

**Community Neighborhood Housing Services
St. Paul, MN
Native Habitats and Demonstration Garden
Budget: \$6,522**



To reduce its impact on the natural environment, [Community Neighborhood Housing Services](#) (CNHS) has altered its office landscaping to more accurately reflect native habitats found in the St. Paul, Minnesota area.

The CNHS office building is located along the banks of the Mississippi River, so any runoff from the building goes directly into the river and contributes to pollution downstream. CNHS Business Portfolio Manager Larry Mundt says that “adding new native plants and prairie grasses and creating better water drainage has decreased pollutants going into the river.”

The NeighborWorks organization expects its new lawn to act as a demonstration site that will encourage homeowners in the area to use native plants in their own yards. Mundt hopes the organization’s beautiful lawn “will help enhance the curb appeal of native plantings,” which are better equipped to filter water pollutants than typical grass lawns.

CNHS planted its demonstration garden last fall with help from a partner organization, [Great River Greening](#), and community volunteers. Great River Greening provides technical expertise and volunteer labor for the lawn’s upkeep.

Mundt hopes that continued community involvement and information disseminated at CNHS homebuyer education courses will combine to promote the use of native plants across metropolitan St. Paul.

