



Carver SWCD Newsletter

November 2019

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Would you prefer an electronic copy of our Newsletter?

An electronic version of the Newsletter can be downloaded from our website. Anyone interested in receiving an email notification to download the newsletter can email:

fbrockoff@co.carver.mn.us

Subscribers email addresses are never shared.

2019 Outstanding Conservationist Craig Eldred, City of Waconia

The Carver SWCD has selected Craig Eldred, Public Services Division Director at the City of Waconia as the 2019 Outstanding Conservationist. Under Craig's direction, the Waconia Public Services Division has been a leader in the metro area for municipal stormwater management.

Recently the City partnered with the Carver County Water Management Organization (WMO), the Carver SWCD, and Bayview Elementary school to create a stormwater reuse system (pictured below) to irrigate the ball fields at the school. After a rainfall, stormwater is collected and treated, and later used to irrigate the fields lessening the need to rely on groundwater. This project is estimated to save 22,000 gallons of water, and \$200 per day in the summer.

Craig also had a vision for a second stormwater reuse project, which created a reuse utility networks that allows private landowners and businesses to also tap into the reuse system. Stormwater is again collected, stored, and reapplied to green spaces, reducing nutrient loading to downstream waterbodies, and lessens the demand on groundwater supplies.

The Public Services Division has also

led a stormwater project around Fountain Park Pond located in downtown Waconia directly across from City Hall. This area services approximately 60-acres and drains directly into Lake Waconia. Contaminated sediment was removed from the pond, and the pond was expanded to provide additional flood storage. Best management practices installed around the pond, and in the park included pervious pavers in the adjacent parking lot, bioretention basins, an iron enhanced sand filter was added to the pond shelf, native vegetation was planted around the pond, and raingardens were installed.

Congratulations to Craig Eldred and the City of Waconia!



Underground tanks at Bayview Elementary School collect stormwater for irrigation reuse.



Pollination happens when wind, water, or wildlife carry pollen from the anther (male part) to the stigma (female part) of flowers. Many flowering plant species rely on animals to some degree to help move pollen between plants.

Pollinator Program

Pollinators have been a popular “buzz” word lately. Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us 1 out of every 3 bites of food. They sustain our ecosystems, and help plants reproduce. In recent years, the pollinators populations have been declining because of several factors (habitat destruction, pesticides, disease, etc.). Fortunately, there is something you can do to help them! Something as simple as not applying herbicide to your lawn, or if you’d like to make a bigger impact, you could convert your lawn into a pollinator habitat.

The SWCD has created a program to offer funding for

residents who would like to create a pollinator habitat. Funding can cover up to 75% of the project costs, depending on the type of your project. Private landowners could be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 in assistance for restoring a minimum of 500 square feet. Public Entities could be eligible receive up to \$5,000, for restoring a minimum of 0.5 acres.

The Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) is also offering funding and workshops for creat-

ing pollinator habitats in 2020. BWSR received state funding to develop a ‘Lawns to Legumes’ program focused on planting residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator friendly forms and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators. You can visit BWSR’s website to check for program updates: www.bwsr.state.mn.us, under “Lawns to Legumes.”

If you are interested in the pollinator program, contact the SWCD office.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

The days of small rains, giving crops just enough moisture to grow and keep the soil from cracking seem to be gone. The large soaking rains, keeping the ground fully saturated with no time to dry, seems to be the new normal. These conditions make it challenging for anyone working outdoors, but especially farmers who depend on favorable conditions for their livelihood.

Many lowlands that used to produce crops often remain untouched, because its too wet to get into. There are programs available to assist landowners with these areas, while providing income for these areas.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), along with CRP, are often suitable for these areas. CREP is a voluntary easement program, aimed at restoring

farmed lowlands to produce wildlife habitat, flood reduction, and help water quality. CREP is a permanent easement program, with competitive land rates, and it allows landowners to maintain private ownership.

CREP could be a great tool to help with these problem areas, while retaining some income on these constantly wet areas. Contact the SWCD to learn more about CREP.



Before & After Aerial Photos of a CREP Wetland Restoration



ORDER FORM

2020 Tree, Shrub & Native Grasses



- Trees and shrubs are bare root seedlings.
- All species are sold in bundles of **25**.
- **ORDER EARLY!**
- Pre-paid orders are accepted on a first come, first serve basis, while supplies last.
- You will be notified by mail or email in **early April** when the trees and seed mixes will be available for pick up.
- All trees/seed mixes must be picked up on the days listed in your notification!
- Sales tax is included in the price listed.
- Tree packets contain **5 of each** species.
- Complete native seed mixes are posted on the website below.

Return order form to:

Carver Soil & Water Conservation District
 11360 Highway 212, Suite 6
 Cologne, MN 55322
 P: (952)466-5230
www.co.carver.mn.us/trees

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City & Zip: _____
 Phone No: _____
 Email Address: _____

Type	Species	Approx. Delivery Size	Price Per Bundle	How many bundles	TOTAL COST
Conifers	Arborvitae, Techny	6-12"	\$45.00		
	Fir, Balsam	8-14"	\$40.00		
	Pine, White	6-12"	\$40.00		
	Spruce, Black Hills	8-15"	\$40.00		
	Tamarack	12-18"	\$45.00		
Tall Hardwoods	Aspen, Quaking	12-18"	\$45.00		
	Birch, River	12-18"	\$35.00		
	Maple, Red	18-24"	\$35.00		
	Maple, Sugar	12-18"	\$35.00		
	Oak, Northern Red	18-24"	\$35.00		
	Oak, Swamp White	18-24"	\$35.00		
Med. Trees	Crabapple, Red Splendor	18-24"	\$35.00		
	Plum, American	18-24"	\$35.00		
	Redbud, Eastern	18-24"	\$45.00		
Shrubs	Arrowwood	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Chokecherry, Common	12-18"	\$35.00		
	Dogwood, Red Osier	18-24"	\$35.00		
	Elderberry, American	12-18"	\$35.00		
	Hazelnut, American	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Lilac, Villosa	18-24"	\$35.00		
	Ninebark, Common	12-18"	\$40.00		
	Serviceberry (Juneberry)	12-18"	\$35.00		
	Sumac, Staghorn	12-24"	\$35.00		
Conifer Packet (5 of each species) - Techny Arborvitae, Balsam Fir, White Pine, Black Hills Spruce, Tamarack			\$55.00		
Backyard Packet (5 of each species) - Black Hills Spruce, Red Oak, Red Splendor Crab, Chokecherry, Elderberry			\$55.00		
Wildlife Packet (5 of each species) - Red Splendor Crab, American Plum, Chokecherry, Dogwood, Elderberry			\$55.00		
Pollinator Seed Mix: Covers 1,500 sq. ft.			\$77.00		
Shortgrass Upland Dry Prairie: Covers 5,000 sq. ft.			\$87.00		
Tallgrass Mesic Prairie Packet: Covers 5,000 sq. ft.			\$87.00		

Include Payment with Order.
 Checks payable to: **Carver SWCD**
Total Due

Tree Visual Aid: www.co.carver.mn.us/treevisual



11360 Highway 212, Suite 6
Cologne, MN 55322-8020
Phone: (952) 466-5230

www.co.carver.mn.us/swcd

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WACONIA, MN
PERMIT NO. 9

Tree Order Form Enclosed



Cover Crop Benefits

- Improved water infiltration
- Reduced soil erosion
- Ability to scavenge excess nitrogen and phosphorus
- Provide additional nutrients
- Utilize excess moisture
- Extended grazing season
- Food source for pollinators

SWCD Cover Crop Program

Adding cover crops to your farming operation can be a great way to reduce soil erosion, improve soil and water quality, capture and recycle nutrients in the soil, and provide forage for livestock. Additionally, cover crops can reduce fertilizer inputs and increase soil health, which increases profitability per acre. Without living roots in the soil, topsoil and nutrients can be washed away during rainfall events, reducing a soil's fertility and polluting local waterways.

Interest in cover crops has grown over the last few years, as area producers begin looking for ways to

incorporate cover crops in their crop rotation. The Carver SWCD recognizes this need, and has initiated an aerial seeding program to promote the use of cover crops, and address the time-consuming and field accessibility concerns when establishing covers. Partnering with Midwest Ag Air and a local airport, the Carver SWCD is seeking interested producers for the program. If there is enough interest, the SWCD will coordinate the aerial applications.

If you are interested in adding cover crops through aerial seeding or conventional methods, contact us

to discuss what cover crop options will meet your objectives. Financial assistance is available through our cover crop program, which include incentive payments and cost-share for approved practices.

To learn more about soil health, and the financial assistance available, contact our office at 952-466-5230.

