

## Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP)

### Recap – September 2024, Annual meeting information

#### Major grant awarded through the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR).

- BWSR awarded \$200,000 grant to Washington Conservation District (WCD) and Brown Creek Watershed District (BCWD)
- \$15,000 (of total above grant) given to Ponds at Heifort Hills HOA for Buffer Zone enhancement.
  - \$5,000 contracted services
  - \$10,000 materials budget
  - \$1,500 HOA match (cash or in-kind)
    - BWSR values volunteer labor at \$25/hr. which requires 60 volunteer hours to meet in-kind match
    - HOA will request dead tree removal funds meet in-kind match. However, this may not be permitted.
- No later than December 31, 2024, the HOA board and WCD/BCWD will sign an agreement for acceptance and implementation of HELP program in the Buffer zone.
- Brett Stolpestad, WCD, will provide technical assistance to complete planting plan, vetting contractors, and program implementation.
- The Buffer habitat program will build off the initial planting plan developed by BCWD in 2021. (The BCWD buffer mgmt. plan is attached.)
- Deadline for project completion: December 31, 2026.

#### Dead tree removal – woodlot and buffer zone

- Dead/dying trees (approx. 100) and the Oak tree by 8753 Neal Ave. N. will be removed during the first quarter of 2025 (weather permitting in Jan. 2025).
  - As an additional benefit, the required dead tree removal maintenance project will enable the majority of HELP grant funds to be used for removal of buckthorn & brush and purchase and planting of native plants.