



## **PWSA GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM – Description and Initial 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 \$1,000 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.

Projects must meet one or more goals:

- Implement cost-effective projects resulting in measurable water quality improvements.
- Support land use practices that improve water quality.
- 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 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 service area (City of Pittsburgh). Green infrastructure projects must include long-term maintenance plans.

Examples of projects that can be submitted include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Replacement of asphalt or concrete and with trees, plantings, gardens, or permeable paving
- Riparian buffer or stream restoration efforts
- Community rain barrel, rain garden and native landscaping installations
- Planting of trees and other vegetation to reduce stormwater runoff
- Community education about stormwater management options, water quality and conservation

### **Mini-Grant Program Timeline**

The application consists of two phases.

Phase I: Complete the attached application and submit to PWSA by **June 23, 2015 at 4pm**. PWSA will review applications and select finalists. Finalists will be notified on or about June 30, 2015.

Phase II: Finalists will be asked to provide more detailed project plans based on their proposed projects. The deadline for detailed project applications for finalists is **July 17, 2015**. Grant winners will be notified on or about August 7, 2015.

An optional information session will be held at PWSA’s office (1200 Penn Ave) on Monday, June 8, 10:00-11:30am and again on Tuesday, June 9, 5:30-7:00pm. Please RSVP to [icao@pgh2o.com](mailto:icao@pgh2o.com) or 412-255-8800 x8562.

**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
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 2015 must be complete by November 1, 2016. Projects to be completed in 2015 will receive preference.

**Priorities**

PWSA’s priorities for green infrastructure include:

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| <p><b>Efficiency of impact</b><br/>         Expected cost per gallon of stormwater managed<br/>         Total volume to be infiltrated (usually preferable) vs. detained for slow release<br/>         Reduction in CSOs<br/>         Leverage of other sources of funding</p> |
| <p><b>Impact on water quality</b><br/>         Expected improvement over current conditions<br/>         Connection to GI systems in the same watershed/cumulative impact</p>  |
| <p><b>Monitoring</b><br/>         Thoroughness of monitoring plan (must share data with PWSA)</p>  |
| <p><b>Collaboration</b><br/>         All the necessary stakeholders are engaged; partnership details are well defined</p>  |
| <p><b>Maintenance</b><br/>         Thoroughness of maintenance plan, including budget and long-term funding sources</p>  |
| <p><b>Education</b><br/>         Opportunity for training; opportunity to inform and engage community about stormwater/GI; visibility</p>  |

**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 2015 Green Stormwater Infrastructure Mini-Grant Program  
Application Form (Phase I)**

Applications must be received by June 23, 2015 at 4:00pm.

Name of Requesting Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone - Office / Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

2. PROJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

3. Briefly summarize the project including a description and project outcomes (limit of 100 words):

4. Please indicate which goals the project promotes (check one or more):

Implement cost-effective projects resulting in measurable water quality improvements.

Support land use practices that improve water quality or reduce stormwater runoff.

Make measurable progress in improving water resources.

Provide environmental education concerning stormwater management, water quality, or related issues.

5. Please describe the project in three pages or less, being sure to address each of the topics below in this order:

- a) How does the project address water quality issues in the chosen watershed?
- b) What will be the lasting impacts of the project on the watershed and/or community?
- c) How will the project be promoted in your community?
- d) What is the timeline for the project?
- e) Identify your project partners and their roles in the project.

6. Grant amount requested from PWSA \$\_\_\_\_\_

7. Provide a 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 they are not, describe the likelihood of securing those funds.

#### Application Instructions

Emailed applications are preferred (.pdf, no more than 9MB) to [greeninfrastructure@pgh2o.com](mailto:greeninfrastructure@pgh2o.com) with *Mini-Grant Application* and your organization's name in the subject line. If it is not possible to email your application, send completed applications to PWSA, Attn: Green Infrastructure Program Manager, 1200 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Questions? Please call (412) 255-8800 x2656 or email [icao@pgh2o.com](mailto:icao@pgh2o.com).