



Project Goal

The goal of a habitat restoration project is to mimic nature in form and function. Plantings should be close enough that, as they grow, most gaps will fill in over the next few years.

A habitat restoration is not a traditional landscaping project with neat and tidy lines.



Eligibility

- **Minimum size:** One-quarter (¼) acre (contiguous)
- Property owners within the watershed district are eligible for a habitat restoration cost share.
- **The restoration work must be performed by an experienced habitat restoration professional.**
- The project must be restoration of an upland habitat type native to Minnesota such as a prairie grassland, oak savanna, or maple-basswood forest. Other types may be considered on case by case basis.
- Only native plants may be used in the restoration.
- The maximum cost share percent and dollar amount are based on the type of property owner (residential or non-residential).
- Cost share reimbursement: \$1.50 per square foot.
- Site preparation alone, such as buckthorn removal, does not qualify as a habitat restoration.
- Residential and non-profit applicants may be eligible for additional funds for three (3) years of professional maintenance.

Learn more at rpbcwd.org/stewardship-cost-share

Application Materials

With your online application form, you'll need:

1. **Current photos** of your proposed project site
2. **Site map** that shows project boundary in relation to applicant's property lines.
3. **Project design plan to show layout of project; if installing plants, a planting plan will be needed**
4. **Detailed cost estimate** including materials and labor
5. **Detailed native plant list**
6. **Habitat restoration plan**

The application requires a habitat restoration plan that provides a detailed description of methods and materials proposed for restoration. At minimum, the restoration plan must include:

- Site preparation methods including weed control
- Erosion control techniques and materials
- Seeding technique and rate (if seeding is used)

7. Maintenance plan

A plan to maintain the habitat restoration after installation must be provided. You should plan to maintain the project for at least 5 years (residential) or 10 years or more (non-residential). At minimum, the maintenance plan should answer these questions:

- How often will the site be monitored and maintenance performed?
- What chemical and/or mechanical methods will be used to control invasive and weedy species?
- If herbicide use is planned, what products/active ingredients will be used? Always follow herbicide label instructions.



Interested in a small project? If you simply want to add native plants to your yard, check out our **Mini-Cost Share**. This offers funds to residents for a native plant project in their yard.