

## Request Information

### **Describe the organization**

Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) focuses on variety of environmental topics. We aim to preserve the high quality of the water and air in the region, preserve and improve the ecological make up, as well as create and improve habitat for wildlife and humans. We serve as educators and consultants on how people can make environmentally beneficial changes on their own property, especially in reference to shorelines and pollinator habitat. See [www.oclw.org](http://www.oclw.org)

Our mission is "to halt and reverse the depletion of the state's soil resources and the pollution of its waters," as stated in Wisconsin Legislature. At the LWCD, we work in cooperation with a committee of elected supervisors to conserve the land and water resources in Oneida County, and meet local soil, water and related natural resource priorities. Healthy lakes and habitat improve every aspect of life in the Northwoods, from fisheries to recreation to tourism to choosing real estate. Using proactive conservation planning, we can successfully manage our clean air, soil, and water, so that our region will be a better and healthier place for future generations of Oneida County residents and tourists.

### **Geographic area served**

Oneida County

### **Request amount**

1000

### **Proposal title**

Bee Lawn - A great alternative to a traditional lawn

### **Proposal description**

Provide a brief overview of the request including who will be served.

LWCD would like to establish a roughly 3000 sq. ft. Bee Lawn demo site at a public space in Oneida County. The purpose is that we can send interested clientele to an area where they can experience Bee Lawn as a form of habitat directly and then choose to use it in their own yards as a replacement of traditional lawn. Pollinators across the globe are decreasing in numbers and raising awareness on their importance to the ecosystem and human species has been a long established goal within LWCD. Bee Lawn is a versatile, durable pollinator habitat that allows for everyday walking and recreational use, like ball games and other outdoor activities. See more details at <https://beelab.umn.edu/bee-lawn>. The proposed site is in close vicinity of other pollinator habitat beds and will have public traffic from the visitors of the Healing Nature Center besides the clients LWCD will send.

### **Impacts of funding**

Provide additional information that will further demonstrate the community need you are addressing.

The bee lawn demo site will enhance the options for more environmentally friendly habitat in the community. We plan to install the demo site at the Healing Nature Center ([www.healingnaturecenter.org](http://www.healingnaturecenter.org)), which is a 501(c)3 organization. The Center is a public space, and its clients are people from all over the state and the country searching for ways to make environmentally conscious decisions. LWCD and the Healing Nature Center (HNC) have done multiple pollinator habitat related projects in partnership and this project will further strengthen that bond. On a regular basis Oneida County Land & Water consults with Oneida County residents who wish to improve their shorelines, adjacent uplands and yards. We've had an ongoing Pollinator program for 8 years and see an increasing amount of citizens who wish to make pollinator friendly decisions. We have seen the impact of demo sites when we do site tours to show native planting buffers on shorelines and upland pollinator gardens as people often get inspired when they have something tangible to look at, smell and touch. The option to let people experience an established Bee Lawn lets us address many people's desire to have a pollinator friendly habitat AND still use that planting area in a recreational sense. To fulfill both of these aspects in land use planning has been a limiting factor for people to make changes on their property. HNC's staff will install, water and maintain the Bee Lawn demo site and cover any additional costs.

### **Recognition opportunities**

Describe how contributors to this program and/or organization will be recognized.

WPS will be acknowledged in a press release put out to announce the project and the funding received. We also plan to have an educational sign at the demo site, which will include the logo of WPS.

### **2024 Bee Lawn Demo Site Project Budget**

15lbs seed whole sale price	\$187.50
Compost/Top Soil mix incl delivery	\$462.50
Signage	\$50
10h LWCD staffing time	\$200
Straw Erosion Control	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1000</b>