



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT



BLUE COMMUNITY MAKEOVER™

UPDATE 4-13-2010 (Distributed at Rain Garden Workshop – part A)

Congratulations! You are moving closer to helping Diamond Lake Go Blue!

As the Project Manager for this Blue Community Makeover™, Hedberg Landscape & Masonry Supplies would like to answer some questions about “how it all gets done.”

Hedberg Landscape & Masonry Supplies is working closely with your neighborhood groups, Friends of Diamond Lake (FoDL) and Hale Page Diamond Lake (HPDL), and with the grant administrator, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). We’re also working with Diamond Lake Lutheran Church and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to include the church and Pearl Park in the Go Blue initiative. It won’t be long before you see actual work being done by contractors and volunteers in your neighborhood!

We are pleased to have Metro Blooms serve as advisors to develop stormwater plans for each participating homeowner. **If you haven’t scheduled a visit with a Metro Blooms Landscape Design Assistant (LDA), please do so at you earliest opportunity.** They will provide you with recommendations to help you decide which project(s) you wish to pursue. If you elect to install a raingarden, permeable paver surface or rainwater capture and reuse system, their planning fees will be included in your project cost. If you choose not to install any of those projects, you will not be billed for their visit.

You might be wondering how much these projects will cost, and how the grant cost share reimbursement works. [The Project Cost Estimates & Priority Ranking Form](#) will give you a solid cost estimate for the projects. By ranking your preference of projects and returning the form to Gail Schaal as soon as possible (**deadline May 5**), you will allow us to apply the grant funding fairly to cover everyone’s highest priority projects.

Grant Reimbursement:

In order for a Go Blue project to qualify for cost share reimbursement it must meet several requirements.

First, it must be one of the identified stormwater BMPs listed below:

- Rain barrel
- Tree
- Raingarden
- Permeable paver replacement of existing hard surface
- Rainwater capture and reuse system

If you pay a contractor to do the work, the contractor must attend a project launch meeting (to be scheduled in early May) in order for you to receive grant cost share reimbursement. If you are currently working with a contractor, please send the company name and contact information to Tina Plant at Hedberg Landscape & Masonry Supplies so we can invite your contractor to the project launch meeting. If you do not currently have a contractor, we will provide you with resource options from among the contractors who attend the mandatory project launch meeting. Each project will be carefully monitored by the Project Manager.

Raingardens, permeable paver projects, and rainwater capture and reuse systems will need to have detailed plans drawn up and presented to MCWD for engineering review and acceptance before the project is installed. A MCWD representative will also visit your property after the project is complete to verify it has been installed in accordance with the plans. Trees and rain barrels will not require an engineering review.

Each household requesting grant cost share reimbursement will be required to document at least 10 hours of time participating in the Go Blue project. This can include attendance at educational workshops, meeting with landscape design assistants, site preparation and planting, and other water quality friendly activities. It should not be a problem for you to meet this requirement. You will also need to sign a maintenance agreement that MCWD will develop to ensure the BMPs that are receiving grant cost share support with public funding will be maintained in good working order for a period of time. The language for this agreement is currently under development.

For Go Blue projects under \$2,500, homeowners will pay their contractors and suppliers in full and submit copies of the paid receipts to Hedberg Landscape & Masonry Supplies, the Project Manager. All applicable requirements of the Clean Water Grant must be met (engineering review prior to project installation for all raingardens, permeable pavers and rainwater capture and reuse systems; project verification by MCWD upon project completion; signature of maintenance and other forms indicated by MCWD). Hedberg submits required documentation for MCWD for reimbursement and issues a check for the cost share portion to the homeowner.

For projects costing \$2,500 and above, Hedberg can assist homeowners by financing the grant cost share amount. For the sake of simplicity I'll refer to the cost share portion as "50% or the cost share portion" although this amount may vary based on the project and total costs.

1. Homeowner agrees to work with contractor and signs a contract that is contingent upon the contractor's site plans passing the MCWD engineering review.
2. Plans pass, work is scheduled, contractor orders products from supplier, does the work, project completed.
3. MCWD validates the completed project.
4. On payment day, parties meet at the residence. Hedberg pays the contractor 50% (or the cost share portion) of the project cost. Homeowner gives the contractor a check for 50% (or the share not covered by the grant). The contractor has received full payment and marks the homeowner's invoice 100% paid.
5. Homeowner gives Hedberg a copy of the 100% paid invoice. Hedberg submits the 100% paid invoice to MCWD, MCWD processes payment and issues a check to Hedberg for 50% (or cost share portion) of the project. Hedberg has recovered the cost share portion it paid on behalf of the homeowner.

You may, of course, opt to pay 100% of the project and submit invoices to the Project Manager for reimbursement.

If you have any questions about this, please call Tina Plant at 763-392-5909.