# SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

As part of its mission to improve water quality and ensure a sustainable water supply for the region, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services is working to plant landscapes that need less water, reduce runoff, and provide habitat for birds, bees, and butterflies. Sustainable landscapes include drought-tolerant turf, bee lawn, and Minnesota native grasses, flowers, trees, and shrubs.

Sustainable landscapes are the foundation for resilient ecosystems that beautify neighborhoods, protect clean water, and promote economic and environmental resiliency.



#### WHAT NEIGHBORS CAN EXPECT

The Met Council is committed to being a good neighbor. As we work to convert our properties to sustainable landscapes, you will see us removing invasive plants and trees, prepping the site for plantings, mowing occasionally, and doing other landscaping work.

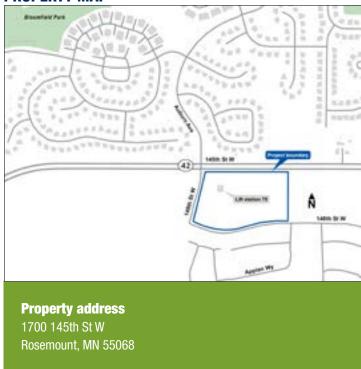
**Thoughtful design** – We have engaged skilled landscape architects and landscaping contractors that specialize in sustainable landscapes to design and install a landscape well-suited to the site, neighborhood, and local environment.

**Timely communication** – If you live near a sustainable landscape restoration project, we will let you know about activities planned near you by mail, email, or posted signs. We will respond quickly to messages received by email and on our project phone line.

**Considerate installation** – We will do our best to minimize negative impacts to the neighborhood, however there may be some noise during business hours and we may use and store large equipment on the property.

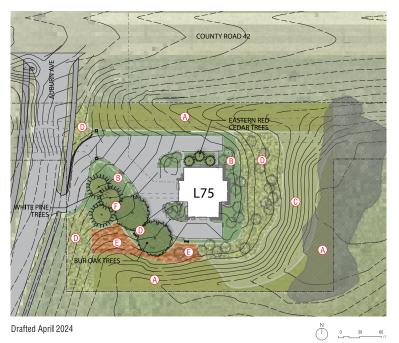
**Ongoing care and maintenance** – The landscape will look sparse and undeveloped for a few years as plants get established. During that time, we will maintain some areas to a height of six inches, but plants may grow up to 12 inches. Once landscapes become established, we will continue maintenance by mowing designated areas and treating and removing invasive plants.

#### PROPERTY MAP



#### **LIFT STATION 75: SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE SITE PLAN**

The Met Council is committed to maintaining its sustainable landscapes and has hired skilled landscape architects and contractors to design and manage the site in your neighborhood. See below for a sketch of the plans.



#### **LEGEND**



Native stormwater prairie

Short grass

prairie



Bee lawn



Mixed-height prairie



Wildflower rain garden



Native trees and shrubs

### **DESIGN NOTES**

This plan will incorporate:

- · Bee lawn and native prairie to replace traditional blue grass lawn
- · Evergreen trees on the west and north sides to buffer winter winds and screen views of the building
- · A rain garden planted with deep-rooted native flowers that will capture runoff
- Two large Bur Oak trees to provide habitat for birds and caterpillars (pollinators)
- Maintenance of existing beneficial trees and the removal of invasive plants and trees

#### **TIMELINE**

Cultivating a sustainable landscape with native plants takes a few years. While the site may look undeveloped for the first couple of years, we will proactively manage weeds and invasives as plants become established. Please do not mow, spray, or walk on the property. This can damage the maturing landscape.

SLEEPS	CREEPS	SWEEPS	LEAPS
Initial site planting.	Small plants emerge and	Plants become identifiable	Plants mature and
Invasives are removed.	are vulnerable to damage.	and grow in patchy clusters.	become self-sustaining.
Site is undeveloped.	Site is undeveloped.	Site starts to establish.	Site looks like a natural area.
•	•	•	•
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4

#### **CONTACT US**

Find site designs and additional information

about the project online at: liftstationsustainablelandscapes.com.