

Latest Project News

We are getting closer to Spring, which means it's time for the final phase of our Grand Ave reconstruction project. As promised, we would like to inform you of the upcoming restoration work on the rain gardens.

In Mid-April, you will notice contractors will start working on some of the following tasks:

- Removing invasive vegetation
- Smoothing out any rough areas to reduce steep slopes
- Installing native plants to enhance the effectiveness of the rain gardens



The rain gardens in your boulevards help protect the water bodies in the city by reducing stormwater runoff and improving water quality. They are designed to collect stormwater runoff from the street, sidewalk, and yards and allow it to soak into the ground. Eventually, these native prairie grasses and wildflowers will, attract birds, bees, and butterflies

What to Expect

The basins on Grand Avenue were planted with seed which yielded mixed results. Learning from the initial Grand Avenue installation and other projects, we've opted for larger potted plants instead of seeding for this restoration. We have found that using larger potted plants offers several advantages:

- Helps improve the plant's durability by increasing their chances of fighting pests and drought.
- Is helpful to newer gardeners who may not be as familiar with plant care.
- There is much less care necessary upfront
- Is much easier to weed
- We can be more intentional with our planting matching plant species with sun, soil, and location conditions.

For this restoration, we will be using 3" and 4" container plants grown especially for this project. We have chosen a selection of aggressive short-grass prairie, savanna, and wetland species for this project. Between 10-15 species will be chosen from the plant list included in this communication.

As the project begins, we will follow up with more information on the specific locations and scheduling details. Plus, we will share about the upcoming neighborhood rain garden planting events and other outreach events! **Stay tuned.**

We sincerely appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work towards completing this important project on Grand Ave. Your support is vital as we strive to improve our community for all residents.

Stay connected

Visit the project page: <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/public-works/surface-water-sewers/programs-policy/green-infrastructure/grand-avenue/>

Contact the Water Resources Team: 612-673-3260
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