

Everyone can improve water quality through their personal behaviors, choices, and commitments. The Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) offers multiple opportunities and cost-share programs to enable counties, cities, and landowners to identify and implement water quality projects and reduce runoff in the watershed.

## What is the Stewardship Grant Program?

The BCWD Stewardship Grant program provides eligible applicants with small grants (**up to \$500**) to implement projects that improve water quality in the watershed. Grantees must install the project and submit a cover letter, photos, and invoices to receive the grant reimbursement.

## Stewardship Grant Project Details

**DO NOT START WORK BEFORE RECEIVING A GRANT AWARD.** These grants are awarded on a first come - first serve basis to eligible complete applications. If a grant is awarded, a cover letter describing the project including the requested amount of reimbursement, copies of (paid) receipts, and photos of the completed project must be submitted with the final payment request.

This is a reimbursement grant. The amount of the grant cannot exceed the cost of the actual project. Applicant labor or time is not eligible for payment. Projects must be completed within one year of the approval letter date. **Receipts dated before the grant award is made will not be accepted or reimbursed.**

Landowners are limited to one application per year. Applicants cannot receive funding in consecutive years. Applications from landowners who have received these funds previously will not be considered until June 1st. This requirement may be waived for HOAs or other organizations.

## What is the Process?

1. Identify a project.
2. Complete and submit a grant application up to \$500 per year for an eligible project to **BCWD Att: Stewardship Grants, 455 Hayward Ave N, Oakdale, MN, 55128** or email to **Brett Stolpestad at [bstolpestad@mnwcd.org](mailto:bstolpestad@mnwcd.org)**
3. Receive approval and grant agreement from BCWD.
4. Make eligible purchases under the project in accordance with the grant agreement.
5. Complete all work by the project deadline of December 4th.
6. Submit a cover letter describing the project including the requested amount of reimbursement, copies of (paid) receipts, and photos of the completed project.
7. After completing the project and receiving stewardship grant payment, maintain the project for a minimum of 5 years, and participate in BCWD's outreach and project sharing efforts.

## Who is Eligible?

All landowners in the District are eligible. This includes residents, churches, schools, communities, and businesses.

## What Projects are Eligible?

- Native Plants (including pollinator gardens)
- Small buffer strips
- Turf alternatives
- Waterspout gardens
- Rain barrels
- Targeted water education, information, or outreach activities

## What Projects aren't Eligible?

- Landscaping or purely decorative activities
- Non-native plantings
- Riprap
- Retaining walls
- Applicant labor or time
- Projects that have received funding from other cost-share or Lawns to Legumes programs

## Lawns to Legumes:

BCWD is pleased to partner with Blue Thumb and the Board of Water and Soil Resources on the Lawns to Legumes program. Visit [bluethumb.org](http://bluethumb.org) for resources, workshops, and programs to find native plants that are appropriate for your yard.





Name	
Applicant Address (w/ ZIP)	
County	
Project Location	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Benefited Lake or Waterway	
Amount Requested	
Have You Received a Stewardship Grant Before?	Yes _____ No _____ Year: _____
List Items to be Purchase with Grant Funds	

**Please provide a brief narrative of the proposed project and project benefits:**

**Additional Requirements:**

Projects must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years, and applicants must be willing to participate in BCWD’s outreach and project sharing efforts. The applicant is responsible for maintenance during the 5-year period. The BCWD does not complete the maintenance activities. A project may be visited and inspected by BCWD staff during the 5-year maintenance period. Please inform BCWD if you move within the 5 years of project implementation so we may provide the new owners with an informational packet on the benefits of “planting for clean water.”

**Are you willing to commit to the following grant requirements?**

- Maintain the project for at least 5 years after its implementation? YES NO
- Participate in BCWD’s outreach and project sharing efforts? YES NO
- Do you understand that your site may be visited and inspected by an BCWD employee during the 5 years after a grant is received? YES NO

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please contact Brett Stolpestad (bstolpestad@mnwcd.org or 651-393-4395) at BCWD with questions.**