



Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

38814 Third Avenue, North Branch, MN 55056

Phone: 651/674-2333 | www.chisagoswcd.org

Chisago SWCD - 2018 Plant Grant Program



The Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offers grants to offset the cost of Minnesota Native Plants for water quality improvement projects. Such projects not only improve water quality, but also preserve native plant and wildlife communities affected by lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Potential projects include shoreline and stream bank restoration/stabilization, raingardens, and erosion control projects. Highest priority is given to collaborative projects resulting in measurable reductions in stormwater and nutrient loadings to receiving water resources and those with opportunities for public education.

■ Eligibility

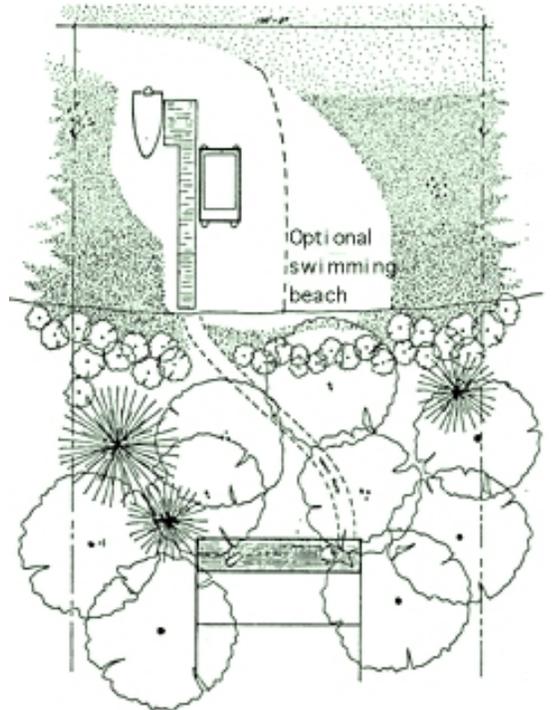
Plant Grants are available for all Chisago County residents, non-profit organizations, government agencies, schools, businesses, and corporations located within Chisago County. Applications are accepted at any time however, funds are limited and awarded “first-come, first-serve.”

■ Application and Project Approval Process

For general questions about the program or technical assistance please contact Casey Thiel at the Chisago SWCD at 651-674-2333 or casey.thiel@mn.nacdnet.net. The potential applicant should schedule a site visit with SWCD staff to determine whether the project/site is a candidate for the grant program.

If staff determines that the site is a candidate for the grant program, they will help the applicant by providing a concept map of the site and project cost estimates. The applicant must then complete a Plant Grant Program application and submit it to the Chisago SWCD office at 38814 Third Avenue, North Branch, MN 55056 or casey.thiel@mn.nacdnet.net. Applications can be downloaded from the SWCD’s website, www.chisagoswcd.org or can be requested by calling the SWCD office.

The resulting application will be reviewed by the SWCD. If the application meets program requirements the applicant will then be notified of the outcome of their application. If approved, SWCD staff will give the applicant permission to move forward with project construction.





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■ Available Funds

Plant grants fund the cost of Minnesota native plants up to \$500 for eligible projects. Below is an outline of the plant grant program:

- 1) Plant grant projects will involve a 100% landowner reimbursement for Minnesota native plant purchases up to \$500 and will be able to take the form of shoreline restoration projects or non-shoreline (e.g. raingarden) projects.
- 2) Plants which are not native to Minnesota will not be covered by the plant grant program, nor will other project materials such as mulch and edging.
- 3) SWCD staff will provide technical assistance for plant selection. Plant selections must be approved by the SWCD to receive cost-share funding. Technical assistance will be provided free of charge. Technical assistance will be defined as onsite technical guidance and additional communication as needed. Construction labor is not included under technical assistance.
- 4) SWCD staff will not create full designs for “plant grant” projects. Quantity and species recommendations will be provided.
- 5) Plant grants will not cover installation and maintenance costs. Plant grant recipients are responsible to either complete project maintenance themselves, or hire a contractor to complete the maintenance on their behalf.

■ Reimbursement of Funds

Upon completion of the project, SWCD staff will conduct a final site inspection for final approval of the installation. Grant funding agreed to by the SWCD (and not to exceed original estimate), will be granted to the applicant only after the project installation has been approved and all receipts for the project have been received. Reimbursement checks may be received within an estimated 30-45 days, based on the dates of receipt submittal and staff approval.

■ Project Maintenance

Recipients of plant grant funds will not be required to sign a maintenance agreement, though regular project maintenance is highly-recommended. Maintenance is especially crucial in the first three years after project completion while plants are in the establishment phase.