



# Grant Progress Report

## Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program 2025

**Grant Title:** Anoka Habitat Enhancement 2025

**Grant ID:** C25-0091

**Grantee:** Anoka CD

**Fiscal Agent:** Anoka CD

**Grant Day-to-Day Contact:** Chris Lord

**Grant Award (\$):** \$95,000.00

**Required Match (%):** 10

**Required Match (\$):** \$9,500.00

**Grant Execution Date:** 11/04/2024

**Grant End Date:** 12/31/2026

	Total Budgeted	Total Spent	Balance Remaining*
Grant Funds	\$95,000.00	\$60,652.16	\$34,347.84
Match Funds	\$17,000.00	\$44,908.06	(\$27,908.06)
Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$112,000.00	\$105,560.22	\$6,439.78

\*Grant balance remaining is the difference between the Awarded Amount and the Spent Amount. Other values compare budgeted and spent amounts.

### Project Abstract

Plant communities including prairies, oak savanna, floodplain forest, sedge meadow and riparian corridors will be enhanced at 22 sites, totaling 120 acres, to create quality habitat for pollinators, dragonflies, birds and other wildlife. At-risk species needs will be considered when creating site-specific seed mixes. The selected sites are within BWSR's Pollinator Priority area, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee areas and natural habitat corridors. Sites will have minimal spot herbicide treatment and mowing, prescribed burns, and overseeding with custom seed and plant mixes. Ecologically appropriate species mixes will include a diversity of forbs and milkweed species to provide pollen and nectar from spring to fall for pollinators including rusty patched bumble bee, monarchs, American bumblebee, regal and spangled fritillary, yellow banded bumble bee, and golden northern bumble bee. A conservation plan will be created for each site and sites will be maintained long-term by landowners/land managers. Pesticides will not be used in these areas.

Project sites build habitat corridors along the Mississippi River, Rum River and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes and establish new and

strengthen existing partnerships in the North Metro. Several partners have identified priority sites on protected land that do not use pesticides and have conservation plans. ACD Restoration Ecologist will coordinate with local landowners/land managers for site preparation and seeding, and landowners are committed to long-term management. Watershed Districts, Mississippi Park Connection and Growing Green Hearts will provide support to create public engagement opportunities at some of the sites. Habitat enhancement at these sites will increase biodiversity within habitat cores and collectively establish corridors to create better habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

**Proposed Measurable Outcomes**

Plant communities including prairies, oak savanna, floodplain forest, sedge meadow and riparian corridors will be enhanced at 22 sites, totaling 120 acres, to create quality habitat for pollinators, dragonflies, birds and other wildlife including at-risk species. Conservation plans will be drafted for each site and will include species lists before management activities begin, enhancement activities needed and planned custom seed mixes. Targeted weed control and prescribed burns will occur and then sites will be broadcast seeded. Planting will occur at some sites.

**Budget Details**

<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Source Type</i>	<i>Source Description</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Spent</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>Match Fund?</i>
Habitat Enhancement	Non-Structural Management Practices	Local Fund	City, County, Watershed District	\$12,000.00	\$22,922.61	(\$10,922.61)	Y
Admin/Coordination	Administration/Coordination	Current State Grant	Anoka Habitat Enhancement 2025	\$5,000.00	\$1,605.33	\$3,394.67	N
Habitat Enhancement	Non-Structural Management Practices	Current State Grant	Anoka Habitat Enhancement 2025	\$86,000.00	\$55,386.23	\$30,613.77	N
Technical Assistance	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Current State Grant	Anoka Habitat Enhancement 2025	\$4,000.00	\$3,660.60	\$339.40	N
Habitat Enhancement	Non-Structural Management Practices	Federal Funds	NFWF Monarch	\$5,000.00	\$21,985.45	(\$16,985.45)	Y

Grant Activities

**Activity Name: Admin/Coordination**

**Activity Category:** Administration/Coordination **Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Coordinate activities between partners. Process payments. Grant reporting.  
 Carrie Taylor, Restoration Ecologist, Anoka CD, MS Land Rehabilitation, JAA in multiple ecological practices, has conducted botanical surveys and assessments, created land management plans and project designs, installed and maintained native plantings, coordinated volunteer events, administered cost share programs and grant reporting in BWSR elink. Additionally, she has attended MN native plant community, pollinator habitat and bee identification trainings.  
 She will lead management plans and activities with local Partners, including with Quinn Palar (Anoka Parks), Mark Riverblood (Ramsey), Kameron Kytonen (Andover), Rachel Workin (Fridley), Lisa LaCasse and Jon Holmes (Anoka), Megan Hedstrom (Blaine), Chase Evertz (Anoka High School), Kristen Genet (Anoka Ramsey Community College), and Justine Dauphinais (Coon Creek Watershed District) to connect with planners, stormwater, parks teams and their local ecological contractors.  
 Carrie will work with Kathy Berkness, ACD's Office Administrator, to process payments.  
 Carrie will complete grant reporting in elink.

**Budget Details**

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Anoka Habitat Enhancement 2025	\$5,000.00	\$1,605.33	\$3,394.67	12/31/2025	N

**Actual Results**

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Q4 2024. Set up budget sheets and site lists.	12/31/2024 12:00:00 AM
Q1Q2 2025. Project coordination. Purchases, payments, budget updates.	6/30/2025 12:00:00 AM
Q3Q4 2025. Project coordination. Purchases, payments, reporting.	1/22/2026 1:55:46 PM

## Activity Name: Habitat Enhancement

**Activity Category:** Non-Structural Management Practices

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Habitat will be enhanced at 22 sites totaling 120 acres within the RPBB zones and habitat corridors in the north metro. Enhancement activities including weed control, site prep, seeding, and planting. The sites include: Kern Conservation Easement along the Ford Brook Corridor, Burman WMA along Cedar Creek, Coon Lake Beach prairie unit. Sites along the Rum River include two prairie units in Rum Central Regional Park, floodplain forest in Andover, prairie at Anoka High School, and savanna at the Anoka Nature Preserve. Sites along the Mississippi River corridor include prairie along Lake Itasca Trail, prairie and shoreline at Ramsey Waterfront, prairie at Mississippi West Park, floodplain forest at Kings Island, prairie at Anoka Ramsey Community College, savanna at Coon Rapids Dam Park, and riparian habitat at the Coon Creek - Mississippi River confluence. Two prairie units will be enhanced within the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes. Upland and shoreline will be enhanced at Moore Lake Park. Rare plant habitat in the dry prairie at Andover North Woods Preserve and in the sedge meadow at Blaine Lexington Cove will be enhanced.

The sites include 16 prairies, three savannas, two floodplain forests, one sedge meadow, and five riparian areas that currently have some patches of undesirable weedy species and low forb diversity. Sites will be inventoried to determine targeted weed control needs; the existing and missing species that are needed to provide continuous pollen and nectar flowers from early spring through fall; and specific plant species needed to support at-risk species. Targeted weed control, prescribed burns, haying, overseeding and follow up management will occur. Site specific custom seed mixes will help to increase biodiversity for pollinators, dragonflies, birds and other wildlife. Projects will provide shelter for overwintering and nesting sites and protection from pesticides. Increasing biodiversity will improve nesting habitat and food sources for birds.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Local Fund	City, County, Watershed District	\$12,000.00	\$22,922.61	(\$10,922.61)	12/31/2025	Y
Current State Grant	Anoka Habitat Enhancement 2025	\$86,000.00	\$55,386.23	\$30,613.77	12/31/2025	N
Federal Funds	NFWF Monarch	\$5,000.00	\$21,985.45	(\$16,985.45)	12/31/2025	Y

## Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Q4 2024. Match - local seed collection. Overseeded at Burman WMA.	12/31/2024 12:00:00 AM
Q1Q2 2025. Prescribed burns conducted in 7 Anoka Parks prairies, one Conservation Easement prairie, and one City Park prairie. Overseeded species that had no or 30days or less stratification requirements at Anoka Parks sites and Kern Easement; will return in the fall to reseed other species. Seeded at City of Ramsey site that buckthorn and elm removed. Seeded at City of Andover site that had buckthorn control. Purchased trees for Kings Island; they are temporarily in a gravel bed and will be planted in the fall. Awarded Contract to Edge Ecosystems to clear cedar trees at remnant prairie in Andover; that will be done next winter. ACD staff conducted site prep herbicide treatment at Moore Lake shoreline and PRI seeded and installed erosion blanket. Conducted weed control at Burman WMA.	6/30/2025 12:00:00 AM
Q3Q4 2025. Conducted herbicide treatment at CRDRP Cenaiko Lake Prairie in anticipation of upcoming Rx burn. City of Blaine identified 3.6 acres of turf at Centennial Green park to convert to native prairie. City staff sprayed, tilled and resprayed the site. ACD staff seeded with a native dry prairie mix. seed collection. Anoka Highschool weed control. Overseeded on bare soil with students. (4.75 acres). City of Ramsey Rx burn at Itasca Lake Monarch Trail and overseeded. (5 acres). Anoka Parks fall prescribed burn at Bunker Horse Loops and Pasture unit. Overseeded on bare soil after burns. (2+ 5 acres). Additional overseeding on bare soil at Mississippi West, Bunker Beach, Bunker High School, Rum Central North, and CCCA Mizlin dry prairie units. Conducted weed control in targeted areas at Burman WMA and seeded with native seed mix. (3 acres). Planted wildflowers, grasses and sedge with school group and staff from City of Fridley and Rice Creek Watershed District at Moore Lake and installed dogwood, willow and water willow cuttings along part of the shoreline.	1/22/2026 1:58:21 PM

## Activity Name: Technical Assistance

**Activity Category:** Technical/Engineering Assistance

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Inventory sites before and during management and provide guidance for best practices.

ACD will create cost share agreements with landowners and land managers to include 10-year Operations and Maintenance contracts. Land owners and land managers will be responsible for long-term maintenance.

ACD maintains a database of all best management practice projects to record accomplishments and to also create an inspection schedule. The database will be populated to trigger site inspections at the end of the first, third, fifth and ninth year following installation.

Carrie Taylor and Logan Olson will provide technical assistance with site assessments and project planning, will draft cost share agreements and will monitor sites during the grant period and conduct follow up site inspections and guidance during the 10-year effective life of the project.

Carrie Taylor, Restoration Ecologist, MS Land Rehabilitation, JAA in multiple ecological practices, has conducted botanical surveys and assessments, created land management plans and project designs, installed and maintained native plantings, administered cost share programs.

Logan Olson, ACD Restoration Technician, experience with native planting management and maintenance, administrating cost share programs, grant reporting, and public outreach.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Anoka Habitat Enhancement 2025	\$4,000.00	\$3,660.60	\$339.40	12/31/2025	N

### Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Q1Q2 2025. Site assessments and planning for weed control and seed purchases. Created custom seed mixes for prairies.	6/30/2025 12:00:00 AM
Q3Q4 2025. Site assessments for weed control needs, plant inventories, creating custom seed mixes.	1/22/2026 2:08:22 PM