

STAFF REPORTS:

6.1.1._Type B – Shoreline Coordination & Conversations Molly Clyne

- Coordinating with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on shoreland habitat and support gaps for SWCDs.
 - Exploring partnership opportunities with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates and local lake associations.
 - Engaged partners on key needs: Keep It Clean (lake priorities), metro watersheds (creating a safe wake packet for lake associations), and Prairie Restorations Inc (interest in expanding local work).
 - DIY Shoreline Webinar: 28 attendees; 1 site visit generated to date.
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6.2.1._Wetland Conservation Act Siena Storm

Field visits are being scheduled for the coming field season and I am attending training along with the County's Wetland Lead.

6.4.1.1._RRWP Structural Ag (SOW Rural BMP)..... Siena Storm

Benton County Schafer project is moving along, we will know within the next few weeks how construction will shake out between spring and fall. Have the engineers set to survey on the gully erosion project. On the waste pit project in the Snake River Watershed, I've received the detail from the engineers and will be able to take the project to the steering committee's May meeting after the landowner secures bids and I figure out how the cost share will operate between SWCD's percent based and NRCS's flat rate

6.4.2._Soil Health Siena Storm

I've received more interest in cover crops and reduced tillage. I attended an ag peer group meeting where we connected about experiences and shared resources.

6.4.3._County Public Ditch System Inspection Siena Storm

I attended the Ditch Inspector conference and we are already starting in on ditch repair that began prior to the SWCD taking over DI duties.

6.5.1._Forestry Coordination Work Molly Clyne

- Building new partnerships through the Local Forestry Team, including The Nature Conservancy and the University of Minnesota.
- Supporting a grant proposal to the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pest Center focused on landowner-driven forestry (surveys + focus groups).

- Rum River and Snake River Watersheds identified as focal areas, which will allow us to shape research and gain actionable insights.
- RRWP Board approved and signed letter of support. Our office is pursuing subaward funding.
- Great opportunity to align woodland strategies with landowner needs while strengthening partner relationships.

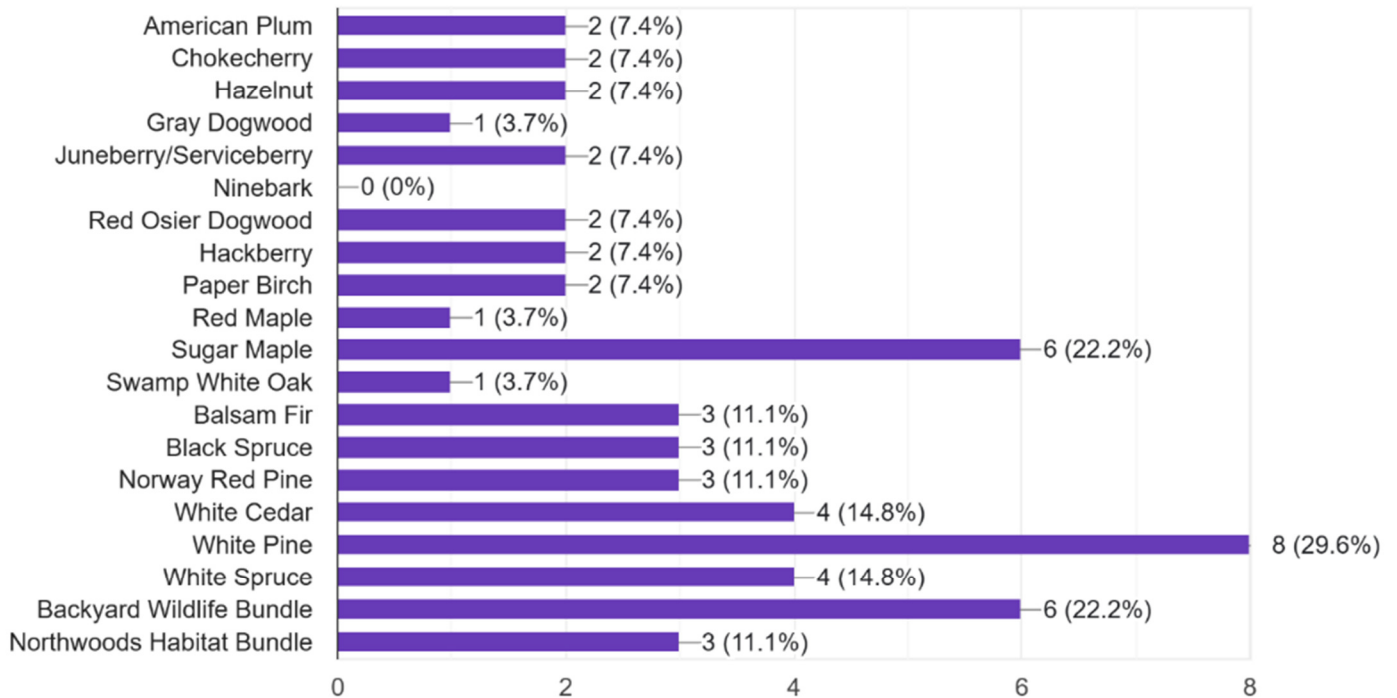
6.5.4. Tree Sale Outreach & Landowner Engagement Molly Clyne

- Using tree sale survey + follow-up to inform forestry work and build landowner relationships.
- Connected with City of Princeton (Bob Gerold): uses our trees for shoreline projects; interested in RRWP funding; tree choices guided by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reporting.
- Engaged a landowner managing ~70 acres: interested in reforestation but balancing neighbor preferences and hay income—follow-up planned.
- Continuing 1:1 outreach with survey respondents who opted in.

Some of the tree survey results:

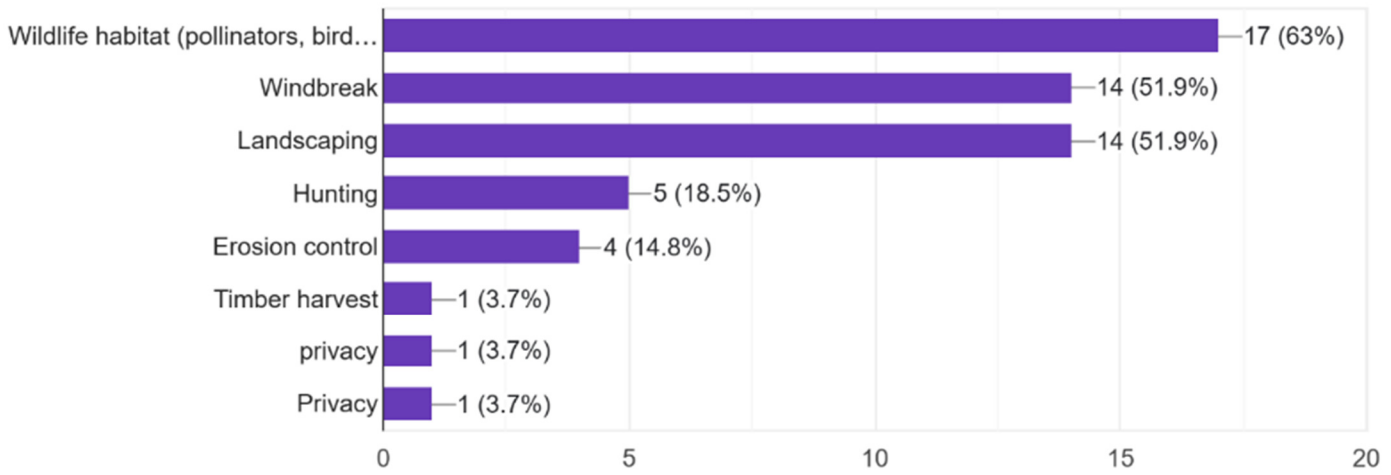
Trees Purchased

27 responses



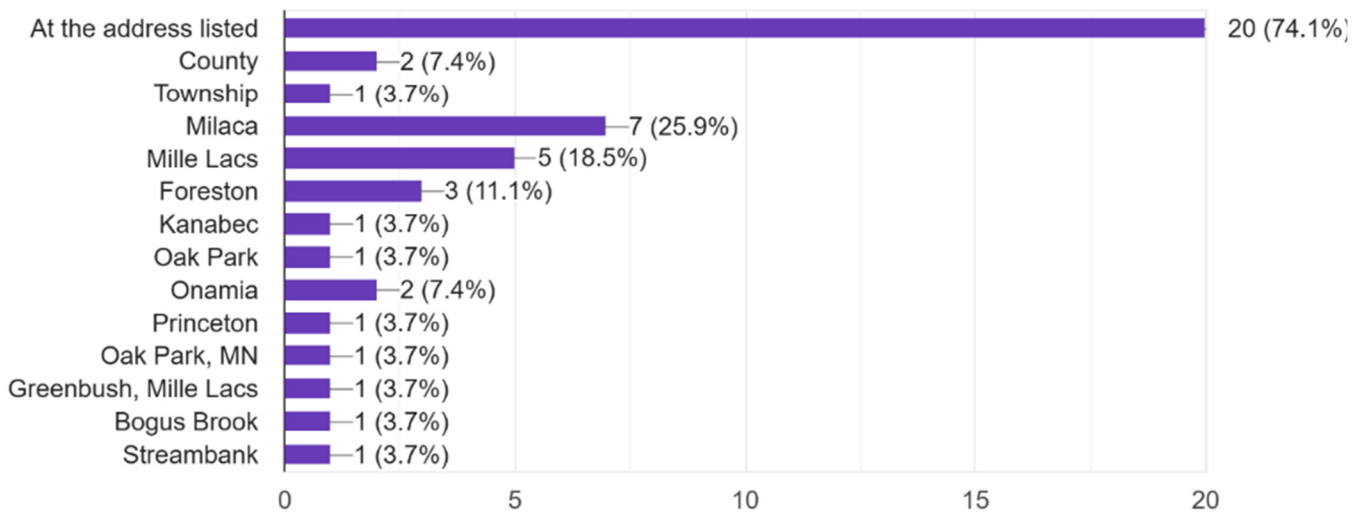
What are you planting your trees for?

27 responses



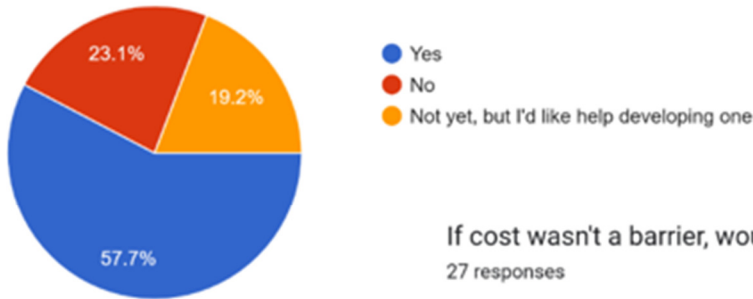
Where will the trees be planted?

27 responses



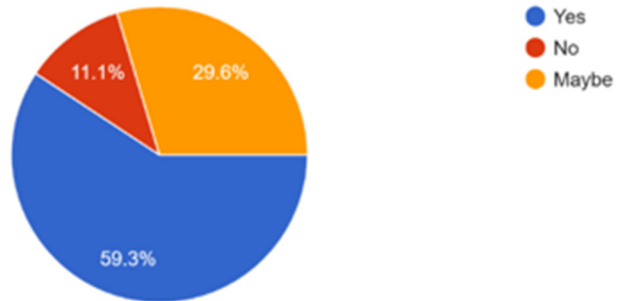
Do you have a plan for management and maintenance?

26 responses



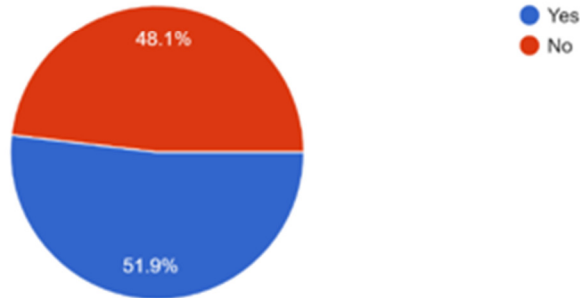
If cost wasn't a barrier, would you plant more trees?

27 responses



May we call you to talk about your tree-planting goals and how they fit into the community forest?

27 responses



6.6.1._Noxious Weed Management – Co Ag Inspector..... Siena Storm

Lynn and I hosted the Noxious Weed Meeting for public land managers. We got positive feedback and learned more about what is most helpful for the local authorities.
