies.



Design Tips

1. Plant species together in groups or in blended drifts
2. Plan on at least three blooming species per season (spring, summer, fall)
3. Vary textures of plants – alternate soft, wispy grasses and with more defined structure of flowers such as Pale Purple Coneflower
4. Place short plants along borders with tall plants in the middle or back of planting area
5. Have some kind of border or edging to show intention and clearly define your project area
6. Mulch the first year to reduce weeds and conserve soil moisture



HABITAT RESTORATION - Examples



A Habitat Restoration Project **should have at least nine species** of native plants that **bloom throughout the growing season**. Native plants should be sourced from a local native plant specialist grower/nursery.

Required Documents

1. **Online application form** from rpbcwd.org/grant
2. **Current photos of site** showing how it looks now
3. **Site map** to show where the project is located on your property
4. **Design plan** to show project layout (may combine with site map); this might be a planting plan
5. **Detailed, itemized cost estimate**
6. **Detailed native plant list**
7. **Restoration plan** to show restoration actions
8. **Maintenance plan**
 - **How often** do you plan to do maintenance the year after installation and beyond?
 - **What actions/techniques/methods** do you plan to maintain the site and control invasive plants?



Site Map

Where on your property is the project located?
How big is the project?



Design or Planting Plan

What are you planting and where within the project area?



Your Site Map and Design Plan may be combined in a single document.

Maintenance Plan

A plan to maintain the habitat restoration after installation must also be provided. You should plan to maintain your site at least 5 years (residential grantees) or 10 years (other grantees).

At minimum, the maintenance plan should answer these questions:

- How often do you plan to monitor and perform maintenance of the restoration site?
- What chemical and/or mechanical methods will you use to control invasive and weedy species?
- If you plan to use herbicide, what products/active ingredients do you plan to use?

A habitat restoration is NOT maintenance free.

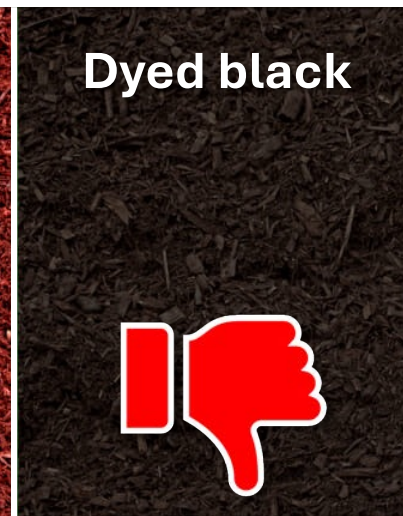
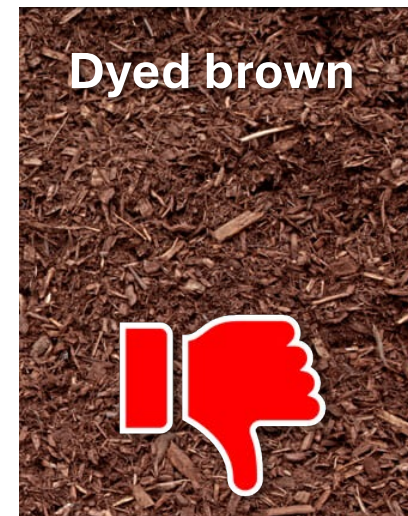


Mulch

You may use mulch for **erosion control and soil protection** when installing a habitat restoration. Mulch will not be needed in future years as plants begin to create their own mulch in the form of leaf litter.

Use non-dyed wood mulch within restoration areas.

Dyes may cause harm to wildlife including soil microbes.



OTHER INFORMATION

Other Grants

Action Grant

Small, simple grants for team projects and activities that protect clean water.

Award: Up to \$250

Examples: an Earth day clean-up, planting native flowers with a group of friends.

Who can apply: Residents, students, local businesses, groups or troops.

Educator Grant

Support for educators to incorporate water resources into their teaching.

Award: Up to \$400

Examples: A trip to a nature center, building terrariums, nets for exploring a creek.

Who can apply: Teachers and informal educators.

No changes in 2025 for these two smaller grant offerings.

Uprooter Loan Program

New!

- Two Uprooters available for loan to help eradicate buckthorn
- Refundable deposit \$265 (replacement cost)
- Borrow for 7 days (may renew if not reserved)



The standard
Uprooter pulls
buckthorn
stems of up to
2 ¼" diameter.



Next Steps

- Finalize **2025 Stewardship Grant Policy**
- **January 8:** Board final approval
- Finalize supporting materials, management system, webpage updates
- **February 1:** Open 2025 application season
- Announce grant program opening and updated policies

Thank you!