

# Community Blue Program – 2012 Report

**Grant Name:** Community Partners Grant

**Funding Sources:** Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and VLAWMO

**Activity or Project Description:** This is a unique and innovative program with a focus on engaging citizens, and building community partnerships through 7-10 highly visible, publically accessible restoration projects that beautify community spaces and improve water quality. Installed projects will be utilized in future years for hands on environmental education and community outreach programs. Qualifying projects are widely varied and may include raingardens, BioHaven® floating Islands (a floating wetland), tree trenches, native habitat restoration along swales or shorelines etc. Grants cover 100% of the cost for materials, design, and installation up to \$20,000. A financial match is not required, but it may increase chances of receiving a Community Blue grant.

In addition to providing an entirely new type of community grant funding, improving water quality is a key goal of the Community Blue program. Specifically, Lambert Creek is a small creek that originates near Goose Lake and eventually discharges into Vadnais Lake. Vadnais Lake is the drinking water reservoir for the City of Saint Paul and surrounding communities. While not a highly visible water resource, Lambert Creek plays a vital role in channeling and directing storm water throughout the Watershed. Lambert Creek also runs through many wetland habitats that are home to a high diversity of wildlife species. Currently the creek is receiving far too much pollution from storm water containing high amounts of phosphorus, and E. coli. Once installed the Community Blue projects will capture almost 5.5 million gallons of storm water runoff annually, and reduce total phosphorus load into Lambert Creek by approximately 12.2 lbs/yr. For these reasons, all Community Blue projects must be located within the Lambert Creek subwatershed within VLAWMO boundaries. Portions of Gem Lake, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, and White Bear Township all fall within this area.

## Overall Project Costs

The total expected cost for implementing the Community Blue Program is \$140,300. VLAWMO received a grant in the amount of \$105,200 and has matched it with VLAWMO funds in the amount of \$35,100. Sub-grants are given out to approved applicants.

## 2012 Activities

2012 was a year of preparation for Community Blue. A logo design for the program was created, informational meetings were held with prospective partners and outreach efforts were done by Metro Blooms and staff to bring in partners and develop projects and applications.

Staff time (66 hours) = \$2175.00

Design and production of Community Blue Logo = \$370.38

Workshop materials = \$25.17

Metro Blooms (Outreach and Tech & Engineering) = \$2419.70

Ramsey Conservation District (Tech & Engineering) = \$863.75

Total Spent on 2012 Activities = \$5854.00