



Learn more at [rpbcbwd.org/grants](http://rpbcbwd.org/grants)

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## Eligibility

- Project must be located in the watershed district.
- Applicant must be a homeowner, non-profit organization, business, school, or municipality.
- Applicant must be property owner or representative.
- Applicant must agree to maintain project for 5 years or more, depending on property/project type.



Shoreline restoration

## Maximum Grant Awards

Grant money is paid out like a rebate. The grantee installs the project as outlined in the grant agreement and submits receipts and other documentation to get reimbursed.

Applicant Category	Cost share percentage	Cost share maximum award value
Homeowner	Up to 75% of project cost	Not to exceed \$500 to \$5,000 (depends on project type)
Non-profit property owner	Up to 75% of project cost	Not to exceed \$1,500 to \$20,000 (depends on project type)
Municipality, school, business	Up to 50% of project cost	Not to exceed \$1,500 to \$50,000 (depends on project type)

The size of the cost share (award) for a project is determined by how well the project meets program objectives. Habitat restoration, lake shoreline restoration, and buffer projects may also qualify for professional maintenance support during the first three years after installation.

Visit the grant webpage to see how you can **MAXIMIZE** your cost share!



## Overview of Grant Process

Request a site visit

Develop a plan

Submit an application

Sign an agreement

Install the project

Submit a report

Get reimbursed

Maintain your project

## Projects that Qualify

### Native Plants | Add native plants to your landscape

- Use funds to purchase native plants/seeds from qualified supplier
- Include a diverse mix of plants including keystone species to support insects
- Maintenance must be ecologically-friendly

### Turf Alternative | Convert turfgrass to an insect-friendly lawn

- Existing condition must be standard lawn
- Project size must be at least 100 square feet (contiguous)
- Must submit seed species list and seed application rate
- Maintenance must be ecologically-friendly

### Rain Barrel | Reduce runoff through capture and reuse

- Grant maximum is \$100 per rain barrel
- Select a drainage area to be captured and re-used

### Habitat Restoration | Restore a developed area to native habitat

- Existing condition of site must be impervious (hard or paved surface) or near impervious (standard lawn/turfgrass); severely eroded or otherwise highly degraded natural sites may also qualify
- Project must meet minimum size requirements
- Must use only native plants and seeds from qualified supplier
- Include a diverse mix of plants including keystone species to support insects
- Maintenance must be ecologically-friendly

### Lake Shoreline Restoration | Naturalize your shoreline

- Project must meet minimum size requirements and be located on major lake
- Design must utilize bioengineering techniques such as native plants, soil pillows, live staking, and coir logs.
- Must use only native plants and seeds from qualified supplier
- Include a diverse mix of plants including keystone species to support insects
- Maintenance must be ecologically-friendly

### Waterbody Buffer | Grow a buffer to protect a lake, pond or creek

- Must meet minimum size requirements
- Must use only native plants and seeds from qualified supplier
- Include a diverse mix of plants including keystone species
- Maintenance must be ecologically-friendly

### Stormwater Best Management Practice | Install a BMP

- Must be BMP defined in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual.
- Funds may be used for practices above and beyond permit requirements.
- Priority given to properties with permanent maintenance staff.

### Shoreland Health | Add native plants in the shoreland zone

- Location must be residential or residential-access property on major lake
- Must use only native plants and seeds from qualified supplier
- Plants may include wildflowers, grasses, sedges, shrubs, trees, etc.

# Project Requirements

To be eligible for Stewardship Grant Program, some project types have requirements related to native plants and ecologically friendly maintenance. Below is how RPBCWD defines native plants and ecologically friendly maintenance.

## Native Plant Rules

- 1 Native range:** The native range of the plant (wildflower, grass, sedge, shrub, tree, etc.) must include southern Minnesota, northern Iowa, or western Wisconsin.
- 2 Form:** A native plant must be the straight or wild form that has not been bred for certain characteristics. Cultivated varieties (cultivars) including nativars are not allowed.
- 3 Selection:** Plant selection must be appropriate for site conditions. In other words, evaluate your site's sun exposure and soil moisture and select plants accordingly.
- 4 Source:** Live native plants and native seeds must be grown within southern Minnesota, northern Iowa, or western Wisconsin. We strongly encourage that native plants be purchased from a local grower or nursery that specializes in native plants. The name of the grower or retailer you plan to use must be provided. If the grant review committee is unsure about their qualifications, they may ask for more info or ask you to use another source.
- 5 Diversity:** Most projects must have at least 9 different native species. The bloom time must vary through the seasons. Blooming plants include wildflowers, grasses, sedges, rushes, shrubs, and trees.
- 6 Live plant quantity:** Most projects must have at least three individuals of each live, non-woody plant species. There is no minimum quantity required for trees and shrubs.

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## Questions?

Contact Eleanor Mahon,  
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or 952-687-1348



## Ecologically Friendly Maintenance



Do not use fungicides or insecticides. These kill "good" and "bad" fungi and insects.



Limit herbicide use to weed control and carefully follow label directions.



Plan to pull or otherwise control weeds at least three times during the growing season.



Native plants usually don't need fertilizer. If used, limit to natural fertilizers such as compost.



Limit watering to the plant establishment phase (usually the first couple of years).



Select appropriate weather conditions for proper planting and seeding.



Provide soft landings (native plants, leaf litter, & plant debris) under trees to support overwintering & pupating insects.



Practice "messy" gardening by leaving some dead plant material in place to protect soil & provide homes for native insects and birds.

