

PWSA GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM - Education 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 \$2,000 to \$5,000 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 Education Projects must meet one or both of the following goals:

- Provide community environmental education concerning green infrastructure, stormwater management, water quality, or related issues, with a measurable impact on the public awareness and/or behavior.
- Support land use practices that improve water quality in a measurable way.

Green infrastructure education projects can be accomplished using volunteer projects, public events, project publicity and signage, or other means. Priority will be given to projects with the potential to make a direct impact on water quality, reduce flooding and offer long-lasting benefits to the community. Projects should demonstrate long-term impact.

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, 5:30-7:00pmPlease RSVP via the link at <http://www.pgh2o.com/GI-Grant>.
- Deadline for Mini-Grant Applications:
 - Wednesday, March 23rd at 12pmOnline 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.

Green Infrastructure Priorities

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**

Include neighborhood(s), watershed(s) (<http://www.accdpa.org/conservation-solution-center/watershed/>)

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11. **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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12. How does the project address water quality issues in the chosen watershed?

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13.

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

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14.

How will the project be promoted in your community?

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15.

What is the schedule for the project?

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16.

Identify your project partners and their roles in the project.

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17.

How will success of the project be measured? (Note: all monitoring data must be shared with PWSA.)

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18.

Grant amount requested from PWSA (\$)

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19.

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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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.

20.

Relationships to disclose:

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21.

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.

- Documentation of key partnerships.
- Any visual materials that help describe the project.
- Detailed budget, if additional space is needed.
- Detailed project schedule, if additional space is needed.
- Proof of tax-exempt status, if the applicant is tax exempt.

Requirements for Awarded Projects

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

Awardees also agree to 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.

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.

22.

Responsibilities of Awardees (applicable to approved projects only):

Check all that apply.

- Applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with PWSA. If the applicant does not sign the Grant Agreement within three months after receiving it from PWSA, then PWSA may withdraw its funding offer.
- Awardees will submit project updates when requested by PWSA and a Final Report upon completion of the project.
- Awardees will provide PWSA with photos of the project, both in process and as completed.
- Monitoring data must be shared with PWSA.
- 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.
- Design and content of educational signage must be approved by PWSA before installation.
- Awardees are responsible for obtaining ALL necessary permits.
- Recipients are responsible for any taxes and fees applicable to their receipt of funding through the program.

