

Community Blue Program – 2012-2014 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 cost for implementing the Community Blue Program from 2012-2014 was over \$143,500. VLAWMO received a grant in the amount of \$105,200 and has matched it with VLAWMO funds in the amount of over \$38,300. 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

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*

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

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 329.10 lbs/year

Total Volume Reduction = 31,811 cubic-feet/year



White Bear Montessori Raingarden

-Children's Discovery Academy (3665 Talmadge Circle, Vadnais Heights): 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

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 75.80 lbs/year

Total Volume Reduction = 12,849 cubic-feet/year



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

Total dollars spent in 2013-2014 = \$18,500

Community Blue Grant = \$16,500

Vadnais Heights Rotary Spent = \$2,000

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 0.3460 lbs/year

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 207.83 lbs/year

Total Volume Reduction = 25,593 cubic-feet/year



2014 Expenses

Staff time reported to eLink for Project Development = \$2,930

Staff time for Grant Admin (not reported on eLink) = \$1,660

Dogtooth Design (creation of interpretive sign design) = \$1,495.88

Vacker Signs (sign base and installation, sign printing) = \$5,914.93

Project Installations (Details below) = \$63,500

2014 Activities – Installed Projects and Results

-Vadnais Elementary (3645 Centerville Rd, Vadnais Heights): 1000 square foot raingarden was installed to collect stormwater runoff from school roof and parking lot.

Total dollars spent in 2014 = \$17,550

Community Blue Grant = \$15,000

Partner Spent = \$2,550

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 0.35 lbs/year

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 198.79 lbs/year

Total Volume Reduction = 18,929 cubic-feet/year



-Fox Meadow Park – White Bear Township (4230 White Bear Parkway, White Bear Township): 1850 square foot raingarden was installed to collect stormwater runoff from a parking lot.

Total dollars spent in 2014 = \$20,000

Community Blue Grant = \$15,000

Partner Spent = \$5,000

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 0.49 lbs/year

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 182.97 lbs/year

Total Volume Reduction = 18,367 cubic-feet/year



-Heritage Estates (4325 Thornhill Lane, Vadnais Heights): 800 square foot curb cutraingarden was installed to collect stormwater runoff from a street.

Total dollars spent in 2014 = \$15,500

Community Blue Grant = \$14,500

Partner Spent = \$1,000

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 1.34 lbs/year

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 642 lbs/year

Total Volume Reduction = 62,337 cubic-feet/year



-Lakeaires Elementary (3963 VanDyke, White Bear Lake): 1150 square foot raingarden was installed to collect stormwater runoff from school grounds and a parking lot. This site has very poor soils and the raingarden required an impermeable liner and underdrain.

Total dollars spent in 2014 = \$29,000

Community Blue Grant = \$19,000

Partner Spent = \$10,000

Environmental Results

Total Phosphorus Reduction = 0.0098 lbs/year

Total Suspended Solids Reduction = 2.94 lbs/year

Total Volume Reduction = 386 cubic-feet/year

*Attached picture was taken before mulch and edging was installed.



2012-2014 TOTALS

Amount Spent by VLAWMO (grant + match) for Installations = \$113,000

Amount Spent by Partners for Installations = \$23,890

TP reduction (lbs/year) = 3.30

TSS reduction (lbs/year) = 1,642.43

Volume Reduction (cu-ft/year) = 170,252

Staff Hours = 377.75; Monetary equivalent = \$14,275

**Total monetary value spent by VLAWMO (grant + match) on Community Blue 2012-2014
(includes value of staff time – not all of it submitted for reimbursement) = \$145,449.11**

Community Blue Grant = \$105,200

VLAWMO Funds Spent = \$40,249.11

