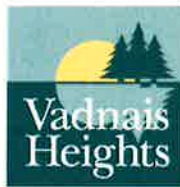


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**The City of Vadnais Heights**  
800 East County Road E  
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

## *Memorandum:*

TO: Mayor Gunderson and Council Members  
FROM: Tim Sandvik, Assistant City Administrator  
DATE: August 20, 2019  
RE: Accept Receipt of Community Blue Grant Dollars

### **Requested Council Action**

Accept receipt of Community Blue Grant Dollars (\$400) for Native Species Plantings Project from the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO).

### **Background**

Staff regularly explores opportunities to apply for grant funding to facilitate special projects in the City. In working with the Parks and Trails Commission, a desire to promote the benefits of native species plantings was expressed. Staff was able to identify a potential partnership with the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) to explore this idea.

VLAWMO staff are experts in the all-things water management, including benefits provided by appropriate, native-species plantings. Further, VLAWMO sponsors "Community Blue" which grants up to \$5,000 annually to promote stewardship and education of local water resources.

On May 21, 2019, the City Council approved the submission of the Community Blue Grant Application for a total of \$400. These funds were to be dedicated to offset the cost of interpretive signage at the newly installed Native Species beds at Community Park and promotion of the project.

This project, while relatively small, serves as an excellent educational opportunity as the City can help promote the project and its benefits through normal communication channels. In partnership with VLAWMO, this opportunity promotes the benefits specific to native species plantings, general water management practices, and help promote Community Blue which is available to Vadnais Heights' residents.

This project was originally presented to the Vadnais Heights Park and Trails Commission who referred it to the Heritage Days Committee for additional input. Both the Commission and Committee considered all benefits, and in wanting the project to be successful, both ultimately made recommendation to staff to apply for the funding. The location of the two plant beds are at Community Park as it is a high traffic area where the interpretive signage can be accessed by park-goers and attendees of the Vadnais Heights Commons.

TC