

Community Conservation

Building Momentum for Ecological Health
and Climate Resiliency



WHAT IS COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Conservation and sustainability take many forms and definitions. At the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Community Conservation is defined as efforts to protect natural resources and increase the resiliency of landscapes through collaboration with community groups and individual residents through project planning and management.

Community Conservation helps strengthen collaboration between

Residents & Local Organizations/
Institutions

to become involved in resource

- Planning
- Outreach
- Education
- Restoration
- Management
- Monitoring
- Protection



HOW TO TELL

IF A PROJECT IS COMMUNITY BASED:

?

WERE THE PROJECT'S GOALS DECIDED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS FROM THE START

?

IS A LOCAL ORGANIZATION (OR COMMUNITY GROUP) LEADING OR CO-LEADING THE EFFORT

?

IS THERE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PROJECT WILL NEED ONGOING INVOLVEMENT BY RESIDENTS

?

DO THE PROJECT GOALS INCLUDE SOCIAL AND EQUITY BENEFITS

?

ARE COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVOLVED IN PLANNING, EDUCATING, RESTORING, MONITORING, OR MANAGEMENT IN WAYS THAT STRENGTHEN THE PROJECT

METHODS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EARLY INVOLVEMENT
FROM LOCAL
RESIDENTS

SURVEYING
RESIDENTS ABOUT
INTERESTS AND
IDEAS

SETTING CLEAR
PROJECT GOALS

APPLYING A
GRASSROOTS
APPROACH

HAVING VARIED
STAKEHOLDERS

EQUITABLE
ENGAGEMENT

FREQUENT
COMMUNICATION

INVOLVING MANY
PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNICATION IN
DIFFERENT
LANGUAGES

INVOLVEMENT OF
COMMUNITY
LEADERS

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

VOLUNTEER
COORDINATORS

COACHES TO GUIDE
RESIDENTS

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

GROUP MEETINGS

INVOLVING
RESIDENTS IN
PROJECT
MONITORING

HIGHLIGHTING AND
CELEBRATING
PROJECT RESULTS



WHAT'S WORKING

Community Conservation success stories from BWSR projects

“Working alongside landowners who share the same passion for increasing pollinator habitat as conservation professionals was both rewarding and encouraging, reinforcing the collective commitment that making a positive environmental impact starts at the local level.”

SHERBURNE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



“Projects succeed when community members and leaders are involved in each step of the process, from outreach and project development through design, installation and long-term maintenance.”

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

“In addition to planting pollinator-friendly species, our project also stabilized shorelines, created rain gardens, and added habitat for wildlife, all while providing pockets of beauty.”

CRYSTAL WATERS PROJECT



“Resident involvement through the Lawns to Legumes Neighborhood Project proved to be one of the best ways to not only get residents involved, but educate others and gain awareness in protecting pollinators throughout the community.”

CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS

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