

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, 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 shorelines.

See 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.

Geographical area served: Oneida County

Request amount: 3000

Proposal title: Bee Lawn Demo Site

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

We would like to establish a roughly 1000 sq ft Bee Lawn demo site at a public space in Oneida County. 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 purpose of the demo site is that we can send interested clientele to an area where they can experience this form of habitat directly and then choose to use it in their own yards as a replacement of the traditional lawn.

The installation will be performed by a hired contractor. He will prepare the area by removing existing vegetation, add compost, sow the bee lawn seed, and cover the area with biodegradable erosion control blanket after seeding.

Proposal budget: Provide the total project budget.: 3000

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), which is a 501(c)3 organization. The Center is a public space, and Center's staff will maintain the bee lawn. Its clients are people from all over the state and the country searching for ways to make environmentally conscious decisions. On a regular basis Oneida County Land & Water consults with Oneida County residents who wish to improve their shorelines and adjacent uplands. The option to experience a Bee Lawn, lets us address many people's desire to have a pollinator friendly habitat and still use their property in a recreational sense. To meet both of these aspects in their ideal for land use has been a limiting factor for people to make changes on their property.

Funding outcomes: Provide a brief overview of the expected outcomes of the proposal.

We aim to expand our options for promoting different types of pollinator-friendly habitat to our clientele. As a result we hope to have an increase of natural shorelines and improvement of upland habitat in our region, which we as a community would benefit from. Bees and Butterflies whose population numbers are struggling, would benefit from any increase of pollinator-friendly habitat. We hope to make this choice more accessible to a larger amount of people.

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 installation, as well as on the onsite signage.

Employee and/or retiree involvement:

List the name(s) of Wisconsin Public Service employees and/or retirees that are involved with your organization and in what capacity they serve.

None