

Northside Pollinator Project – Project Update October 2021.

Between July 2021 and October 2021 we were able to install 17 additional plantings totaling 1,275 square feet in Northside Minneapolis using funds from the Lawns to Legumes Neighborhood Demonstration Grant and matching funds from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The map below shows the locations of each planting. We partnered with the Nothside Resident Redevelopment Council (NRRC) to recruit project participants. The NRRC is a well-established neighborhood organization with intimate ties to local residents. Community leader and Executive Director of NRRC Martine Smaller helped to lead recruitment efforts. We placed an emphasis on using clear language that would be suitable for new and experienced gardeners alike to ensure accessibility within the program.

Each resident received an onsite consultation with a Metro Blooms Landscape Designer to help site their planting and select the plant palette for their yard. When possible, Landscape Designers selected full sun areas that are low use but highly visible. Pollinators prefer to forage in full sun areas, and placing plantings in low use but highly visible areas allows residents to maintain the function of their yard area while still displaying their demonstration planting in an area that prioritizes community visibility. Landscape Designers thoroughly explained project goals and the diversity of benefits provided by native plants. Maintenance needs were also a critical component of site consultations. We made sure to provide clear information on the maintenance needs of native plants to ensure the long term success of each project.

Projects were installed in two phases throughout the summer. In July Metro Blooms staff partnered with youth from NRCC to install 8 of these plantings. Metro Blooms staff led a Sustainable Landcare Training for all youth. This included content related to stormwater management, raingardens, native plants, and weedy plants. After discussing these core environmental topics, we discussed the goals of the project, including the value of placing native plants in environmental justice neighborhoods. After the training was completed, Metro Blooms staff led the youth crew in the installation efforts. The remaining 9 plantings were installed by Metro Blooms staff in early September. In all instances, staff members engaged residents in conversations reminding them of the maintenance needs of newly installed plantings.

After installing the seventeen new installations, Metro Blooms staff sent out maintenance resources to all project participants. All resources were created with accessibility in mind, using language that is easy to comprehend while still conveying all key points. We have received a number of testimonials, pictures, and other types of feedback from project participants throughout this process.



Thanks for the email. I have posted some photos from our garden that I took last weekend. The plants are doing really well (one didn't make it, but the rest are doing great)!

We may potentially be interested in a boulevard garden, but would want more info before committing.

If we can help with anything else, please let us know. We are so pleased with having our pollinator garden- it was just what we were looking for, and can't wait to see how it develops over the coming years.