

## Policies & Information

### Grant Objective

To improve water quality in downstream waterbodies through native landscaping, alternative stormwater treatment techniques, erosion control projects, and engaging the Burnsville community.

### Eligible Projects

One that provides a direct benefit to a downstream water resource, such as a wetland, pond or lake:

- **Raingarden**—Slight depression, mulch, and plants are installed to capture water that otherwise would become runoff (raingardens should not be installed to drain naturally mucky/wet parts of your yard).
- **Shoreline restoration**—Native plants (no cultivars/non-native) are installed to cover >75% of the owned shoreline (DNR permits may be necessary).
- **Native planting**—Turf is converted to a small prairie through site prep and sowing native seeds (see additional info at [burnsvillemn.gov/nativeplants](http://burnsvillemn.gov/nativeplants)).
- **Native garden**—Native plants are planted and maintained like a traditional garden.
- **Vegetated buffer**—Native plants only (no cultivars/non-native) if buffer area is situated between an upstream runoff source and a downstream waterbody. Must have >75% plant coverage.
- **Other**—Barley straw treatment, bio-retention or infiltration project, erosion control project using permanent techniques such as native plants or bio-engineering practices, rain barrels, etc.

Attend a **Landscaping for Clean Water Workshop** to learn how to design and install some of these projects!  
More info on Page 2.

### Grant Application Basics

- Grant amount—up to \$1,000
- App deadline—typically early May
- Award notification—by email, within 2 weeks of app deadline
- A strong application based on:
  - Project's benefit to water quality (generally raingardens & shorelines rate highest)
  - High level of detail
  - Demonstration of ability to complete the project successfully (*New to this? No problem! See pg. 2 for a great way to learn how to design & install these projects!*)
  - Inclusion of project sketch and planting plan
- Awarded projects must be completed by October 1st of the application year
- Grantees are reimbursed upon project completion—before/after photo and receipts required
- Only project items purchased *after* grant agreement is signed can be reimbursed

### Who should apply for the grant?

- **Burnsville residents**
- **Neighborhood groups/associations**
- **Businesses** or properties such as churches located in Burnsville
- **Projects on school property** with approval from school administrators

*Applications from new applicants are prioritized over previous grant recipients. Applications for a project already awarded a grant will be rejected (you can't receive more than one grant for the same project).*

## Items eligible for reimbursement through the grant

- Native plants—Reimbursable for any project type
- Native cultivar plants or non-native plants—Reimbursable only for raingardens
- Purchased materials like edging, soil, mulch, water conveyance materials, etc.
- Equipment rental such as tiller, sod cutter, trailer, etc.
- Fees for professional consultation and/or installation
- Landscaping cloth (weed barrier, plastic) only in areas intended to direct water (i.e. dry creek bed directing water from downspout to rain garden) ✓

## Items NOT eligible for reimbursement

- Landscaping elements for aesthetic purposes only (i.e. decorations such as a sculpture or fountain)
- Man-made structures such as retaining walls within shoreline restoration or buffer areas
- Rock (rip-rap) along shorelines
- Landscaping cloth (weed barrier, plastic) may not be used beneath plants as it inhibits water infiltration & plant root growth
- Re-purposed or donated items
- Volunteer labor
- Gasoline for automobile travel
- Any item or service not specifically related to project or items that will be used for personal use in the future, like a shovel
- For site prep – tree and stump removal, and irrigation line removal/reinstallation
- Items purchased before the grant agreement is signed ✗

## Choosing the right plants:

### Native vs. native-cultivar vs. non-native

Native plants are great for any project—they infiltrate lots of water with deep roots, and benefit local wildlife like birds and pollinators! Whichever plants you choose, be sure to research, read plant labels, and ask vendors to know exactly what you're getting.

- **Native:** Naturally occurring in a geographical area without introduction by people. There are many vendors in the area that sell strictly native plants and native plant seed, including at Burnsville's Native Plant Market in May!
- **Native-cultivar:** A native plant selectively bred (cultivated) by people to have certain characteristics. Their modified characteristics often make them inaccessible/unsuitable for bees, birds, and butterflies or reduce their benefit in water quality projects. Tell it apart from the native counterpart by looking for the trademark name in 'single quotes' on the plant tag:
  - Native Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia fulgida*
  - Native-Cultivar Black-eyed Susan 'Goldsturm' *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'
- **Cultivar** = cultivated variety
- **Non-native:** A plant that does not naturally occur in a geographical area, though it may have been introduced by people and grow in the wild. Some non-native plants are invasive because they easily out-compete native plants.

Want to learn more? Check out these online resources:

- [www.minesotawildflowers.info](http://www.minesotawildflowers.info)
- [www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants)
- [www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/pg/encyclopedia.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/pg/encyclopedia.html)

## Don't miss out!

Not sure how to get started on a project? Check out this great workshop opportunity!

### LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER



Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

Learn from the experts how to:

- Design and install water quality projects like raingardens
- Apply for a \$250 Dakota County SWCD grant\*  
(\*you can receive the Dakota Co SWCD AND Burnsville grant!)

Register for a workshop today!

Begins March 8, 2021

[Click here](#) or visit

[www.dakotaswcd.org](http://www.dakotaswcd.org)

We look forward to reading your grant application!