

Preston Drum  
Burnsville, MN  
Minnesota Senate District 55  
House of Representatives District 55B  
preston@northernholler.com

March 2025

Dear Representatives of the committee,

My name is Preston Drum. I am a seven-year resident of Burnsville, MN. I own and operate a native plant nursery and ecological landscaping business called Northern Holler LLC. We are a small operation consisting of family and a few contractors. This is our third season in business and I'm happy to report we haven't gone into the red, yet. As you know, it is rare for new businesses to break even, that alone turn a profit. I connect our success to the groundswell of interest in native plants amongst our fellow Minnesotans. While Minnesota has been a decades-long leader in natural lands preservation and restoration, we are behind in adopting ecological landscaping methodologies on mass, but a change is coming.

The Lawns to Legumes (L2L) program is responsible for a large majority of this sea change. I'll let the administrators of the grant supply you with numbers but without hesitation I can draw a direct correlation between this program and our success as a company. In August of 2024 our sales were slumping because of the drought and heat but they jumped in September and October because grantees of the L2L program had found us.

Following that experience, we were emboldened and excited about the 2025 season. Just weeks ago, we partnered with Metro Blooms and four other local native plant nurseries to organize and host a native plant sale in September 2025. This sale was intended to coincide with the funds dispersal for Fall L2L grants. If this funding is allowed to collapse that means we will lose out on thousands of dollars in potential sales. While this may be a small amount to a committee overseeing millions of dollars, this is the margin small businesses ride from red to black.

I know this all too well because I am the child of a single mother who raised seven kids working for herself. My mother was a landscape business owner too. When she passed away in 2022, I was inspired to follow in her footsteps. I left my career as a college professor to pursue a life in native plants. This choice was not made lightly with two young sons in tow. Their presence in my life pushed me to envision a better world for them. One where they could swim in one of our 10,000 lakes without getting a rash, breathe clean air while they walk to school and catch fireflies on a warm summer night. These opportunities are disappearing for them.

We no longer have the luxury of separating ourselves from nature. We have run out of space, so the only solution is to bring nature home. The L2L program gives citizens the power to do that. By giving funds directly to grantees, they choose to invest in nature and build a future for all of us. We all benefit from the changes grantees make to their properties when they create habitat for wildlife, conserve our water and clean our air. Please continue to fund the L2L program by supporting H.F. 1843.

Thank you for your consideration,

Preston Drum  
Proprietor of Northern Holler LLC.

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*Twin Cities Campus*

*Department of Entomology*

*College of Food, Agricultural and  
Natural Resource Sciences*

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March 18, 2025  
Regarding HF 1843

We are writing to support HF 1843, a bill to appropriate funding for the Lawns to Legumes program. We work at the University of Minnesota Bee Lab, where our mission is to promote the conservation, health, and diversity of bee pollinators through research, education, and hands-on mentorship. Dr. Marla Spivak is Emeritus Professor in Entomology, who with graduate students conducted research on flowering “bee lawns” which later became a popular option in the Lawns to Legumes program. Dr. Elaine Evans is an Extension Educator who works to connect people and pollinators through public engagement in monitoring, sharing conservation action steps, and researching impacts of conservation actions. Dr. Katie Lee is an Extension Educator in apiculture and provides educational content with and for beekeepers. Beekeepers across the state prioritize promoting increased forage as nutrition is key for healthy bees.

Minnesota continues to lead the nation in legislative efforts to help pollinators. Lawns to Legumes is a model program that many states would like to follow. To date, the Lawns to Legumes program has created 14 million square feet of high-quality pollinator habitat across Minnesota. Research shows that pollinators respond quickly to even very small and distributed habitat patches. Having lots of habitat patches available to pollinators is one of the best ways for people to help pollinators. These patches also provide important resources to other wildlife, build soil through their root structure, and filter water.

Now is not the time to stop the momentum that has been created by this program. Many Minnesotans want to do more to help pollinators. The Lawns to Legumes program alleviates financial barriers to habitat creation and provides people with knowledge to successfully create and maintain pollinator habitat. Pollinators continue to face threats to their success, with some species on the brink of extinction. We know abundant, high-quality habitat can help prevent extinction, can boost pollination services for important fruit crops, and can help to ensure a future where pollinators can thrive. Please support HF 1843.

Thank you for your consideration.



Dr. Marla Spivak



Dr. Elaine Evans



Dr. Katie Lee

Hello

My name is James Wolfin and I am proud to be a University of Minnesota alumni with a Masters in Entomology, a pollinator biologist, a former Lawns to Legumes Program Administrator, a current Lawns to Legumes volunteer coach, and perhaps most importantly, a representative from a small Minnesota business, Twin City Seed Company. Lawns to Legumes is a bill that provides tremendous value to the State of Minnesota. Since its inception, this bill has led to the creation of over 14 MILLION square feet of pollinator-friendly habitat through projects completed by more than 12,000 proud Minnesotans. These individual planting efforts help to ensure that Minnesota can serve as a powerful pollinator corridor, where plantings exist in close proximity to one another allowing our at-risk pollinators to have consistent access to high quality food throughout the state. This program has diverse ecological benefits that directly improve the lives of Minnesotans, including but not limited to, protecting our pollinators, improving our local water quality, reducing our carbon footprint, supporting local food-production initiatives, and supporting our farmers by improving yields and production on agricultural fields,

The benefits of this program go well beyond supporting our pollinators and the eco system services they provide. This program has been a catalyst for small businesses throughout the state of Minnesota. Three years ago I joined the team at Twin City Seed Company, a small family-owned business that provides residents, nurseries, garden centers, and landscape professionals with seed options for landscaping projects. While the benefits this program provides our small team at Twin City Seed are absolutely substantial and noteworthy, I believe the interactions we share with our small business partners throughout the State of Minnesota exemplify the true beauty and economic impact of this program.

Since the onset of Lawns to Legumes we have seen a dramatic increase in demand for pollinator-friendly planting options from residents, but also from small, family owned and operated businesses throughout the state of Minnesota. Prior to Lawns to Legumes our bee lawn and native pollinator planting options accounted for approximately 200 pounds of seed distributed to our green industry partners. In the most recent fiscal year, these products accounted for more than 20,000 pounds, or an increase of more than 10,000%. The nurseries, greenhouses, landscape professionals and other small businesses that we partner with are not confined to the Twin Cities Metro area, but rather they are spread out widely throughout the State of Minnesota, including Landsberg Nursery in Brainerd, Copper Creek Nurseries in Nisswa, Wigen Seed Farm in Meeker County and Sargent's Garden Center down in Rochester, among the dozens if not hundreds more. The economic impact of this program is being felt strongly throughout all corners of the State of Minnesota.

And I believe that it is worth noting that the geographic spread we see here is no accident, rather it is due to the mindful and intelligent process by which Lawns to Legumes grants are distributed. Lawns to Legumes places an emphasis on providing funds to residents throughout the state of Minnesota, making a specific effort to ensure the inclusion of non-metro community members, including those from rural communities. The Lawns to Legumes awards granted to residents in greater Minnesota is undoubtedly the driving factor behind the increased demand for pollinator-friendly products at these small Minnesota businesses, located in small Minnesotan towns. Where for me, there is no better reason to support a Minnesota State program than knowing that a program improves the lives of Minnesotan residents and the economic outlook of small, family-owned businesses throughout our State. Metro, North, South, and everywhere in between.

Finally, I think it is worth taking a deeper look at the finances associated with this program. To date, State funding has provided Minnesotans with \$2,019,983.07 in awards to residents. These very same residents have also spent \$1,739,209.61 of their own money on these projects. This means that, for every dollar that comes from the State, Minnesotans are choosing to spend .86 of their own money, nearly a 1:1 match. And this is money that is not just given to residents the second they are awarded a grant – the vast majority of funds are reimbursed only after the money has been spent, with much of this money going right into the pockets of Minnesota small businesses. With all of this in mind, I urge the committee here today, and the Minnesota House of Representatives to support our pollinators, our residents, and small family-owned and operated businesses throughout our State by supporting H.F. 1843, the Lawns to Legumes program.

Best,

James Wolfin

## **Testimony in Support of House File 1843**

### **Submitted by:**

#### **Leanna Goose**

Co-facilitator and Organizer, Rise and Repair Alliance  
09983 Battle Point Drive NW  
Federal Dam, MN 56641

**Date:** March 17, 2025

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### **Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature,**

I am writing to urge you to support House File 1843 and work towards its swift passage for the following reasons:

The rapid decline of pollinators is a crisis that demands our immediate attention.

Pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and birds, are responsible for the pollination of approximately 35% of the food we eat. This is not just a statistic; it is the foundation of our food security. The decline of pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds directly threatens the stability of our food systems.

One significant program that has made a difference is the Lawns to Legumes program, which has been instrumental in creating much-needed pollinator habitats across Minnesota. We need to ensure that this program continues to remain available and effective during this critical moment in time.

The alarming decline in pollinator populations is directly linked to human activities, such as habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, and unsustainable agricultural practices. As the root cause of the problem, it is within our power to reverse the damage and contribute to the recovery of these vital species.

The urgency of the situation cannot be overstated. We must act swiftly to ensure the survival of pollinators and the health of our ecosystems. For instance, the Monarch butterfly population has declined by a staggering 90% over the past two decades, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concluded that listing the monarch as endangered is warranted. (Native Monarchs) Furthermore, the International Union for Conservation of Nature has placed the migratory monarch on its endangered species red list (“Project Wingspan | Pollinator.org”).

A report by the National Academy of Sciences reveals that insect populations are declining at a rate of 1-2% per year (Wagner et al., 2). Additionally, the State of the Birds report highlights that there are 70 bird species at a tipping point, having lost half or more of their breeding populations (U.S. Forest Service et al.). If we fail to take action, the consequences will ripple through our ecosystems, threatening global biodiversity and food security.

One simple yet highly effective way to support pollinators and safeguard their essential role in our food systems is by choosing to plant gardens rather than lawns. This shift would help enhance biodiversity and provide a nurturing environment for pollinators to thrive. The Lawns to Legumes program has already played a key role in ensuring that Minnesotans have the resources needed to support pollinators.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of House File 1843. By doing so, you will help provide the additional support pollinators need during this crucial time, ensuring the health of our ecosystems and the stability of our food systems.

**Miigwech (Thank you),**

**Leanna Goose**

Co-facilitator and Organizer, Rise and Repair Alliance

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Beth Adamowicz, and I am a proud recipient of a Lawns to Legumes grant and coach for the Lawns to Legumes program. I am writing today to strongly encourage you to vote in support of H.F. 1843, the Lawns to Legumes appropriation bill.

Since 2019, Lawns to Legumes has helped over 12,000 Minnesotans create 14 million square feet of pollinator habitat, supporting at-risk species like the rusty patched bumble bee and monarch butterfly. In the fall of 2023, I was one of those recipients. With the funds received from the Lawns to Legumes program, I was able to install a pollinator-friendly garden in my front yard in Fridley, replacing a drought-scorched area of lawn with bright orange butterfly weed and vibrant purple asters. Because of the financial and coaching support of the program, I was able to watch the bees, monarch butterflies, and birds come to my growing garden almost immediately. I was so delighted to see that as early as the following summer, when my garden was less than a year old, it was already supporting many monarch caterpillars as they grew. I cannot describe the pride and gratitude I felt at being able to support this endangered species. Due to climate change and habitat loss, populations of monarch butterflies have declined over 80% since the 1980s. The Lawns to Legumes program offers individuals a direct, high-impact, tangible way to support this iconic species, as well as many other beloved Minnesota fauna.

Due to my outstanding experience with the program support and management, I have volunteered as a coach for the program since the beginning of 2024. Coaching has allowed me to connect with others across the state who share my passion for pollinator-friendly outdoor spaces, and enable even more people to participate in this program. My experience with the Lawns to Legumes program has also inspired me to continue transforming my yard into a native plant haven. Since planting my pocket garden, I've converted my entire back yard into a bee-friendly lawn and expanded my pocket garden to include even more pollinator-supporting species. I've also become an advocate for the program in my personal life; many of my work colleagues have successfully applied to the program and implemented their own native planting beds, further supporting our endangered pollinator species in the state. None of this would be possible without funding for the Lawns to Legumes program.

Lawns to Legumes is an easily accessible, effectively run program that empowers individuals to directly and immediately improve the survival of many endangered pollinator species. In the face of ongoing climate change news, it is easy to feel disheartened and ask "what can I, as one person, do to help?" Lawns to Legumes answers that question and provides the resources and support to make a real difference in supporting native species to combat the impacts of climate change. There are also other environmental benefits from this program; Lawns to Legumes' bee lawns improve soil quality and require less mowing and management, and planting drought-tolerant native perennial species reduces water use for gardens even in hot summers. This is something I have experienced myself; during our hot, dry Minnesota summer last year, my bee lawn remained green and healthy despite not being watered at all.

From speaking with many grant recipients of this program, the only downside that people have experienced is that excitement and interest in the program far exceeds currently available funding. Thousands of households apply every grant cycle, and without continued funding, this successful program will be unable to meet demand or expand its reach, jeopardizing both pollinator conservation and public engagement. Minnesota has a strong tradition of environmental stewardship, and the Lawns to Legumes program is a wonderful continuation of this tradition. Please support H.F. 1843 to continue Lawns to Legumes funding and help ordinary citizens provide extraordinary support to our natural world.

Sincerely,  
Beth Adamowicz

To whom it may concern,

In spring of 2024, I was finally a recipient of the Lawns to Legumes grant. Previously, I had applied for this grant for many years and I am so grateful for this experience. This grant connects people to our own habitat while supporting our pollinator's habitat as well.

In 2017, the Rusty Patch Bee (*Bombus affinis*) species was placed on the endangered species list. In 2019, Minnesota named the Rusty Patch Bee species to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and their habitats and to recognize the need to conserve the species. In 2025, it is more important than ever before to protect our pollinators and continue to support sustainable solutions to a changing climate.

The concept of pollinator habitats and native plantings is not new information for me. I have been lucky to work with the Watershed district on a rain garden and a native bee lawn on a boulevard, both on the East Side of St. Paul. This particular area was hit with whole street tree removal in 2018, and replanting has yet to happen. If our city, county, and state is not able to handle the impact of tree disease on their own, then having opportunities like Lawns to Legumes will offer the community a chance to help Be the Change.

Lawns to Legumes provided a community of people that want to be a part of a solution. We need to protect our pollinators that are helping us with our food supply and biodiversity. According to the World Wildlife Fund 75% of global crops depend on animal pollination and crops that depend on pollination are five times more valuable than those that do not. Minnesota has a lot of crops, and this program will ultimately help our economics long term. This program opens the door to support state economics by purchasing supplies, seeds, and plants. A lot of the time, people are spending much more than the \$400 grant money and that excess is getting back into our economics in more than one way. Think of all that honey, I mean money.

Bees are a really incredible species. Lawns to Legumes provides education about bees along with our native plantings that will benefit our soil health. When our soil health improves, this can also help our water systems as well, and if our water systems are improved; humans benefit. This program not only provides education, it also creates a network of people that are similar to bees: innovative and wise workers.

I urge you to support HF 1843 that will keep the funding for Lawns to Legumes. Minnesota. By supporting this bill, you are supporting change and growth of our community, our habitats, and our world.

Thank you for your time.

Bee well,

Erin McCabe

## Letter in Support of Lawns to Legumes Funding 3.15.25

To Whom it May Concern:

I was a recipient of a \$350 Lawns to Legumes Grant in the fall of 2023 and can say with confidence the State of Minnesota got its money's worth. Not only did I more than match this expenditure with my own funds and labor, but I also voluntarily participated in the Lawns to Legumes state garden tour organized by Blue Thumb, one of the administrators for the state grants. This tour educated and inspired hundreds of visitors to try their hand at sustainable yard care which brings more non-human life, beauty and climate resilience to our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Ginny Halloran

Pictures below - before (**October 2023**) and after (**June 2024 and August 2024**)



Re: Oppose Senate bill S.F. No. 1211 and House bill H.F. 451 and 2.  
Support continued funding for Lawns to Legumes.

Dear MN legislators,

**Lawns to Legumes** has been an incredible resource, not just for creating pollinator habitat but for educating Minnesotans about the importance of conservation.

I applied and was awarded a grant from **Lawns to Legumes**, which I completed in the summer of 2023. Initially, I was excited for the dollar savings that would help with landscaping my yard, but I had no idea how much I'd learn in the process. Through this program, I gained knowledge about native plants, soil health, and the essential role of pollinators in our ecosystem. Researching plant choices, visiting local community gardens, and asking neighbors for advice deepened my appreciation for sustainable landscaping.

By shopping locally for native plants and engaging with others, I've seen firsthand how **Lawns to Legumes** fosters curiosity and environmental responsibility. The transformation of my yard into a vibrant, colorful space not only supports pollinators but also enhances the beauty of our community. Now, I eagerly await each spring, anticipating the burst of blooms that bring joy to our neighborhoods and vital resources to at-risk species like the rusty patched bumble bee and monarch butterfly.

Cutting this program would not only limit habitat restoration but also stifle a growing movement of informed, engaged citizens committed to beautifying our environment. Please continue funding **Lawns to Legumes** so more Minnesotans can participate, learn, and take action for pollinators and community enhancement.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jennifer Smith  
Resident of Bloomington, MN

Hello, I am urging you to support [H.F. 1843](#) as it proposes continued support for the Lawns to Legumes program.

I personally received a Lawns to Legumes grant in 2024 and it transformed my yard in North Minneapolis for the better, making my block more beautiful, sustainable, climate resilient, and pollinator friendly. There are absolutely no downsides to this program! I would not have been able to complete my landscaping project without this grant.

Not only does this grant support projects for individuals, it is a long-term investment into the health of the communities it funds. The impact of these relatively small grants [mine was \$400] is enormous. My animal, insect, and human neighbors all benefit from the beauty the plants provide, the cleaner air, and the long-term benefits from soil stabilization and native habitat for pollinators. Receiving this grant has inspired me to invest more in my community, and to continue expanding my pollinator garden bit by bit each year. It makes me feel pride in my community and in Minnesota, that we believe in the long-term health of the people and nature around us enough to fund programs like Lawns to Legumes.

Please continue to support Lawns to Legumes - it is a vital program essential to navigating climate change and building stronger communities in our state. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Kaitlen Osburn

There's an old saying that goes "If you build it, they will come." I got to thinking about that as I was sitting outside watching a butterfly in my backyard last summer. That saying can be changed into other phrases too like "If you plant it, they will come". Infact, if it wasn't for the help of my Lawns to Legumes Grant, I wouldn't have witnessed the Monarch butterfly in my backyard. You see, with the help of that grant I helped our Rusty Patched Bumblebee and a Monarch butterfly thrive.

I will never forget the day I found out that I was a Lawns to Legumes recipient. You would have thought I had won the lottery. The date was December 15, 2023 to be exact as I took a picture of it. I was looking online for native pollinator plants before I went shopping. When I went to the 2024 Hennepin County Master Gardener Spring Plant sale in Hopkins, I threw caution to the wind. I filled my foldable shopping cart up the to top faster than a contestant on supermarket sweep! I got home and organized my little seedlings by height and sun/shade tolerance, and began planting them. Because I am over the top, I did three areas of native pollinator plantings. One in my front yard and two in my back yard. As a Lawns to Legumes recipient, I volunteered to be a host for a garden tour where I shared what knowledge I had gained along the way with fellow gardeners. It was fun to engage with other gardeners and share my love of native pollinators. The icing on the cake was when my Lawns to Legumes sign arrived in the mail. I display that with pride in my front yard. I am so excited to see what comes up this Spring. I am hopeful to keep my pollinators protected and thriving to help our Monarch Butterflies and Rusty Patch Bumblebee.

You may be wondering what all this fuss is about? Well, the rusty patched bumblebee is a key pollinator of wildflowers, berries, tomatoes, peppers, cranberries and fruit trees. The monarch butterfly is also a pollinator of flowers and plants, and its decline is a key indicator of environmental health. I urge you to take a stand on this critical issue and help support these at-risk species. Too often we operate in a reactive way. We need to start being more proactive so that our world and all the lovely creatures within it can remain here forever.

I ask you to support House bill H.F. 1843, which proposes \$1.5 in continued funding for the program.

Since 2019, Lawns to Legumes has helped over 12,000 Minnesotans create 14 million square feet of pollinator habitat, supporting at-risk species like the Rusty Patched Bumble bee and Monarch butterfly. Demand remains high, with thousands applying each grant cycle-far exceeding available funding. The program also supports over 50 businesses engaged in habitat restoration.

Minnesota has a strong tradition of environmental stewardship. Let's keep this momentum going. Please support ongoing funding for Lawns to Legumes.

Thank you,

Katy Lucy  
3221 Texas Ave S  
St Louis Park, Mn 55426  
(320) 470-8918

18 March 2025

Dear Elected Officials:

I am a resident of St. Paul and am writing in support of H.F. 1843, which will continue the funding of the invaluable Lawns to Legumes program for our state.

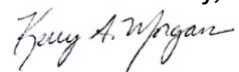
I was a Lawns to Legumes recipient in 2020 and currently volunteer as a coach through the UMN Extension Master Garden program to help homeowners fulfill their grants. Thanks to the the Lawns to Legumes grant I learned about the importance of pollinators and how their survival has been compromised by decades of urban development and harmful landscaping practices like the indiscriminate use of pesticides. I also discovered how native plants, many of which have very long roots, can help hold water better than grass and other non-native plants—which is of increasing importance as our state is seeing more periods of drought alternating with tremendous precipitation events. I am grateful for the Lawns to Legumes workshops that I attended (in person and online) that increased my knowledge and have been instrumental in shaping my vocational goals over the past five years.

Receiving a grant gave me the opportunity to replace invasive honeysuckles with native dogwood and nannyberry bushes. Over the years they have thrived despite the periods of drought. Thanks to the program I have seen firsthand how the program increases the number of pollinators and overall biodiversity of my yard. I have also witnessed how it connects homeowners to their neighborhoods and the outdoors. The grant recipients show great pride in their yards and understanding about how even a small patch of native plants can help shore up declining insect populations. Without insects we have fewer pollinated foods, without insects we have fewer birds; it is all part of an ecosystem that we depend upon.

I am in awe of the fact that since 2019 Lawns to Legumes has helped over 12,000 Minnesotans create 14 million square feet of pollinator habitat, supporting at-risk species like the rusty patched bumble bee and monarch butterfly. Demand remains high, with thousands applying each grant cycle—far exceeding available funding. The program also supports over 50 businesses engaged in habitat restoration.

The Lawns to Legumes program has exceeding its goals, providing benefits that far exceed its cost. In no way should the program be cut. This successful program needs continued funding to meet demand or expand its reach. Minnesota has a strong tradition of environmental stewardship. Let's keep this momentum going. Please support ongoing funding for Lawns to Legumes.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry A. Morgan

Ramsey County Master Gardener/Garden Educator and MN Water Steward

My name is Karen Moon and I reside in the South Mpls Seward neighborhood. In 2020, I had the good fortune to receive a \$350 Lawns to Legumes grant. With respect and thanks for your consideration, here is an overview of the five-year impact of that funding.:

- Lawns to Legumes funds and Metro Blooms workshops enabled me to plan and install a combined pollinator-encouraging and rain-filtering garden.
- Situated within two blocks of the MS National River & Recreation Area - a unique national park in terms of its dependence upon urban partnerships to maintain this historically, culturally, environmentally significant waterway - my 220 square feet of transformed turf is a partner toward cleaner water between the Twin Cities and the Gulf of Mexico, as well as added food and habitat along this great migratory path.
- Lawns to Legumes gardens must be maintained and monitored for at least three years. Grant recipients commit time and contribute knowledge as citizen scientists in areas such as soil science, plant and pollinator identification and plant propagation.
- Such citizen scientist stewardship is communicated throughout Minnesota via Metro Blooms media. In September 2020, I discussed my project's benefit to environmental health and biodiversity on a MN Board of Water & Soil Sciences online panel.
- In May 2021, Lawns to Legumes, and my grant project, received national attention through a profile in a *Mother Earth News*.
- In 2023, I began serving as a L2L volunteer coach. In two-year's time, I will have mentored 10 newer recipients through the grant process from site assessment, to native plant selection and planting, through documentation of reimbursable expenses. Many L2L coaches contribute considerably more volunteer hours.
- Each year's L2L recipients increase Minnesota's biodiverse, native plant regions thereby supporting endangered species and offsetting the impacts of climate change.
- Grant-funded native plant purchases benefit statewide businesses and school fundraisers.
- In August, 2024, I hosted my garden site in the first statewide Lawns to Legumes Garden Tour and recruited several (non-L2L) Seward native gardeners as hosts. A Ramsey County master gardener collected multiple photographs, commenting that this tour provided one of the few ways to demonstrate how fully mature native plants look in homeowners' landscapes.

With regard to fiscal efficiency and long term benefit, Lawns to Legumes grants may be unparalleled in maintaining Minnesota's status in environmental leadership by way of sustainable plants/trees/shrubs likely to last for, and inspire, generations to come.



your yard  
**CAN BEE**  
the **CHANGE**  
#Lawns2Legumes

Dear Reader,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill to provide \$1.5 million in continued funding for the Lawns to Legumes program.

As a participant in this program, I have personally experienced its transformative impact. Through Lawns to Legumes, I was able to create essential pollinator habitats on my property, which has not only benefited the environment but also my family. The program's support enabled me to grow nutritious food and generate additional income, which has significantly enhanced my family's well-being.

I firmly believe that continued funding for Lawns to Legumes is crucial to sustain and expand its positive outcomes. This program is a vital investment in our environment, food security, and the resilience of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Peony Hildreth*

Lawns to Legumes Participant

**I am writing to ask for your support of H.F. 1843 and S.F. 2395, which will secure future funding for the Lawns to Legumes program.**

I work in the land conservation field. I hold a BS in ecology and evolutionary biology and a MS in geographic information science, and I have spent my career and much of my personal time learning how ecosystems work, using my expertise to protect them, and physically working to improve the habitat in my own back yard. I was a Lawns to Legumes grant recipient in fall of 2023 and have volunteered as a coach for the program since the spring of 2024.

All over the world, the leading cause of species decline is habitat loss. That means complete loss, or degradation, or loss of connectivity (chunks of habitat are too far apart for a pollinator to move between). In Minnesota, as everywhere else, we are losing habitat, therefore we are losing pollinators. Pollinators are critical to upholding many of the systems that we rely on daily. Lawns to Legumes offers a way to get some of that lost habitat back, starting in back yards all over Minnesota. To date, 12,000 participants have created 14 million square feet (roughly 320 acres) of pollinator habitat in yards across 87 counties. Each funding cycle, there are far more applicants than grants available. The statistics don't lie: the citizens of Minnesota want this program to continue. This is truly a case of the work of few improving the lives of many.

Healthy ecosystems, and specifically healthy pollinator populations, are a non-partisan issue. Everyone benefits from clean water, clean air, beautiful spaces, food security, and countless other benefits healthy pollinator populations provide. These critical species are a resource we cannot get back once they are lost.

Not only does this program help mitigate the impacts of habitat loss, but it involves citizens all over the state in taking an active role in improving where they live. Participants in the program are often the ones doing the site preparation, planting, and maintenance of the pollinator gardens. We know the benefits of gardening are far-reaching. Reduced stress, increased physical activity, increase in an overall sense of well-being, and a lower risk of cardiovascular disease are just a few examples of how gardening improves physical and mental health.

I implore you not to take this opportunity away from the citizens of Minnesota, or the pollinators that hold our systems up. Pollinators are the basis of the systems that we rely on every day in everything that we do. Science knows this. So please, listen to the experts and support future funding for the Lawns to Legumes program.

Thank you for your time,

Whitney DeLong

[Delong.Whit@gmail.com](mailto:Delong.Whit@gmail.com)

Dear Members of the MN House and Senate:

I'm writing today urging you to take action for Minnesota's vital and popular state-wide pollinator program. Please **Oppose Senate bill S.F. No. 1211 and House bill H.F. 451 - which seek to repeal current funding** - and support **continued funding for Lawns to Legumes**. There is not currently a proposed funding bill for Lawns to Legumes in the MN House or Senate.

Despite strong, ongoing interest, funding for [Lawns to Legumes](#), Minnesota's groundbreaking pollinator habitat grant program, is at risk. The **current Governor's budget does not provide future funding for Lawns to Legumes, and bills in the Senate (S.F. No. 1211) and House (H.F. 451) seek to repeal existing funding**, threatening a program that has empowered thousands of Minnesotans to create vital habitat for at-risk pollinators like the rusty patched bumble bee and monarch butterfly.

Since 2019, Lawns to Legumes has supported more than **12,000 participants** — primarily individuals taking action in their own yards — **to create 14 million square feet of native habitat across all 87 counties** via reimbursement based grants (up to \$400). Thousands of Minnesotans apply every grant round beyond the **3,000 grants currently funded per round** (two rounds per year). In just the first week of the current grant application round, over 4,700 Minnesotans applied (3,000 can be funded and the application period is open until mid-May).

**Speaking for myself personally, in 2024 I was awarded a Lawns to Legumes grant to convert approximately 100 square feet of my boulevard (composed of poor grass and weeds) with a selection of native plants that have already attracted, and will continue to attract, pollinating insects of all kinds, including bees. What was once an almost dead expanse of grass and weeds is also beautiful, and people who walk by regularly stop to look and even to take pictures. The garden is not only a benefit to the environment but also to the sense of community in my neighborhood. Without the \$400.00 provided by the Lawns to Legumes program, I would not have been able to create this garden.**

Without this funding, we risk losing momentum not only in the fight to protect pollinators essential to our ecosystems but also widespread public engagement in biodiversity efforts across Minnesota. Minnesota is home to **500+ native bee species** that depend on these habitats. Furthermore, Lawns to Legumes supports over 50 businesses that help participants plant pollinator habitat.

**Currently \$4M from the state General Fund is funding the program for 2 years. This funding supports grants through Spring 2026. S.F. No. 1211 and H.F. 451 seek to repeal this funding as of July, 2025.**

Without continued funding from the state general fund, and potentially the Pollinator Fund, Lawns to Legumes will not be able to meet demand or expand impact. The main critique of the program: applicants applying multiple times and not being awarded. Engagement will dwindle if funding is reduced.

**Minnesota is a great place to live thanks to our collective belief in environmental stewardship. We have incredible momentum, and we need your voices and support to keep it going.**

Thank you,

Mary Cisar

## Lawns to Legumes Testimony

Thank you for taking the time to listen to your constituents regarding the importance of pollinator habitat and the Lawns to Legumes program. Thanks to the efforts of engaged citizens, there are now bills—H.F. 1843 and S.F. 2395—that proposes funding to ensure the continuation of Lawns to Legumes at its current level. We need this bill to pass so that this critical program can keep benefiting pollinators and communities across Minnesota.

I received a grant of \$350 in 2020 and put in a native plant pollinator garden in my front boulevard and a smaller one in my back alley. I was assigned a coach through Lawns to Legumes who was extremely helpful in making suggestions and recommendations about which plants to put in. It's been wonderful to see the additional flowers, bees and butterflies in yard because of these two pollinator gardens. Because I was so grateful for the grant from the Lawns to Legumes program, I've signed up every year to be a coach to other grant recipients. I feel hopeful that Minnesota can be a safe place for pollinators every time I see the enthusiasm of first time home owners wanting to put in a native plant garden. Minnesotans care about the environment and they want to grow plants that benefit the butterflies, moths and bees.

I urge you to support H.F. 1843 and S.F. 2395 and ensure that the Lawns to Legumes program receives the funding it needs to continue helping residents create pollinator-friendly landscapes. This program has been instrumental in increasing pollinator habitat, improving water quality, and engaging thousands of Minnesotans in conservation efforts.



My back alley native pollinator garden. Sherryl Livingston, St. Paul, Minnesota



3747 Cedar Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
(612) 263-8520  
bluethumb.org

March 18th, 2025

Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee Members,

We urge you to take action for Minnesota's vital and popular state-wide pollinator program. Please oppose H.F. 451 and **support continued funding for Lawns to Legumes (H.F. 1843)**.

Despite strong, ongoing interest, funding for [Lawns to Legumes](#), Minnesota's groundbreaking pollinator habitat grant program, is at risk. The **current Governor's budget does not provide future funding for Lawns to Legumes, and bill H.F. 451 seeks to repeal existing funding**, threatening a program that has empowered thousands of Minnesotans to create vital habitat for at-risk pollinators like the rusty patched bumble bee and monarch butterfly.

Since 2019, Lawns to Legumes has supported more than **12,000 participants** — primarily individuals taking action in their own yards — to **create 14 million square feet of native habitat across all 87 counties** via reimbursement-based grants (up to \$400). Demand far exceeds funding. There are two grant rounds every year, and each round receives thousands more applicants than available grants. In the first week of the current round alone, over 4,700 Minnesotans applied—for 3,000 grants.

Without funding, we risk losing momentum not only in the fight to protect pollinators essential to our ecosystems but also widespread public engagement in biodiversity efforts across Minnesota. Minnesota is home to **500+ native bee species** that depend on these habitats. Pollinators form the foundation of food webs, feeding wildlife like birds and fish.

Pollinators also hold agricultural and economic value for our state. One out of every three bites we eat depends on pollinators to reproduce. In Minnesota, the value of pollination services is estimated at \$11.8 million per year in apple crops, alone. Furthermore, **Lawns**

**to Legumes participants have matched their funded projects with over \$1.7 million** since the start of the program, supporting many businesses throughout the state.

**Currently**, \$4 million from the state General Fund is funding the program for 2 years. This funding supports grants through Spring 2026. **[H.F. 1843 would continue funding through at least 2027.](#)**

Public interest in Lawns to Legumes is high. You may well know somebody — a friend or a neighbor — who created habitat in their yard through this program. Without continued funding from the state general fund, Lawns to Legumes will not be able to meet demand or expand impact.

**Minnesota is a great place to live thanks to our collective belief in environmental stewardship. We have incredible momentum, and we need your support to keep it going.**

**Thank you,**

Metro Blooms, Laura Scholl (Minneapolis)

Pollinator Friendly Alliance, Laurie Schneider (Stillwater)

University of Minnesota Department of Entomology, Dr. Marla Spivak

Prairie Restorations (Statewide)

Shoreview Natives LLC (Two Harbors)

Northern Holler LLC, Preston Drum (Burnsville)

Windflower Natives, Alex Blondeau (Fergus Falls)

Nick's Natives LLC, Nick Levine (Duluth)

Dogwood Designs, Mike Mesch (Eagan)

Ed's Buckthorn Control, Ed Mallam (Minnetonka)

Glacial Ridge Growers, Inc., Gene Stark (Glenwood)

Thomsens Garden Center, Ryan Roder (Saint Joesph)

Twin City Seed Company, James Wolfin (Edina)

Whitewater Gardens Farm, Sandy Dietz (Altura)

BE Landscape Designs

Trio Landscaping, Diana Grundeen (Minneapolis)

My Home Park, Wyatt Shell, PhD in Integrative and Organismal Biology, David Levine, Abby Campbell

Blazing Star Gardens LLC, Dustin Demmer (Owatonna)

Organic Lawns by LUNSETH (Bloomington)

MNL, Minnesota Native Landscapes (multiple locations across MN)

MN SEED Project, Courtney Tchida (Saint Paul)

Morning Dew Gardening, Tal Simchoni (Saint Paul)

OOIEE Landscape Office, Matt Olson (St Paul)

Frogtown Green, (St Paul)

St Croix Oak Savanna Chapter Wild Ones Native Landscaping (Stillwater)

Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association, Kate Winsor (St Paul)

Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society (Bemidji)

Earthwise Organic Designs, Bob Dahm (Robbinsdale)

Sargent's Nursery, Inc., David Lewis (Red Wing)

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Grow Native, Jen Selvey (Mankato)

NRP, Native Resource Preservation LLC (Statewide)

Morning Sky Greenery, Sally Finzel (Morris)

Sunshine Gardens Nursery & Landscaping INC, Bonnie Hiniker (Pine River, MN)

Hammarlund Nursery, Ken Hammarlund (Esko, MN)

Light Dark Landscape LLC, Julie Noren and Shannon McWalters (Minneapolis, MN)

Rock Leaf Water Environmental (Blaine, MN)

Wild Farm Alliance (Statewide)

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter (Bloomington)

Ecoscapes Sustainable Landscaping & Native Nursery (Elko, MN)

Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT) (St. Louis County, MN)

Great River Greening, Kateri Routh (St. Paul)

Xylem Designs, Minneapolis

University of Minnesota Extension (UMN Bee Lab), Dr. Elaine Evans

City of Minneapolis, Public Works, Surface Water and Sewers, Angie Craft and Liz Stout

Landscape Alternatives, Inc. (Shafer, MN)

Wilderness in the City (Dakota County)

Sierra Club North Star Chapter (statewide)

Healthy Lake Winona (Winona, MN)

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (Minneapolis, MN)

Sierra Club North Star Chapter (statewide)

There's an old saying that goes "If you build it, they will come." I got to thinking about that as I was sitting outside watching a butterfly in my backyard last summer. That saying can be changed into other phrases too like "If you plant it, they will come". In fact, if it wasn't for the help of my Lawns to Legumes Grant, I wouldn't have witnessed the Monarch butterfly in my backyard. You see, with the help of that grant I helped our Rusty Patched Bumblebee and a Monarch butterfly thrive.

I will never forget the day I found out that I was a Lawns to Legumes recipient. You would have thought I had won the lottery. The date was December 15, 2023 to be exact as I took a picture of it. I was looking online for native pollinator plants before I went shopping. When I went to the 2024 Hennepin County Master Gardener Spring Plant sale in Hopkins, I threw caution to the wind. I filled my foldable shopping cart up the to top faster than a contestant on supermarket sweep! I got home and organized my little seedlings by height and sun/shade tolerance, and began planting them. Because I am over the top, I did three areas of native pollinator plantings. One in my front yard and two in my back yard. As a Lawns to Legumes recipient, I volunteered to be a host for a garden tour where I shared what knowledge I had gained along the way with fellow gardeners. It was fun to engage with other gardeners and share my love of native pollinators. The icing on the cake was when my Lawns to Legumes sign arrived in the mail. I display that with pride in my front yard. I am so excited to see what comes up this Spring. I am hopeful to keep my pollinators protected and thriving to help our Monarch Butterflies and Rusty Patch Bumblebee.

You may be wondering what all this fuss is about? Well, the rusty patched bumblebee is a key pollinator of wildflowers, berries, tomatoes, peppers, cranberries and fruit trees. The monarch butterfly is also a pollinator of flowers and plants, and its decline is a key indicator of environmental health. I urge you to take a stand on this critical issue and help support these at-risk species. Too often we operate in a reactive way. We need to start being more proactive so that our world and all the lovely creatures within it can remain here forever.

I ask you to support House bill H.F. 1843, which proposes \$1.5 in continued funding for the program.

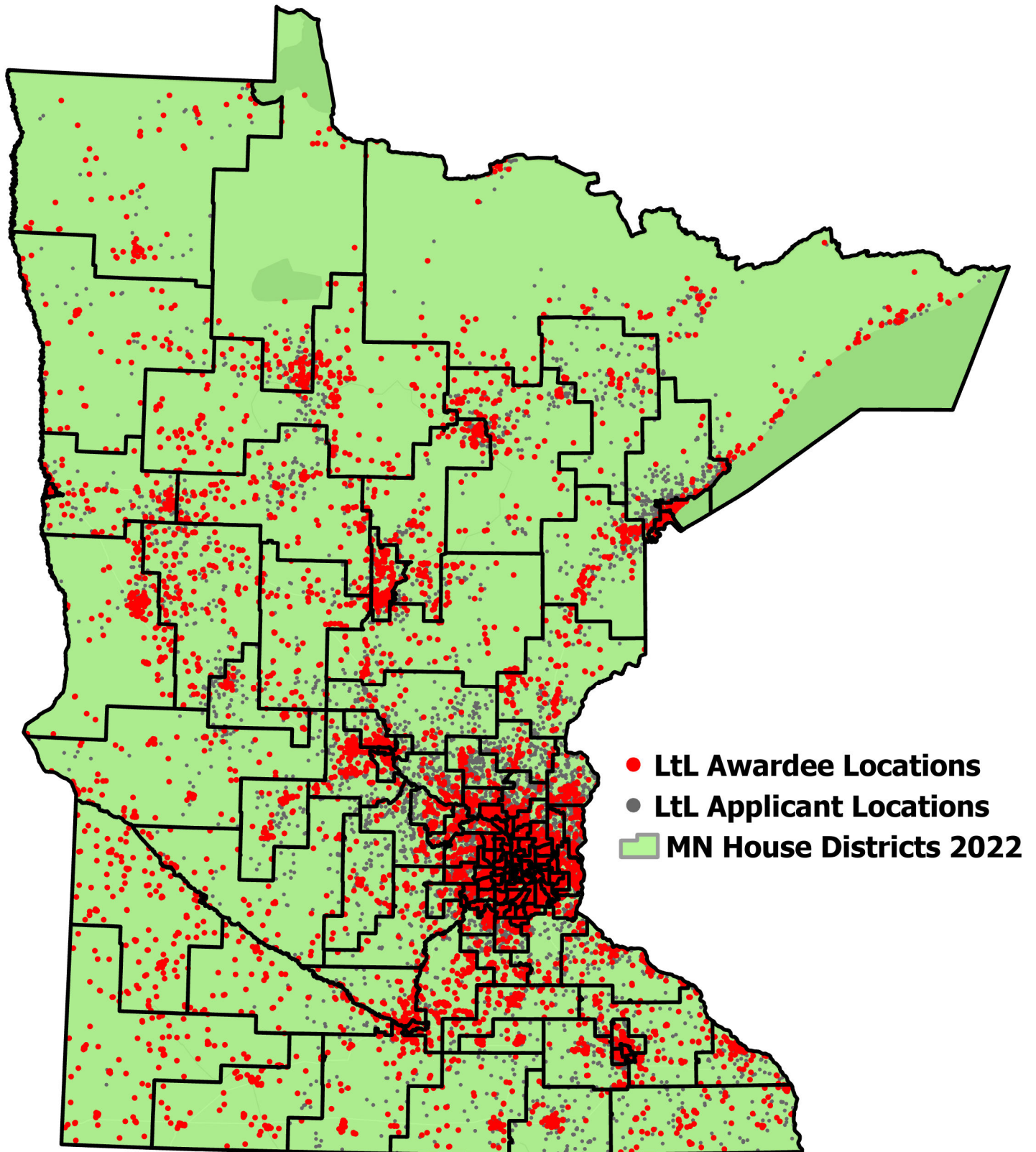
Since 2019, Lawns to Legumes has helped over 12,000 Minnesotans create 14 million square feet of pollinator habitat, supporting at-risk species like the Rusty Patched Bumble bee and Monarch butterfly. Demand remains high, with thousands applying each grant cycle-far exceeding available funding. The program also supports over 50 businesses engaged in habitat restoration.

Minnesota has a strong tradition of environmental stewardship. Let's keep this momentum going. Please support ongoing funding for Lawns to Legumes.

Thank you,

Katy Lucy  
3221 Texas Ave S  
St Louis Park, Mn 55426  
(320) 470-8918

# Lawns to Legumes Applicants & Awardees 2020 - 2025 with MN House Districts



HOUSE DISTRICT	# APPLICANTS	# AWARDEES
01A	112	70
01B	112	80
02A	232	135
02B	286	204
03A	346	144
03B	344	57
04A	240	203
04B	228	117
05A	262	146
05B	144	92
06A	288	153
06B	294	225
07A	247	116
07B	196	60
08A	312	241
08B	493	179
09A	271	221
09B	256	128
10A	203	107
10B	227	37
11A	240	106
11B	215	113
12A	191	112
12B	164	67
13A	261	133
13B	181	85
14A	164	134
14B	180	144
15A	179	182
15B	153	99
16A	142	70

16B	127	64
17A	144	50
17B	191	61
18A	299	225
18B	232	224
19A	198	97
19B	128	62
20A	328	105
20B	240	91
21A	120	111
21B	111	100
22A	158	97
22B	220	157
23A	140	58
23B	260	82
24A	172	45
24B	263	53
25A	169	42
25B	256	67
26A	275	136
26B	242	82
27A	251	41
27B	232	36
28A	254	45
28B	352	58
29A	242	30
29B	229	92
30A	192	39
30B	227	34
31A	242	64
31B	250	49

32A	197	51
32B	125	54
33A	252	73
33B	458	121
34A	186	47
34B	173	87
35A	225	87
35B	171	47
36A	324	64
36B	332	73
37A	258	60
37B	256	78
38A	115	62
38B	166	115
39A	357	195
39B	437	242
40A	365	135
40B	457	143
41A	423	95
41B	153	39
42A	204	55
42B	195	57
43A	375	187
43B	663	257
44A	212	105
44B	167	86
45A	291	56
45B	365	92
46A	311	106
46B	263	103
47A	199	68

47B	138	40
48A	231	43
48B	207	49
49A	337	74
49B	159	28
50A	242	65
50B	382	140
51A	606	315
51B	310	160
52A	169	74
52B	308	86
53A	237	79
53B	253	89
54A	112	54
54B	162	37
55A	166	53
55B	138	56
56A	168	64
56B	215	61
57A	164	33
57B	170	37
58A	309	102
58B	161	28
59A	624	330
59B	219	105
60A	951	404
60B	91	43
61A	213	47
61B	573	117
62A	292	145
62B	972	487

63A	1438	494
63B	1314	344
64A	526	193
64B	614	158
65A	429	201
65B	435	197
66A	622	244
66B	457	189
67A	239	142
67B	263	138

To: Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee

Re: Xerces Society Letter of Support for Minnesota's Lawns to Legumes Program (HF1843)

March 19, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. Fischer and Rep. Heintzemen, Co-Vice Chairs Rep. Burkell and Rep. Pursell, and all members of the committee:

**The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation strongly supports HB1843, which would provide funding to Minnesota's innovative and successful program Lawns to Legumes through 2029.** The Xerces Society is a national nonprofit that uses science-driven methods to protect invertebrate wildlife and their habitats. We specialize in pollinator habitat creation and maintenance across contexts, including on working lands (farms, ranches), on roadsides, and on residential properties.

Xerces has worked in Minnesota to safeguard pollinator populations for many years. Much of our work has focused on working with farmers to [create habitat](#). And, relevant to this bill, **our MN-based senior conservation biologist was instrumental in helping to conceive of and execute the Lawns to Legumes program**, initially working to bring a wide variety of stakeholders to come together on the importance of this issue, and eventually partnering with BWSR to develop educational materials, ranking criteria, and other important elements of the program.

Insect pollinators are crucial for crop production, livestock forage, and for ecosystem health. Unfortunately, **insect biomass and biodiversity are in decline across the U.S., and pollinators are an especially vulnerable group.** Scientific research shows that bees and butterflies are declining in the midwest, with some species experiencing rapid and dramatic population losses. For example, Minnesota's state bee, the rusty-patched bumble bee, experienced a range reduction of ~90% and the eastern monarch butterfly population has declined by more than 80% since the 1990s. **Habitat loss is one of the major drivers of insect pollinator declines.**

**It is important to highlight that scientific research shows that yard-level changes in flowering plant diversity and abundance can have a significant positive impact on pollinator abundance and diversity** (e.g., Hülsmann et al. 2015, Gerner & Sargent 2022). Further, plant composition at the yard scale can determine overall insect abundance, with

chickadees (small song birds) having greater nesting success in yards with more native plants (Narango et al. 2017). Research confirms that individual actions at the yard- and lawn-scale can make a big difference.

**Lawns to Legumes is truly an innovative program that brings together science, education, and community to achieve a tangible conservation goal:** increasing the amount of food and habitat available to pollinators in Minnesota neighborhoods. As policy director, I frequently speak about this program to lawmakers and officials in other states as a model program with high impact that they could adopt. Whenever someone hears about Lawns to Legumes for the first time, the consistent reaction is that this kind of opt-in program is a fantastic idea. At Xerces, we interact daily with folks who want to help reverse pollinator declines. Lawns to Legumes empowers Minnesota residents to be part of the solution.

**For all the reasons above, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation strongly supports HB1843 and we oppose efforts to defund the program and other pollinator research.** This program has major reach, with many participants, and major impact, with many lawns offering food and shelter for pollinators. We hope you will report the bill favorably.

We are glad to answer any questions you may have or provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary L. Malfi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary L. Malfi, Ph.D.

Director of Conservation Policy

*On behalf of the* Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

[rosemary.malfi@xerces.org](mailto:rosemary.malfi@xerces.org)

C: 484-802-5553

## **Support for H.F. 1843, funding the Lawns to Legumes program**

Karen Randall  
1130 Marshall Ave.  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
[karensrandall@gmail.com](mailto:karensrandall@gmail.com)  
651-592-0087

I urge you to support H.F. 1843, which funds the Lawns to Legumes program. This initiative has proven effective in increasing pollinator habitat across Minnesota — a critical step in reversing the decline of insects and protecting our food web.

A recent study published in *Science* analyzed butterfly population data from 35 monitoring programs. It found that butterfly numbers have dropped by 22% over the past 20 years. Butterflies are vital pollinators, and their caterpillars are an essential food source for other species. This decline disrupts entire ecosystems. The primary causes are habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change.

Lawns to Legumes helps Minnesota residents create native habitats essential to butterfly and pollinator survival. As an experienced gardener and volunteer coach with the program for the past four years, I've witnessed its positive impact firsthand.

What makes Lawns to Legumes so powerful is how it inspires individuals to take action in their own yards. It equips people with practical knowledge and offers modest financial support to turn that knowledge into reality.

As a coach, I guide grant recipients — many of whom are new to gardening or unfamiliar with native plants — through the planning and planting process. They're eager to move beyond traditional grass-only lawns, which provide little nourishment for pollinators. This program gives them the confidence and resources to make that change.

I've worked with a variety of participants, including:

- A suburban homeowner transforming a sloped lawn into a woodland meadow.
- A townhouse renter who persuaded her homeowner's association to allow a rain garden to manage stormwater runoff.
- A new homeowner in northern Minnesota replacing rock mulch with a pollinator-friendly garden.

Lawns to Legumes empowers everyday people to create vibrant, sustainable landscapes. Collectively, the 14 million square feet of native habitat established by 12,000 participants statewide is a remarkable return on investment — one that deserves continued funding.

Please vote to support H.F. 1843 and ensure the Lawns to Legumes program continues to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**The Honorable Josh Heintzeman**

Co-Chair

ENR Finance and Policy Cmte.

**The Honorable Peter Fischer**

Co-Chair

ENR Finance and Policy Cmte.

**The Honorable John Burkel**

Co-Vice Chair

ENR Finance and Policy Cmte.

**The Honorable Kristi Pursell**

Co-Vice Chair

ENR Finance and Policy Cmte.

19 March, 2025

**Subject:** American Bird Conservancy Supports HF 1843: Lawns to Legumes

Dear Leadership and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee,

American Bird Conservancy (ABC), which works to conserve birds and their habitats across the Americas, writes on behalf of our 2,000 members in Minnesota **in support of HF1843.**

The bill extends funding for a very successful and important program that allows residents to transform unproductive lawns and land plots into habitat for native pollinators and other wildlife. Minnesota has incredibly high wildlife diversity as well as a high amount of tourism driven by wildlife viewing, making healthy pollinator habitat both ecologically and economically important.

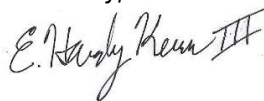
ABC works with landowners across the Great Lakes region to turn working and non-working lands into wildlife habitat, but this process typically has a high barrier of entry. The Lawns to Legumes program is not only an effective way to establish habitat, it also a great way to engage constituents in conservation. Small areas of high-quality habitat have great importance to wildlife.

Pollinator gardens provide nectar for hummingbirds, as well as habitat for nesting songbirds and the prey they need to feed their offspring. They also promote overall healthy insect populations, which can have beneficial effects for pest control, agricultural pollinator, and competition of invasive species.

This is a commonsense program that has high benefit and low investment from the state. We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in and hope to see this program funding continue.

Please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



E. Hardy Kern III

Director of Government Relations

[ehardykern@abcbirds.org](mailto:ehardykern@abcbirds.org)

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**Contact**

**abcbirds.org**  
**info@abcbirds.org**  
tel. **540.253.5780**  
fax **540.253.5782**

**Address**

regular, registered, or certified mail:  
**P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198**  
physical address for deliveries:  
**8255 E. Main Street, Suites D & E,  
Marshall, VA 20115**

Support of H.F.1843

3-18-25

My experience with Lawns To Legumes as a landscaping contractor is extensive and positive. This program educated many Minnesotans on the importance of habitat and ecological restoration using native plants. These kinds of projects benefit pollinators, improve water quality, sequester carbon from carbon dioxide, a major contributor to climate change and have a large positive impact on the state economy.

In 2023 our small company sold and installed about \$200,000 of native plantings. People would contact us after learning about lawns to legumes grants. They did not receive any funding but decided to invest their own fund because they felt it was the right thing to do.

There was such an increase in the demand for native plants and services that many native plant suppliers in MN would sell out of their stock by mid-season. These nurseries would increase production the following year and sell out again! There are small nurseries starting up across the state, many in out state areas. This strong growth carries throughout the green industry with growers, seed suppliers, materials, contractors, and maintenance companies all experiencing stable growth. The funding for Lawns to legumes has more than paid for itself in tax revenue for the state and has increased sightings of our state bee, the Rusty Patch Bumblebee, which is on the endangered species list.

In summary, Lawns to Legumes benefits endangered species, improves water quality, corrects climate change, is an income generator for the state government, and creates business and economic benefit for many businesses, large and small, in this state. In my opinion, we need to provide even more funding to increase the scope of this program to include agricultural, governmental and commercial properties. This will have the same benefits as the residential program with the added value of enhancing crop production with healthier pollinators and drastically lowering maintenance expenses for large properties.

Thank you,

Bob Dahm

March 19, 2025

**Re: Support of House File 1843 / Senate File 2395 – Lawns to Legumes**

Dear Members of the Committee:

Audubon fully supports this continued funding appropriation for the Lawns to Legumes program. This program helps increase residential habitat for bees, birds, and butterflies at a time when we are seeing dramatic declines in their populations. With 96 percent of all land-based bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, we need plants that support the food chain.

The National Audubon Society's [Survival by Degrees report](#) paints a dire picture for the future of birds: More than 150 species in Minnesota are threatened by impacts of changes to Minnesota's weather patterns. A recent study from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology also found a staggering loss of birds. **North American bird populations have declined by 29%, and grassland bird populations have declined by 53% since 1970.** These population declines are tied to reductions in habitat quality associated with the conversion of native habitats to agriculture or human-dominated landscapes. In response to these declines, we must enhance habitat quality and food availability by encouraging landscaping with native plants.

In addition to shifting habitats, Minnesota continues to experience erratic weather events with significant flooding and unusual periods of drought. As average weather years become rare, increasing the number of deep-rooted native plants prepares our local ecosystems to better tolerate periods of record rainfalls and long stretches of heat and drought.

To survive, birds in Minnesota need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. Most landscaping plants are exotic species that provide little food for wildlife. Exotic plants also generally require more water and chemicals to thrive, increasing maintenance time, costs, and water contamination. By adding more native plants to backyards through programs like Lawns to Legumes, we can help birds in the face of climate change, urban development, and other threats.

Sincerely,



Rob Schultz, Vice President  
[Audubon Upper Mississippi River](#)

Alongside the following independent Audubon chapters across Minnesota:

Austin Audubon Society  
Central Minnesota Audubon Society  
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter  
Prairie Lakes Audubon Chapter  
Zumbro Valley Audubon Society

Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon  
Land of Lakes Bird Alliance  
Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society  
Wild River Audubon Society



Minnesota  
Environmental  
Partnership

318 Landmark Center  
75 West Fifth Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
[www.MEPartnership.org](http://www.MEPartnership.org)  
(651) 290-0154

March 19, 2025

Minnesota House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
Co-Chair Peter Fischer and Co-Chair Josh Heintzeman

Dear Co-Chair Fischer, Co-Chair Heintzeman, and members,

On behalf of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership and the organizations listed below, I would like to express support for continued and expanded funding for the popular Lawns to Legumes program under the Board of Water and Soil Resources included in HF 1843. While Lawns to Legumes has only a small impact on the state's budget, it has an outsized and positive impact on conservation and habitat restoration efforts in Minnesota.

Public opinion polling has shown that Minnesotans care deeply about our pollinating species: the bees, butterflies, and other insects that play a vital role in our Great Outdoors and in our food system. Unfortunately, these species are threatened like never before, contending with the challenges of habitat loss, pesticide drift, and warming temperatures. Iconic species like the Monarch butterfly and the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee - both official state symbols in Minnesota - are vanishing at an alarming rate. Bird species, many of which rely on native plants or insect populations, are likewise in decline.

Since 2019, the Lawns to Legumes has given Minnesota homeowners the opportunity to do something about it. It supports residents who voluntarily choose to plant pollinator-supporting trees, shrubs, and flowering plants in their yards with cost-sharing grants. The program also supports education on the benefits of these practices and builds up statewide expertise in pollinator-friendly practices.

This program has proven highly popular, providing grants to over 12,000 Minnesotans out of over 41,000 applications. More than 50 businesses have benefited from this program, helping Minnesotans plant millions of square feet of high-quality, dense pollinator habitat.

Lawns to Legumes was never intended to be a panacea for the problems that pollinators face. But we contend that its impact is snowballing, supporting a strengthened conservation ethic throughout our state and encouraging voluntary efforts to make Minnesota a pollinator-friendly state. Our sense of the Great Outdoors and volunteerism are embedded in our identity as Minnesotans, and this program builds on that idea.

MEP appreciates the Legislature's consideration of expanded funding for this program. At the same time, we are concerned with legislation, HF 451, that would repeal authorization and funding for this program. We are glad to see this bill has not been scheduled for a committee hearing and ask that this repeal bill not be given consideration.

In a time of significant challenge for pollinators, Minnesota should continue encouraging this good work to safeguard them for our next generation. We urge you to ensure the Lawns to Legumes program receives continued funding and to oppose any efforts to repeal it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Morse", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Steve Morse  
Executive Director

*Submitted on behalf of the organizations listed below:*

Alliance for Sustainability

Audubon Upper Mississippi River

Clean River Partners

Climate Land Leaders

Environmental Working Group

Friends of the Mississippi River

Hastings Environmental Protectors

Izaak Walton League Minnesota Division

League of Women Voters Minnesota

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Renewing the Countryside

Save Lake Superior Association

Save Our Sky Blue Waters

Sierra Club North Star Chapter

St. Croix Oak Savanna chapter of Wild Ones Natural Landscaping

Vote Climate

Wild Farm Alliance\*

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation\*

*\*denotes non-MEP member*

Dear Matt Klein,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to your constituents regarding the importance of pollinator habitat and the Lawns to Legumes program. Thanks to the efforts of engaged citizens, there are now bills—[H.F. 1843](#) and [S.F. 2395](#)—that proposes funding to ensure the continuation of Lawns to Legumes at its current level. We need this bill to pass so that this critical program can keep benefiting pollinators and communities across Minnesota.

This program is very important to me as I am very passionate about our declining wildlife population in Minnesota and the rest of the United States, including our endangered and threatened insects. I have been a recipient of this grant and I know how important the funding for this program is to save our threatened native pollinators. Many people do not have the money to buy these crucial native plants on their own and need these funds to start gardens to protect wildlife. It's unlikely that privately we can raise the amount of funding needed to continue with this important grant funding.

I urge you to support H.F. 1843 and S.F. 2395 and ensure that the Lawns to Legumes program receives the funding it needs to continue helping residents create pollinator-friendly landscapes. This program has been instrumental in increasing pollinator habitat, improving water quality, and engaging thousands of Minnesotans in conservation efforts.

Additionally, I want to reiterate my opposition to repeal efforts for this program ([S.F. No. 1211](#) and [H.F. 451](#)). We are still waiting to see if hearings will be scheduled for the House and Senate repeal bills, but it is crucial that legislators understand that their constituents do not support these attempts to dismantle Lawns to Legumes. I urge you to oppose any repeal efforts and instead advocate for continued investment in this successful initiative.

Please let me know where you stand on these issues. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Minnesota's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Emily Benson

Esteemed Committee members, Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee:

I write to give my support for **HF 1843** regarding continued funding for the Lawns to Legumes program.

The increasing use of systemic pesticides in our landscape and increasing loss of native habitats has put great pressure on our native insect populations. This program encourages increased and useful habitat, in individuals' property (which is the majority of land in urban area). It has been very popular and needs to continue.

I also write in support of **HR 2501**, 'get the lead out'. Lead is a poison. Old ammunition, discarded fishing tackle, and lead bullets eaten by scavenging animals has a proven deadly effect on wildlife (birds and mammals). Exposure by target shooters may effect humans, too. Please pass this legislation.

-Lee Ann Landstrom, St. Louis Park, MN

Support of H.F.1843

3-18-25

My experience with Lawns To Legumes as a landscaping contractor is extensive and positive. This program educated many Minnesotans on the importance of habitat and ecological restoration using native plants. These kinds of projects benefit pollinators, improve water quality, sequester carbon from carbon dioxide, a major contributor to climate change and have a large positive impact on the state economy.

In 2023 our small company sold and installed about \$200,000 of native plantings. People would contact us after learning about lawns to legumes grants. They did not receive any funding but decided to invest their own fund because they felt it was the right thing to do.

There was such an increase in the demand for native plants and services that many native plant suppliers in MN would sell out of their stock by mid-season. These nurseries would increase production the following year and sell out again! There are small nurseries starting up across the state, many in out state areas. This strong growth carries throughout the green industry with growers, seed suppliers, materials, contractors, and maintenance companies all experiencing stable growth. The funding for Lawns to legumes has more than paid for itself in tax revenue for the state and has increased sightings of our state bee, the Rusty Patch Bumblebee, which is on the endangered species list.

In summary, Lawns to Legumes benefits endangered species, improves water quality, corrects climate change, is an income generator for the state government, and creates business and economic benefit for many businesses, large and small, in this state. In my opinion, we need to provide even more funding to increase the scope of this program to include agricultural, governmental and commercial properties. This will have the same benefits as the residential program with the added value of enhancing crop production with healthier pollinators and drastically lowering maintenance expenses for large properties.

Thank you,

Bob Dahm

952-240-0814

Bob.dahm@yahoo.com

Committee members:

I am asking for your support for funding for Lawns to Legumes program HF 1843.

I am an entomologist and beekeeper who has seen over the past 15 years the slow decline in many of our pollinators and other beneficial insects, due primarily to the loss of enough healthy habitat.

I am not even talking about the iconic monarchs that are so often in the news, because *butterflies are not major pollinating insects. Butterflies only accidentally pollinate if they visit the same species of flowers* and transfer pollen as they move from flower to flower. Butterflies *do not need the pollen to survive*, only the nectar for energy.

So, It is our major pollinators, the native bees found in MN that are increasingly threatened. Of these 508 species, only 24 are the large more easily recognized bumble bees, and the rest are primarily smaller bees that go about their business of pollinating unnoticed.

Our native bees simply do not have enough pollen resources to survive, and for those who want to provide more flowers for bees, the Lawns to Legumes program allows them to plant pollen and nectar rich plants on their property. In addition, legumes fix nitrogen, so add nutrition to the grass.

Please give this bill your consideration and support HF 1843.

Thank you 🐝  
Margot Monson

--

Margot Monson, Entomologist, Beekeeper  
22 Ludlow Ave.  
St.Paul, MN 55108  
651-247-5253



## Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

**BWSR's Mission:** Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in **partnership** with local organizations and private landowners

# Lawns to Legumes

Building a Movement to Support Pollinators

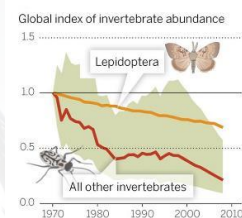
2025



## Conservation Challenges

Recent research shows significant declines in insects across the world – raising alarms

More than 40% of insect species are declining



Birds that eat insects

are also at risk  
Bayo & Wyckhuys 2019

## Loss of pollinator populations is due to a combination of factors

- Habitat Loss
- Loss of Overall Biodiversity and Floral Resources
- Pesticides and Pollutants
- Climate Change and Extreme Weather
- Pathogens
- Invasive Species



# Minnesota's State Bee

## Rusty Patched Bumble Bee *Bombus affinis*



**Populations of the Rusty Patched Bumblebee have declined more than 80% in 20 years!**

**Listed as Endangered Species in 2017  
Named MN State Bee in 2019**

Bumble Bees Need:

- Nesting areas/shelter
- Food: Blooming native flowers throughout the growing season
- Protection chemicals, insecticides and fungicides.
- Connected, high quality habitat to increase foraging and reproductive success



# Conservation Challenges



Bird species are also in significant decline with **3 billion less birds** in North America since 1970

Rosenberg et al. 2019



## Minnesotans WANT to help pollinators



## Lawns to Legumes Three Components

### Lawns to Legumes

(Pilot Program Started June 2019)

#### Funding Source:

- Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
- State General Fund

#### Program Focus:

Establish pollinator habitat projects on residential landscapes across Minnesota to support the Rusty patched bumblebee and other pollinators.



Photos: Heather Holm, Laurie Schneider, Rich Harrison

### Public Education and Outreach Campaign

DIY Resources: BWSR, Blue Thumb and Local Partners



### Individual Landowner Support

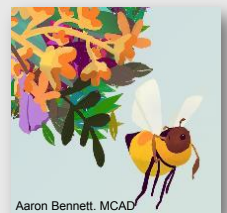
\$400 Grants, Coaches, Workshops (Around 41,000 applications submitted)



### Pollinator Pathways (formerly Demonstration Neighborhoods)

Larger grants to build corridors for at-risk species in partnership with local communities

### Overall Focus on Community Conservation





## Lawns to Legumes Highlights

### Highlights/Outcomes:

- More than **41,000 applications** received for individual support grants
- Around **10,000 plantings installed**
- Nearly **14 million square feet of high diversity residential habitat** planted
- Over **13,000 trees and shrubs** planted
- Over **40%** of awarded applicants are in environmental justice areas
- **270 coaches in 49 counties** across the state
- More than **10,000 participants in program workshops, webinars and presentations**
- **42 Demonstration Neighborhood projects** awarded to build pollinator corridors
- Projects funded in all **87 Minnesota counties**
- Collaboration with over **100 local partner organizations**
- **Over 1:1 project match** provided to funded residents
- Around **half a million website visits**
- Over **50 businesses** supported by the program



Zach Brandinelli, MCAD



## Lawns to Legumes-Building a Movement

### Larger Lawns to Legumes Vision:

To protect pollinator populations and other wildlife by **building a movement** through community conservation and **equitable engagement**.



*Protecting native plants and pollinators for future generations*



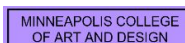
Thanks to all partners and many others for contributions!



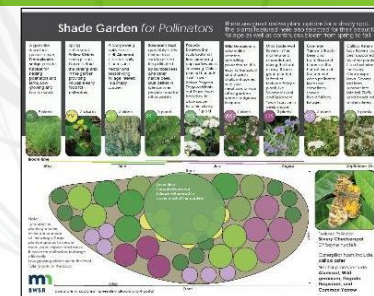
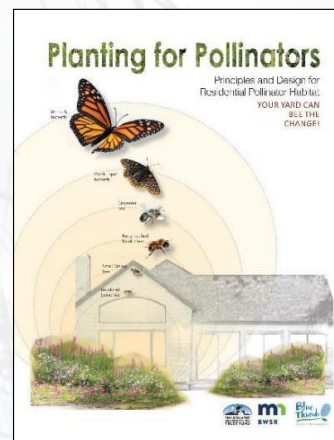
Completed projects receive this sign



MINNESOTA ZOO



## Lawns to Legumes Program Habitat Guide and Planting Template



Section showing a boulevard planting



## Lawns to Legumes Public Outreach Campaign



- Build a movement toward public adoption of residential pollinator habitat through outreach collaboration with partners ([shared resources](#))
- Increase awareness of technical resources that allow residents to undertake projects on their own
- Work with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design on social media content, graphics, and editorial calendar



#lawns2legumes

Follow Us On Facebook (@MNBWSR), Instagram (@MNBWSR), Twitter (@MNBWSR)

## Choose Project type of Pollinator Gardens type of Project is right for you?



- 1) Native Pocket Plantings
  - A. Rain gardens
  - B. Boulevard Plantings
  - C. Lakeshore Buffers



- 3) Pollinator Lawns/Turf Alternatives

- 5) Container Planting

- 2) Beneficial Trees and/or Shrubs



- 4) Pollinator Meadows



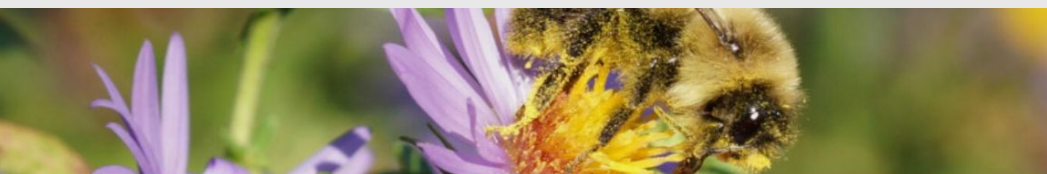
## Lawns to Legumes Individual Support

### The Blue Thumb Partnership is playing a key role for individual support

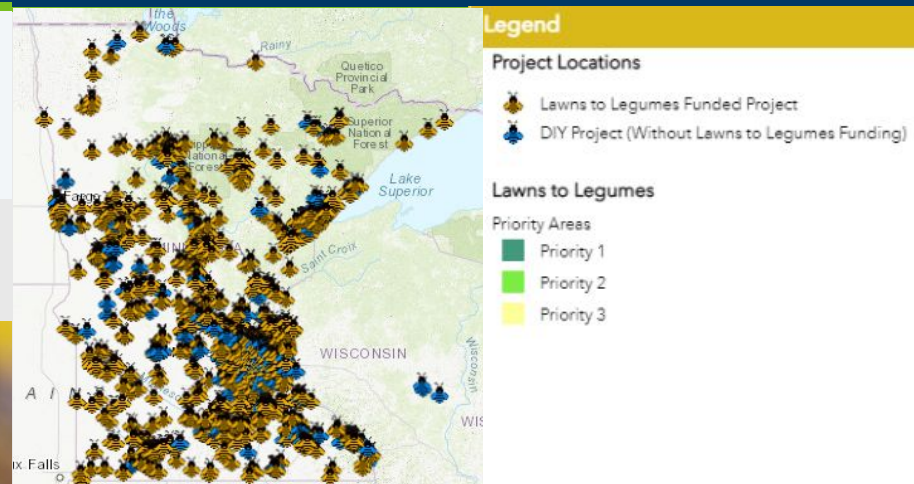
- Working with individual support recipients
- Coordinating Workshops
- Coordinating coaches



Blue Thumb is a public/private partnership promoting native plants, rain gardens, shorelines, stabilization projects, and turf alternatives to reduce runoff, improve water quality, and create pollinator habitat



## Map Your Project!





## Map Your Project! Installed Plantings



## Lawns to Legumes Pollinator Pathways Grant Program

### Pollinator Pathways (formerly Demonstration Neighborhoods)

#### Community-Wide Projects

Larger projects led by organizations working with residents to enhance pollinator habitat in key corridors, raise awareness for residential pollinator protection, and showcase best practices.

**WHAT:** Developed through an RFP, \$20K - \$206 K projects

**WHO:** Cities, Counties, SWCD, Watershed Districts, Tribes, Non-Profits, pre-k through grade 12 public and non-profit schools.

**HOW:** Build community based projects in pollinator corridors in partnership with landowners and public and private



## Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Locations

### 2022 Grants ★

South St. Louis SWCD  
Carlton SWCD

Kanabec SWCD

Chisago SWCD

Anoka SWCD

Washington CD

Carnelian Marine St. Croix WD

Bassett Creek WMC

City of Brooklyn Park

Hamline Midway Coalition

Armatage Neighborhood Assoc.

Como Community Council

Lyndale Neighborhood Assoc.

Kenwood Neighborhood Org.

Trust for Public Land

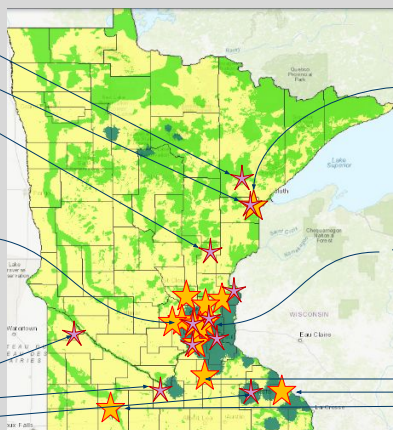
City of Mendota Heights

Scott SWCD

City of Boyd

Crystal Waters Project

Olmsted SWCD



### 2020 Pilot Phase Grants ★

Carlton SWCD

Sherburne SWCD

Scott SWCD

Chisago SWCD

Anoka SWCD

Bassett Creek WMC

City of Brooklyn Park

Corcoran Neighborhood Org

Longfellow Community Council

Rice SWCD

Healthy Lakes Winona

Cottonwood SWCD



## Pollinator Pathways

### Carlton Pollinator Corridor

- Bee Friendly Yard Workshops
- Pollinator Camps
- Pollinator Planting Tours
- Earth Day Pollinator Presentation-Middle School
- Interactive outreach and education
- Work continues with 2022 Grant
- Working with South St. Louis SWCD on their DN Grant





## Pollinator Pathways

### Pleasant Valley Pollinator Corridor Healthy Lake Winona

- 40 planting projects
- 8.46 acres of new pollinator habitat
- Partner with Prairie Moon Nursery, USFWS, Xerces Society, Prairie Enthusiasts
- Awesome website
- Workshops and Field Trips



## Lawns to Legumes Future - Building Momentum



RPBB: Nicole Gerjets, MNDNR



- Funding 3000 projects in spring and 3000 for fall
- Continue supporting DIY projects
- Recruit additional coaches
- Increase awareness about the role that residents can play for pollinator protection
- Recognize the accomplishments of residents and partners.



## Lawns to Legumes How Can You Take Action?

Continue building a movement to expand sustainable landscape practices across the state through partnerships and collaboration between residents!

1. Help spread the word about resources available!

BWSR website : <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2/>

Blue Thumb website: <https://bluethumb.org/>



2. Help Track RPBB locations on:



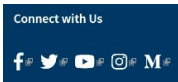
UmbrellaBeeWatch.org &



list

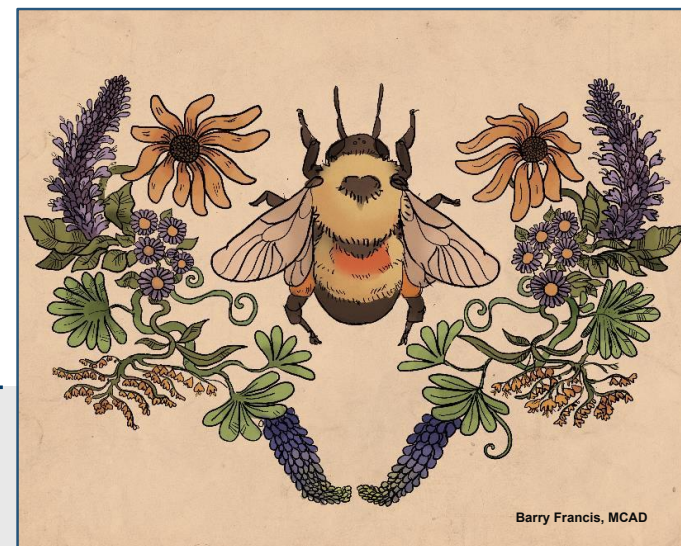
3. Follow & Share:

@MNBWSR on social media. #Lawns2Legumes



Thank You!

**m** BOARD OF WATER  
AND SOIL RESOURCES



Barry Francis, MCAD



March 18, 2025

Dear Chair Fischer, Chair Heintzeman, and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 1843 (Rehm). Metro Cities supports this bill.

Pollinator insects lose food and nesting sites needed for survival when native vegetation is replaced by roadways, manicured lawns, crops, and non-native gardens. Converting traditional grass lawns has been identified as a way to increase pollinator habitat. Metro Cities supports funding for the Lawns to Legumes program, which provides grants, planting guides, and other resources for converting traditional lawns to pollinator friendly landscapes.

A map produced by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources identifies much of the metropolitan area as having a high potential for rusty patched bumble bees. Residents and local officials are eager to make use of Lawns to Legumes grant funding to help protect the Minnesota state bee and other pollinator insects.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike Lund'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Mike' and last name 'Lund' clearly distinguishable.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities

**Verbal Testimony in support of Lawns 2 Legumes (L2L) 3.20.2025 H.F. 1843**

**Testimony below shall be under 2 minutes**

I'm here to make an economic - ecological; an "ECONOLOGICAL" argument – in support of continuing funding for the L2L program.

In addition to creating a habitat restoration network across Minnesota for our pollination partners, the L2L Program makes an important contribution to the successful growth Minnesota small farms (see USDA 2022 vs. 2017 census data: growth of over 7,000 farms), as well as to the growth of locally grown produce sold in grocery stores. This includes chains like Cub, Lunds/Byerlys, and yes, even Trader Joes. (I called them).

Much like our envied network of state-wide rest stops, in my view, the L2L program serves a similar function because it too has created a state-wide network of rest & recharge stops for our econological pollinating partners. This network enables them to fly - some up to 3 miles per day, on and into farmer's fields.

**Reference MN L2L map of finished projects**

Let's take MN fruit farms, for example. I understand their fruit trees require up to 100% pollination to produce. So, they absolutely rely on our econological pollinating partners.

Additionally, as our small farms grow and prosper– so to do interconnected businesses like transportation, seed growers, farm equipment manufacturers, and more!

Supporting funding for L2L, in my view, is a long-term wise investment in MN's econological future.

Thank you,

Chris Harrington

Minneapolis

[chrisjonharrington@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjonharrington@gmail.com)

612-501-3458

Table 71. Summary by Size of Farm: 2022

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	Total	1 to 9 acres	10 to 49 acres	50 to 69 acres	70 to 99 acres	100 to 139 acres
<b>FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS</b>						
Farms .....number	65,531	4,401	15,218	3,598	5,575	4,857
.....percent	100.0	6.7	23.2	5.5	8.5	7.4
Land in farms .....acres	25,442,625	22,106	398,319	211,291	455,348	567,895
Average size of farm .....acres	388	5	26	59	82	117
<b>MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD AND GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS</b>						
Total .....farms	65,531	4,401	15,218	3,598	5,575	4,857
.....\$1,000	29,066,202	1,006,625	1,922,644	338,141	428,952	594,322
Average per farm .....dollars	443,549	228,726	126,340	93,980	76,942	122,364
<b>Farms by economic class:</b>						
Less than \$1,000 .....farms	6,079	962	3,035	413	585	334
.....\$1,000 to \$2,499 .....farms	6,033	976	3,127	451	544	375
.....\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....farms	5,681	596	2,608	562	649	499
.....\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....farms	6,141	533	2,258	613	839	651
.....\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....farms	7,125	455	2,103	674	1,000	767
.....\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....farms	4,813	223	902	461	686	620
.....\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....farms	5,488	119	370	261	915	987
.....\$100,000 to \$249,999 .....farms	6,899	104	240	67	215	484
.....\$250,000 to \$499,999 .....farms	5,477	110	133	19	43	42
.....\$500,000 to \$999,999 .....farms	4,529	63	86	16	26	26
.....\$1,000,000 or more .....farms	7,266	260	356	61	73	72
.....\$1,000,000 to \$2,499,999 .....farms	4,148	158	167	38	38	44
.....\$2,500,000 to \$4,999,999 .....farms	2,458	73	111	11	24	10
.....\$5,000,000 or more .....farms	660	29	78	12	11	18

Table 9. Harvested Cropland by Size of Farm and Acres Harvested: 2017 and 2012 (continued)

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota	Mississippi	Missouri
Farms .....number, 2017	4,687	35,147	50,272	16,748	62,776
.....2012	4,834	37,479	53,891	17,595	64,722
.....acres harvested, 2017	140,922	7,214,667	20,054,132	4,174,210	13,486,275
.....2012	137,039	7,057,978	19,807,839	4,292,113	12,917,688
<b>HARVESTED CROPLAND BY SIZE OF FARM</b>					
<b>2017 size of farm:</b>					
1 to 9 acres .....farms	1,149	2,620	2,155	677	1,768
.....acres harvested (D)	7,292	10,686	6,902	1,961	6,274
10 to 49 acres .....farms	1,608	144,965	7,685	2,962	11,563
.....acres harvested	15,294	2,793	110,999	39,589	177,658
50 to 69 acres .....farms	396	7,715	2,178	1,308	3,564
.....acres harvested	7,715	85,913	70,295	30,472	100,830
70 to 99 acres .....farms	334	3,686	3,663	1,597	6,034
.....acres harvested	9,310	154,142	168,375	46,437	218,414
100 to 139 acres .....farms	405	3,037	3,485	1,835	6,123
.....acres harvested	14,748	200,868	237,404	67,565	300,998
140 to 179 acres .....farms	192	1,878	3,719	1,310	4,962
.....acres harvested	9,473	177,560	371,727	63,000	304,390
180 to 219 acres .....farms	143	1,371	2,690	980	3,782
.....acres harvested	8,726	171,552	352,517	60,899	285,658
220 to 259 acres .....farms	106	1,073	2,553	668	2,992
.....acres harvested	9,138	174,475	415,194	46,082	264,116
260 to 499 acres .....farms	241	3,393	8,864	2,199	9,659
.....acres harvested	28,091	886,036	2,348,311	244,215	1,326,501
500 to 999 acres .....farms	91	2,489	6,909	1,476	6,656
.....acres harvested	23,878	1,454,664	4,029,020	413,163	2,042,273
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....farms	21	1,490	4,142	899	3,435
.....acres harvested (D)	1	1,759,643	5,107,505	804,729	2,969,556
2,000 acres or more .....farms	1	651	2,229	837	2,238
.....acres harvested (D)	1	1,997,557	6,835,883	2,356,098	5,489,607

## Lawns to Legumes Applicants & Awardees 2020 - 2025 with MN Senate Districts

