



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: May 2, 2024
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: BWSR Pollinator Pathways Grant Application



District Wide

Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider authorizing the District Administrator to submit a grant application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Pollinator Pathways ([Pollinator Pathways | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.state.mn.us/bwsr/pollinator-pathways)) and to execute the grant agreement, if awarded. This is a sub-program under BWSR's Lawns to Legumes which is geared toward local governments, nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments. Individual residents can also apply for Lawns to Legumes grants for individual projects.

The Pollinator Pathways grant promotes native plantings that establish key corridors (or pathways) for at-risk pollinators such as (but not limited to) the Monarch Butterfly and Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, Minnesota's State Bee. This will be achieved by establishing and educating Minnesotans about pollinator conservation and promoting overall interest in ecological landscaping. BWSR is offering more than \$1.1 million in grant funding to promote and establish pollinator plantings through a residential and/or educational-based approach. This funding is available through the state of Minnesota general fund. Grants will require a 10% non-state recipient match. Grant applications must be for a minimum request of \$50,000. There is no maximum funding cap on awards.

Eligible activities include:

- Project development and public outreach
- Establishment of pollinator habitat projects that use native plants to provide pollen and nectar sources, which bloom through the season and are less than 5 ac. in size.
- Program and project support
- Education
- Supplies/Equipment
- Administration and coordination

If awarded, the District would use this grant to supplement its cost-share and shoreline restoration program. Activities would include project development, public outreach, public education, program support, and direct costs to establish pollinator habitat such as shoreline buffers, raingardens and native plantings.



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Recommended Motion

Manager _____ moves to authorize the District Administrator to submit an application to the Pollinator Pathways Grant Program and execute the grant agreement, if awarded. Seconded by Manager _____.