

Community Blue Program – 2013 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.

2013 Expenses

Staff Time (243.5 hours on Grant Administration, Project Development) = \$8905.00

Waterdrop Innovations (Raingarden books given to applicants) = \$189.00

Metro Blooms (Project Development, Tech & Engineering) = \$5500.30

Project Installations (Details below) = \$44,625.00*

*Grants are paid out in 2 installments. Three projects received funding in 2013. The second installment for two of those projects was paid in 2014 and therefore not reported here.

2013 Activities – Installed Projects and Results

-White Bear Montessori (1201 East County Road E, Gem Lake): a 750 square foot raingarden was installed in the parking lot to collect stormwater runoff.

Total dollars spent in 2013 = \$20,065.87

Community Blue Grant = \$17,000

White Bear Montessori Spent = \$3,065.87

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 0.5862 lbs/year (69%)

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 329.10 lbs/year (64%)

Total Volume Reduction = 31,811 cubic-feet/year (61%)



-Children's Discovery Academy (3665 Talmadge Circle, Vadnais Heights): a 750 square foot raingarden was installed in the parking lot to collect stormwater runoff.

Total dollars spent in 2013 = \$17,340

Community Blue Grant = \$16,000

Children's Discovery Spent = \$1,340

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 0.1741 lbs/year (85%)

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 75.80 lbs/year (85%)

Total Volume Reduction = 12,849 cubic-feet/year (85%)



-Vadnais Heights Rotary (project located at 800 East County Road E, Vadnais Heights): a 1050 square foot raingarden was installed in the parking lot on Vadnais Heights City Hall property to collect stormwater runoff.

Total dollars spent in 2013 = \$15,713.25

Community Blue Grant = \$16,500

Vadnais Heights Rotary Spent = \$0 (will submit more receipts and payments in 2014)

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 0.3460 lbs/year (96%)

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 207.83 lbs/year (96%)

Total Volume Reduction = 25,593 cubic-feet/year (96%)



Vadnais Heights Rotary Raingarden
(located at Vadnais Heights City Hall)