

1. What land stewardship goals do you have for your property?

- ☐ Preserve or create native woodland, wetland or prairie
- ☐ Attract wildlife (butterfly garden, etc.)
- ☐ Establish rain garden
- ☐ Reduce erosion
- ☐ Reduce maintenance costs
- ☐ Reduce the amount of impervious surface, hard surface (rooftops, driveway, sidewalks)
- ☐ Other _____



2. Give the size of your property and approximate percentage of:

Size of site (if known) _____
 % Natural areas _____
 % Gardens _____
 % Lawn _____
 % Hard surfaces _____
 % Other _____

3. How long ago did you begin to implement land stewardship practices on your property? _____ years

Mowing, Mulching and Watering

4. Check all of the good management practices you use in handling your grass clippings.

- ☐ Compost your grass clippings
- ☐ Mulch your grass clippings
- ☐ Keep clippings off hard surfaces
- ☐ Don't cut grass lower than 3 inches in the summer
- ☐ Other _____

5. How often do you water/irrigate?

- ☐ Only as necessary
- ☐ On a routine schedule

6. How do you manage fallen leaves? (Check all that apply)

Learn More... Mulching is the process of grinding leaves into small pieces that can either be left in place, composted, or placed as mulch around plants in gardens or landscape plantings to deter weed growth and retain moisture. When composting leaves, select a site away from your lake, wetland or impervious surfaces to prevent nutrients from running off into surface waters.

- ☐ Mulch leaves and
 - ☐ Leave them in place
 - ☐ Move and use them in a garden or landscape planting on your property
- ☐ Compost the leaves
 - ☐ On site
 - ☐ County compost site
- ☐ Let leaves lie on natural area
- ☐ Collect leaves and remove them from your property
- ☐ Rake and compost your leaves as soon as they fall (multiple times)
- ☐ Refrain from raking leaves into street
- ☐ Clear leaves from gutters

Fertilizers and Pest Management

7. Describe your fertilizer use on your lawn. (Check all that apply)

- ☐ No fertilizer is used
- ☐ Organic fertilizer is used
- ☐ Only phosphorous free fertilizer is used because local soils are high in phosphorus
- ☐ Fertilizer that contains phosphorous is used. If you checked this item, have you completed a soil test of your lawn indicating that phosphorous is needed?
 - ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Fertilizer is swept from all hard surfaces (driveway, sidewalks and streets) following application. If fertilizer is used, what is the number on the bag? (e.g., 10-0-10): _____-_____-_____

8. Describe the use of herbicides/ insecticides on your property.

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ No herbicides/insecticides are used
- ☐ Natural/alternative methods of control are used
- ☐ Herbicides are applied
 - ☐ Spot treatment ☐ Site-wide
- Chemical/brand name: _____
- ☐ Insecticides are applied
 - ☐ Spot treatment ☐ Site-wide
- Chemical/brand name: _____
- ☐ Herbicides/insecticides are kept from all hard surfaces during application

Stormwater Runoff and Buffers

9. Check all of the ways you manage runoff from your property.

- ☐ Reduced the amount of hard surfaces

Learn More... Runoff is excess water that washes the grass clippings, leaves, fertilizer and other pollutants from lawns, sidewalks, and driveways into our lakes and wetlands.

by: _____

- ☐ Use rain barrels or cistern
- ☐ Created a rain garden
- ☐ Created a detention pond
- ☐ Direct downspouts onto the lawn
- ☐ Aerate the lawn
- ☐ Building has a green roof (e.g., sod or prairie grasses)
- ☐ Other _____



10. Do you have a steep slope on your property?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes. Check all of the ways your landscape design helps reduce runoff:
 - ☐ Swale at base of slope
 - ☐ Deep rooted native plants on slope
 - ☐ Other _____



11. Does your property border water?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes, my property has _____ feet of shoreline that can be described as:
 - ☐ A buffer of plants between the water and turf
 - ☐ Turf all the way to the water
 - ☐ Rip-rap or rock used to control erosion along the shore
 - ☐ Sand beach to the water

Natural Areas, Gardens and Associated Benefits

12. Approximately what % of the plants used in your landscaping or project are native to Minnesota?

Learn More... Landscaping with native plants improves our local ecosystem. Native plants are adapted to our environment and climate and are tolerant of drought (so there's no need for excessive watering) and tough winters. They are adapted to our soils and, thus, don't need fertilizers or insecticides. This means less maintenance for you. And, because native plants have deeper root systems, they accommodate water infiltration, which in turn, reduces runoff. Finally, native plants also provide habitat for wildlife.

_____ % that are native to MN

_____ Not sure

Please list some of the plants that grow on

your property (attachments are fine):

13. What invasive non-native plants have you removed from your property?

Learn More... Invasive non-native plants crowd out and destroy beneficial native plants. Even a few plants on private property can set seed and these seeds may travel to public open spaces and natural areas. Resources at: www.rwmwd.org

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Amur maple | ☐ Honeysuckle |
| ☐ Birdsfoot trefoil | ☐ Purple loosestrife |
| ☐ Black locust | ☐ Reed canary grass |
| ☐ Buckthorn | ☐ Ribbon grass |
| ☐ Canada thistle | ☐ Russian olive |
| ☐ Crown vetch | ☐ Siberian/Chinese elm |
| ☐ Garlic Mustard | ☐ Spotted knapweed |
| ☐ Other _____ | |

What removal technique did you use?

- ☐ Hand pulling
☐ Mechanical (chain saw)
☐ Herbicide
☐ Other _____

14. Have you removed and replaced any lawn with other types of plantings?

- ☐ No
☐ Yes. Please describe:

15. Do you have any existing natural habitats that you are protecting or enhancing?

- ☐ No
☐ Yes
☐ Prairie
☐ Forest
☐ Lake/Pond/Stream
☐ Wetland
☐ Other _____

16. What unique wildlife species visit your property?

17. Please share some of the benefits you are seeing as a result of your land stewardship practices.

Property Owner/Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email: _____ Phone (if known): _____

Submit your completed application by July 15. If possible, please e-mail digital photos of your property or project. Please contact us if you have any questions!

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**Thank you for applying
for a **LEAP** award!
We look forward to
reading your application!**

