

PWSA GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM - Construction Project



Description and Application

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) is committed to making green infrastructure part of our solution to improve water quality affected by stormwater runoff. The PWSA will provide grants of \$3,000 to \$10,000 to non-profit organizations, community organizations, and civic groups for projects or activities which advance the objective of attaining Clean Water Act compliance for water quality. The goal of the program is to support local, grassroots efforts that employ green infrastructure practices to improve water quality, enhance conservation, restore habitat, stimulate economic growth, and educate people about stormwater issues and associated stewardship actions.

Mini-Grant Construction Projects MUST meet the following goals:

- Implement cost-effective projects resulting in measurable water quality improvements.
- Make measurable progress in protecting or improving water resources.
- Provide community environmental education concerning stormwater management, water quality, or related issues.

Priority will be given to green infrastructure projects with the potential to make a direct impact on water quality, reduce flooding and offer long-lasting benefits to the community. Every project should include an education component, which can be accomplished through signage, public events, project publicity or volunteer involvement. Projects must be located within PWSA's sewer service area (City of Pittsburgh). Green infrastructure projects must include long-term maintenance plans. In addition to construction projects, PWSA will consider preliminary feasibility studies for green infrastructure construction projects.

1.

Eligibility:

Check all that apply.

- Projects must be located within PWSA's sewer service area in the City of Pittsburgh.
- Projects cannot be complete prior to the application deadline.
- Projects awarded in 2016 must be completed by November 1, 2017. Projects to be completed in 2016 will be given preference.

Application Instructions

Step 1. Submit answers to all application questions using the online form.
 Step 2. Email all supporting documents (.pdf format, maximum 10MB) to greeninfrastructure@pgh2o.com with the your organization's name and Mini-Grant Application in the subject line.

Questions or technical difficulties? Email greeninfrastructure@pgh2o.com or call Itha Cao at (412) 255-8800 x8562.

Mini-Grant Program Timeline

- Two optional information sessions will be held at PWSA's Downtown office, 1200 Penn Ave (choose either session):

Tuesday, 3/1, 10:00-11:30am

OR

Wednesday, 3/2, 5:30-7:00pm

RSVP via the link at <http://www.pgh2o.com/GI-Grant>.

Contact: icao@pgh2o.com or 412-255-8800 x8562.

- Deadline for Mini-Grant Applications:

Wednesday, March 23rd at 12pm

Online application and all supporting documents must be received by PWSA by this deadline.

Awards will be announced in late April. Recipients will be expected to attend an orientation meeting with PWSA staff.

Application Evaluation Criteria

PWSA's priorities for green infrastructure include:

Efficiency of impact

- Expected cost per gallon of stormwater managed

Total volume to be infiltrated (usually preferable) vs. detained for slow release

- Reduction in CSOs
- Leverage of other sources of funding

Impact on water quality

- Expected improvement over current conditions
- Connection to GI systems in the same watershed/cumulative impact

Monitoring

- Thoroughness of monitoring plan (must share data with PWSA)

Collaboration

- All the necessary stakeholders are engaged; partnership details are well defined

Maintenance

- Thoroughness of maintenance plan, including budget and long-term funding sources

Education

- Opportunity for training; opportunity to inform and engage community about stormwater/GI; visibility

Co-Benefits

- Stimulates economic development in an area where it is needed
- Improves air quality
- Reduces risk of flooding
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Aligns with urban tree canopy goals
- Creates publicly accessible green space
- Reduces heat island effect
- Increases habitat/biodiversity
- Aligns with City of Pittsburgh's Climate Action Plan

Innovation

- Demonstrates green infrastructure technology or techniques that have not yet been implemented in Pittsburgh

PWSA 2016 Green Stormwater Infrastructure Mini-Grant Program Application Questions

Applications and supporting documents must be received by March 23, 2016 at noon.

2.

Name of Requesting Organization

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3.

Contact Person

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4.

Address

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5.

City, State, Zip

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6.

Phone Number

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7.

Email Address

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8. **Describe the organization and its mission (limit of 100 words):**

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9. **Project Title**

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10. **Project Location**

Project Property Address(es):

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11. Neighborhood:

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12. Watershed:

<http://www.accdpa.org/conservation-solution-center/watershed/>

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13. Allegheny County Block and Lot Number(s):
<http://www2.county.allegheny.pa.us/RealEstate/search.aspx>

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14. **Property Owner**

Provide a signed letter of property owner's consent to the project as a supporting document.

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15.

Project Description

Briefly summarize the project including a description and project outcomes (limit of 1 paragraph). If awarded, this description will be included in the legal grant agreement.

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16.

List types of green infrastructure in the project, and provide size and gallons of capacity of each. May be submitted as a supporting document if additional space is needed.

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17.

How does the project address water quality issues in the chosen watershed?

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18.

What will be the lasting impacts of the project on the watershed and/or community?

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19. How will the project be promoted in your community?

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20. What is the schedule for the project?

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21. Identify your project partners and their roles in the project.

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22. How will success of the project be measured? Mini-Grant recipients are strongly encouraged to propose monitoring and impact evaluation plans. PWSA is developing a Monitoring Protocol, which will be made available at the Information Sessions and on the application page on PWSA's website. (Note: all monitoring data must be shared with PWSA.)

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23.

Confirm that the project will:

Check all that apply.

- Implement cost-effective projects resulting in measurable water quality improvements.
- Make measurable progress in improving water resources.
- Provide environmental education concerning stormwater management, water quality, or related issues.

24.

Grant amount requested from PWSA (\$)

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25.

Provide an itemized budget for the entire project, including matching funds and valuation of in-kind support, if applicable. If other funding will be used, list the funding sources and note if those funds are secured. (If match funding is contingent on pending grants or donations, please provide details of estimated funding sources).

A detailed budget may be submitted by email as a supporting document. Provide a summary below.

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Design

Include a design with emailed application supplements. Design does not have to be professionally drawn, but must indicate estimated project plans to scale. Identify each type of green infrastructure proposed, and indicate stormwater tributary area. *Construction projects without a design will not be accepted.

26.

How complete is design of GI strategy (estimated percent)? ____% complete

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27.

Who prepared or will prepare the design?

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Maintenance

Green infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance to remain effective for the long term.

Note: Applicant and legal property owner will need to sign a legally binding statement of agreement to carry out the maintenance plan before funds are disbursed. If maintenance is to be done by someone other than the applicant, please include a copy of the signed maintenance agreement by email as a supporting document.

28.

Maintenance Plan

Describe your maintenance plan and schedule for all GI facilities, outlining the specific types of maintenance activities required, probable frequencies, personnel and equipment requirements in each season. Include a budget of estimated annual maintenance costs.

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29.

Who will conduct the maintenance (be specific)?

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30.

Identify method of financing continuing operation and maintenance.

Note: PWSA Green Infrastructure MiniGrants cannot be used to fund long-term maintenance activities.

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31. **What training will be needed for maintenance staff to perform the required maintenance? How will the training be accomplished?**

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Applicants must disclose all family or business relationships with PWSA, its board members, its staff, or members of its Green Infrastructure Technical Advisory Committee. Note: such a relationship will not disqualify an applicant; however, such relationships must be disclosed in the interest of transparency.

32. **Relationships to disclose:**

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33.

Supporting Documents Checklist

Submit in .pdf format by email to greeninfrastructure@pgh2o.com before the application deadline. Note: Emails larger than 10MB will not reach PWSA.

Check all that apply.

- Site photograph(s).
- Legible and scalable plans.
- Table summarizing GI by type, area, capacity, and cost, if not provided in application.
- Calculations of stormwater management capacity.
- Detailed budget.
- Detailed project schedule, if not provided in application.
- Documentation of key partnerships.
- Proof of site ownership. If not the property owner, a letter of support indicating approval for applicant to construct the project on the property.
- Proof of tax-exempt status, if the applicant is tax-exempt.
- Green roof applicants must submit proof of adequate structural load-bearing capacity for proposed roof, signed or stamped by a professional engineer.
- Signed maintenance agreement, if maintenance is to be conducted by a third party.

Requirements for Awarded Projects

Applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with PWSA including a legal agreement for long-term maintenance of the project. If the applicant does not sign the Grant Agreement within three months after receiving it from PWSA, then PWSA may withdraw its funding offer.

As part of the grant agreement, awardees will commit to providing PWSA with:

1. Project updates when requested by PWSA
2. Photos of the project (both in process and as completed)
3. A 2-3 page written project report upon completion with site photos
4. Examples of promotional materials used or publicity gained from the project
5. Any monitoring or evaluation data associated with the project

The grant will be awarded in two installments: one portion upon signing of the grant agreement, and the remainder upon submission of final project reporting. Proportions will be determined based on the project's needs. Projects awarded in 2016 must be complete by November 1, 2017. Projects to be completed in 2016 will receive preference.

34.

Additional Responsibilities of Awardees:

Check all that apply.

Awardees will allow access to the project site for the purposes of inspections and educational tours, and may be asked to participate in ribbon-cutting event or tour.

Awardees agree to allow PWSA to publicize the project, and will inform PWSA of any press or media related to the project. In addition, awardees agree to acknowledge PWSA's support in press or media stories and promotional materials.

Awardees are responsible for obtaining ALL necessary permits, including any necessary tap-in permits from PWSA.

Design and content of educational signage must be approved by PWSA before installation.

Project information may be added to the Regional Green Infrastructure Atlas on 3 Rivers Wet Weather's website, <http://www.3riverswetweather.org/green-infrastructure>.

Recipients are responsible for any taxes and fees applicable to their receipt of funding through the program.

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