



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

**Date:** April 7, 2015

**To:** Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Referral:** Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means/Budget Committee

**Subject:** **Agreements for Lake Nokomis Area Private Stormwater Management Practices**

**Recommendation:**

- A. Authorize proper City officials to negotiate and execute an agreement with Hennepin County for \$50,000 from the Natural Resource Grant Program, for reimbursement for activities that reduce stormwater runoff to the storm sewer system leading to Lake Nokomis.
- B. Increase the appropriation for (Fund 07300 Dept 6300220 Acct 507001) by \$50,000 and increase revenue (07300 6300220 Source 3225) by \$50,000 for 2015 funding by Hennepin County.
- C. Authorize proper city officials to negotiate and execute an agreement with Metro Blooms for \$474,425 to carry out the Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water Workplan.

**Previous Directives:**

March 3, 2015 – Authorize proper city officials to negotiate and execute an agreement with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and increase appropriation and revenue by #399,425.

October 18, 2013 - Authorize submittal of an application for Minnesota Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment funds in the amount of \$502,200 to be used for Lake Nokomis Area Private Stormwater Management Practices.

Prepared by: Lois Eberhart, Water Resources Administrator, Surface Water & Sewers 673-3260  
Lisa Cerney, P.E., Director of Surface Water & Sewers 673-3061

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven A. Kotke, P. E., Director of Public Works

Presenter in Committee: Lois Eberhart, Water Resources Administrator, Surface Water & Sewers

**Financial Impact**

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase.

Request provided to Finance Department.

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: The Friends of Lake Nokomis organization is a participant in the project and a survey of 700 households has been conducted to tailor education and outreach. City Goals: Great Places - Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected.

**Background/Supporting Information:**

The City of Minneapolis began working with the Metro Blooms non-profit organization, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and the Friends of Lake Nokomis neighborhood group in 2012 on a project in the Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis called Nokomis Neighbors for Clean Water, to engage residents and business owners in projects to prevent polluted stormwater from entering Lake Nokomis. Lake Nokomis, due to excessive phosphorus, is one of the impaired water bodies in Minnesota. The project is patterned after the Powderhorn Neighborhood of Raingardens project, however the new project is envisioned to target a higher level of source control of pollutants from private properties.

In order to tailor an education and outreach campaign for the community, Metro Blooms, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, conducted a survey during the winter of 2012-2013. The number of households invited to participate was 701, a random sample of 2,650 residences in the project area. The response rate was 52%. The survey asked about yard care practices, gauged resident knowledge about stormwater runoff and the impact of yard care practices on the lake, assessed attitudes about concern for Lake Nokomis water quality, and asked about interest in participating in a program to take action on their properties.

**Project Description:**

This project is located in south Minneapolis, within the area of Minneapolis that drains to Lake Nokomis which is impaired due to excessive phosphorus. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study has been approved by the MPCA and the US EPA. The City of Minneapolis is one of the TMDL stakeholders with a responsibility to reduce the pollutant load of nutrients to the lake.

The focus of the project is Metro Blooms engagement of residents and business owners in a project to improve the water quality of Lake Nokomis by installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to manage their stormwater on-site, in order to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff. Metro Blooms will work with the property owners to install raingardens, permeable paver strips and other BMPs at over 100 properties in the Lake Nokomis subwatershed over the next three years.

The City of Minneapolis will enter into a contract with Metro Blooms for \$474,425 to carry out the project. The funding sources are as follows:

Hennepin County	\$ 50,000	(covered in this request)
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	\$399,425	(covered in March 3, 2015 request)
Public Works Surface Water & Sewers Division	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	(operating budget for water quality education)
	<u>\$474,425</u>	

The City was the applicant for the \$50,000 and \$399,425 grants. There are additional funds for the project that will not pass through the City. These include \$100,000 from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, which will be paid directly to Metro Blooms, and property owner cost share funds of approximately \$68,000 which will also be paid directly to Metro Blooms. Other participants in the project include Master Gardeners, Master Water Stewards, and Friends of Lake Nokomis.

**Requested Action:**

Public Works seeks approval for acceptance of \$50,000 in grant funds from Hennepin County, authority to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the county, and authority to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Metro Blooms to carry out the project.

cc: Council Member Quincy, Ward 11  
Council Member Andrew Johnson, Ward 12  
Bishow Dhungana, Finance Department  
Corey Conover, Office of the City Attorney