



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

CLEAN WATER COST SHARE GRANT PROGRAMS

Working together for clean water

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District offers grants for projects that protect water resources by stabilizing shorelines and streambanks or utilizing stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

Among the criteria considered:

- Improves water quality
- Controls soil erosion
- Improves wildlife habitat
- Uses innovation
- Demonstrates collaboration
- Incorporates outreach

ABOUT MCWD:

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is a local unit of government that manages and protects the water resources in the 181 square miles that drains to Lake Minnetonka, the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes, and Minnehaha Creek.

What is Stormwater Runoff?

In a natural environment, most rainwater soaks into the ground or is captured by trees and other plants. As land is developed, it is covered by hard surfaces – roads, parking lots and rooftops – that prevent natural infiltration, and allow water to quickly run downstream. This runoff, known as stormwater, carries dirt, fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste and debris into lakes, streams and wetlands.

Storm sewer systems, which are designed to prevent localized flooding in urban areas, can carry polluted water into our valuable surface waters. Polluted stormwater runoff is the number one water quality problem in Minnesota and across the country.

Why use Native Plantings on Shorelines and Streambanks?

Native plants are the best choice for the borders between land and water because their roots filter and absorb polluted runoff before it ever enters the lake, stream or wetland. They also prevent erosion by anchoring the soil. In addition, native plants beautify the shoreline and their natural height and density discourage geese, which prefer turf.

Why use Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)?

The installation of raingardens, pervious pavement systems, rainwater capture and reuse systems and other clean water practices keep polluted stormwater runoff from entering lakes, streams and wetlands. They capture or infiltrate rainwater on the landscape, preventing pollution from reaching our valuable water resources.



COST SHARE GRANTS FOR SHORELINE/STREAMBANK STABILIZATION & STORMWATER BMPs

- **Who's Eligible:** Private property owners (residential, non-profit organizations, private schools and businesses, homeowner and lake associations). Public entities also considered for shoreline or streambank stabilization grants.
- **Examples of Eligible Practices:** Using native plants to stabilize shorelines and streambanks, raingardens, native plantings, permeable pavers, etc.
- **Cost Share Percentage:** Grants will be issued for up to 50% of project's cost.
- **Maximum Grants:** \$5,000 cap for residential shoreline or streambank stabilization. \$2,500 cap for residential stormwater BMPs. No set maximum for other proposals, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For More Information & How to Apply:

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Learn More:

Blue Thumb: Planting for Clean Water
www.bluethumb.org
Metro Blooms
www.metroblooms.org
U of M Stormwater Assessment and Maintenance
stormwater.saf1.umn.edu
National Ready Mix Concrete Association
www.perviouspavement.org



MINNEHAHA CREEK
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STORMWATER BMPs

What is a Raingarden?

Raingardens are shallow depressions that capture stormwater and allow it to soak into the ground. Deep roots of perennial shrubs, grasses and wildflowers break up compacted soil and promote infiltration. By catching stormwater where it falls, raingardens slow runoff, prevent erosion and decrease the amount of pollution flowing downstream to lakes, streams and wetlands. Raingardens also provide beautiful landscaping - which increases property values - and much needed habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife in an urban environment.

What is Pervious Pavement?

Pervious pavement functions like traditional concrete or asphalt surfaces, but allows water to seep through the pavement surface - which would otherwise be impermeable.

Pervious pavement allows water to flow into an underlying rock storage area that helps filter pollutants out of stormwater. In soils that are conducive to infiltration, pervious pavements allow water to soak into the ground, replenishing ground water. In tighter soils, the system is designed with an under drain that conveys clean water to the storm sewer system.