



Request for Board Action

Attachment 6.7

Agenda Item: Stewardship Fund — 2024 Action and Planning Grants

Presenter: E. Baskerville-Doeckel and A. Flett

Meeting Date: 12 March 2024

Flexibility: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Estimated Time: ☐ Consent Agenda ☒ 10 Min. ☐ 15 Min. ☐ 30 Min. ☐ 45 Min. ☐ 1 Hour

Action Request: ☐ Information/Review ☒ Motion to approve ☐ Budget Change ☐ Other

Board Action: ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Tabled ☐ Accepted Report ☐ Other

Date of Action: 12 March 2024

Background (Attach Supporting Documents as needed)

As directed by Stewardship Fund guidance, staff is presenting the Action and Planning Grant applications that have been reviewed and recommended by staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

Three Action Grant pre-applications were accepted and two were asked to complete a full application. Of the applicants, staff and CAC recommend two Action Grants be awarded. If approved, total Action Grant funding for 2024 will not exceed \$93,950. Additionally, eight Planning Grant pre-applications were accepted and eight were asked to complete a full application. Of the applicants, staff and CAC recommend eight Planning Grants be awarded. If approved, total Planning Grant funding for 2024 will not exceed \$146,090.75.

1. **Francis A. Gross National Golf Course Prairie Restoration — \$43,950 (Action)**
 - a. Grantee: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)
 - b. Location: Francis A. Gross National Golf Course

- c. Partners: Walkabout Outdoors, Monarchs In the Rough, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses
- d. Summary: This project will restore native vegetation in two areas of the Gross National Golf Course. The first area will replace 1.28 acres of turfgrass with native pollinator habitat. The location is next to the cart path between holes 11 and 12 and adjacent to the Diagonal Trail, and it will allow for public access and public education. The second area, approximately 3,000 square feet, is at the front entrance and is currently planted with non-native Karl Foerster Grass. Removing the non-native vegetation and restoring this highly visible area with pollinator-friendly natives will provide a defining entrance to the golf shop. The native plants will be labeled and signage will educate patrons about the importance of pollinator habitat.

2. Talmadge Triangle Raingarden — \$50,000 (Action)

- a. Grantee: South East Como Improvement Association (SECIA)
- b. Location: 21st Avenue and Talmadge Ave SE, Minneapolis
- c. Partners: City of Minneapolis Public Works, Metro Blooms
- d. Summary: This project will remove the impervious asphalt on an abandoned city street to create a sustainable landscape including a raingarden, native perennials with high pollinator value, trees and shrubs with high wildlife value, and a gathering space for the community to use. This will result in the development of the Talmadge Triangle Raingarden space and connect it to Talmadge Crossing to create a larger community garden that demonstrates both raingarden functions and increased pollinator and wildlife habitat while providing a gathering space for the neighborhood.

3. St. Clement Parking Lot — \$10,650 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: Church of the Holy Cross — St. Clements
- b. Location: 901 24th St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413
- c. Partners: Rani Engineering, local businesses
- d. Summary: At the St. Clements Campus, located at 901 24th Street NE, Minneapolis, MN, there is a large parking lot that is subject to large amounts of stormwater runoff. This grant would allow for an analysis of the site and establish engineering plans to improve the stormwater management on their property. By transforming the existing green space in the parking lot and yard, the project aims for the site to help mitigate a large amount of runoff.

4. CLCLT and Metro Blooms Green Engagement — \$19,900 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT)
- b. Location: Various

- c. Partners: Metro Blooms, local homeowners
- d. Summary: City of Lakes Community Land Trust (CLCLT) and Metro Blooms will partner to host multiple community focus groups to understand what homeowners want from the green spaces at their homes. Additionally, this funding would allow CLCLT to offer three educational workshops and three focus groups for residents on environmental topics. The funding will support understanding what CLCLT homeowners want and need in relation to green infrastructure, stormwater management, and climate resiliency. It will also create a menu of options for homeowners related to their green space, i.e., education opportunities, installation of BMPs, maintenance support, design of gardens, and more. Lastly, it will lead to commitments to further actions with homeowners towards habitat and water quality improvements in yards in the future.

5. Stormwater Irrigation Usage Feasibility and Design on Roof Depot Building — \$20,000 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI)
- b. Location: Roof Depot Site (2717 Longfellow Ave.; 1860 28th St.; 2700 Hiawatha Ave. in Minneapolis)
- c. Partners: Pierce Pini & Associates; Broadview Collaborative; UMN Landscape Arboretum; UMN Extension; Little Earth Residents Association; Tamales y Bicicletas; Four Sisters Farm; DJR Architecture; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- d. Summary: The Roof Depot requires extensive planning to manage stormwater runoff best. The East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) is interested in going above and beyond with stormwater management, and they seek to incorporate a filtration, cistern, and pump system to utilize rainwater for irrigation of outdoor farm beds, and safely discharge the excess in a series of rain gardens and restoration plots. Community engagement is an integral piece of the EPNI mission, and this feasibility and design project will engage community in making the management plan useful, safe, educational, and exciting.

6. Metro Blooms & Urban Homeworks Resident Education and Engagement — \$19,950 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: Metro Blooms
- b. Location: Rental properties within six blocks of Fremont and Emerson Avenues off Broadway Avenue
- c. Partners: Urban Homeworks, local renters

- d. Summary: The goal of this project is to partner with residents of four to six Urban Homeworks rental units to redesign their outdoor spaces. Within a six-block radius along Fremont and Emerson Avenues off Broadway Avenue, this project will invest water quality funding with a neighborhood deeply impacted by environmental injustice. Practices considered for designs will include those that filter and infiltrate stormwater runoff, diminish localized flooding, and create pollinator habitat. Metro Blooms will prioritize sites based on opportunity for stormwater infiltration and resident engagement. This project will include community-led planning, implementation, and care of practices like raingardens and other stormwater best management practices, native plantings, and trees. Alongside environmental healing, there will be opportunities for training, employment, and leadership to meet the needs of the community.

7. East River Flats Park Access and Restoration — \$20,000 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)
- b. Location: East River Flats Park — Minneapolis
- c. Partners: Various MPRB departments; UMN Claudia Kroll Boathouse; Friends of the Mississippi River; Wilderness Inquiry; City of Minneapolis
- d. Summary: MPRB is working to add a new public canoe and kayak launch within East River Flats along the Mississippi River. The usable areas of East River Flats Park are visually disconnected from the river due to a degraded bank condition that is overgrown with invasive species. The current bank degraded edge extends over 2,500 linear feet and varies in width between 40 and 100 feet. As an expanded scope of work for this park, MPRB is seeking funding to support ecological restoration and erosion control along the Mississippi River by controlling invasive species and installing a native plant buffer at the bank edge. MPRB will use grant funds to complete site analysis, public engagement, and planning work for East River Flats Park. The construction documents resulting from this planning effort will include plans, specs, and details required to construct the kayak/canoe launch and perform restoration of the bank condition along the Mississippi River.

8. Newgate School Green Infrastructure — \$20,000 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: Newgate School
- b. Location: 2900 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55413
- c. Partners: City of Minneapolis, Civil Site Group, Metro Blooms, local businesses
- d. Summary: Newgate School is one of the few sites on East Hennepin Avenue that has green space. Newgate would like to create green infrastructure that is beneficial to the community and the environment. This project will develop an actionable plan to

create more places for water to infiltrate and to add native plants for pollinator and wildlife habitat. There are opportunities for education around the project and site with the students, neighbors and community at-large, and plans will be designed with educational opportunities in mind.

9. Demonstration Site Water Improvements: Rainwater Irrigation, Permeable Pavers and Native Plants — \$19,400 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)
- b. Location: 1303 Golden Valley Road, Minneapolis, MN 55411
- c. Partners: TBD contractor, local residents and Minnesota Water Stewards
- d. Summary: The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) office site has a 750-gallon water cistern that is not being used to its full potential. NRRC seeks to maximize the cistern's capabilities while transforming the site's landscape. Planning for the cistern will include exploring reuse water for site irrigation for existing pollinator habitat, ground cover, and potentially food crops. Existing concrete walking paths and a driveway will be evaluated for conversion to permeable pavement. Plans for native plantings will be established, increasing pollinator habitat. These initiatives all seek to convey water movement through our site in a way that benefits water quality and inspires other residents to follow suit.

10. Community-led Restoration at Sheridan Memorial Park — \$16,100.75 (Planning)

- a. Grantee: Sheridan Neighborhood Organization (SNO)
- b. Location: Sheridan Memorial Park, 1300 Water St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413
- c. Partners: Friends of the Mississippi River, MPRB
- d. Summary: The Sheridan Neighborhood Organization (SNO) will use funds to support the development of a volunteer-centric Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) for 1.5 acres of riverside natural area at Sheridan Memorial Park in Northeast Minneapolis. Currently, much of this riverine landscape is degraded by buckthorn and other invasive plants on the state's high-priority noxious weed list. The result is a semi-natural community that provides very little habitat for pollinators, is susceptible to erosion, and is a barrier to human recreation and the river. Plans will focus on ways local volunteers and hired contractors can improve ecological functions on-site while coordinating with the landowner (MPRB).

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

RESOLUTION 2024-014

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 ACTION AND PLANNING GRANTS.

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization works to protect and improve water quality, habitat and natural resources in an urban watershed that drains directly into the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, The MWMO Board of Commissioners created the Stewardship Fund to engage the community in the protection of said resources; and

WHEREAS, Two final applications were submitted which meet the MWMO Board guidance of the Stewardship Fund Action Grant; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) have reviewed the applications; and

WHEREAS, Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee recommend Action and Planning Grant funding to implement the two (2) Action Grants and eight (8) Planning Grants described above; and

WHEREAS, There is funding available in the Stewardship Fund for Community, Planning and Action grants in FY 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the MWMO Board of Commissioners awards the 2024 Action and Planning Grants to the following applicants — Church of the Holy Cross—St. Clements, City of Lakes Community Land Trust, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, Metro Blooms, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Newgate School, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, Sheridan Neighborhood Organization, and the South East Como Improvement Association — committing \$240,040.75 from the Stewardship Fund, authorizes MWMO staff to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the resolution, and authorizes the MWMO Executive Director to sign the Action and Planning Grant Agreements.

Adopted this the 12th day of March, 2024.

Review for the Board: _____

Randy Stille, Chair

Review for Administration: _____

Kevin Reich, Executive Director