



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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# Water Quality Capital Improvement Grants

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## Overview

Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) covers areas of Saint Paul, Roseville, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and Maplewood. CRWD is a highly developed urban area with about 42% impervious surfaces like streets, parking lots and buildings. These impervious surfaces have widespread consequences for our streams, rivers and lakes. Rainwater falling on these hard surfaces, carries large amounts of pollution as it flows directly into these shared water resources. As such, CRWD offers technical and financial assistance to encourage private and public landowners to install clean water projects that protect and improve the quality of the Mississippi River as well as lakes and streams within the district.

CRWD's Water Quality Capital Improvement Grants provide financial assistance for final engineering and construction of cost-effective and/or innovative projects that protect and improve the water quality of waterbodies within CRWD. Successful applicants have a minimum of a completed water quality feasibility study and are typically planning on construction within a year of receiving a grant award (typically end of December).

## GOALS

- Support mid to large scale on-the-ground projects that improve water quality by decreasing stormwater runoff and pollutants and/or preserve, protect, and/or restore plant and wildlife communities
- Provide opportunities to educate the public on their connection to water resources.
- Provide demonstration of innovative and effective management practices
- Foster stewardship of CRWD water resources from residents, businesses, schools, community groups and others who live, work or serve within CRWD
- Support projects that further CRWD's equity goal of implementing water quality improvement projects in underserved areas

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Government agencies working in CRWD
- Public and private schools located within CRWD
- Nonprofit, faith-based or religious organizations serving within CRWD
- Businesses and other private property owners who are located within CRWD

## PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

- Project must be located within CRWD

*Our Mission is to protect, manage and improve the water resources of Capitol Region Watershed District.*



- Project operation and maintenance plan (may be developed with the project, referenced in the grant agreement)
- Include CRWD in key planning meetings and provide periodic updates during the design and construction process. Updates shall provide information on project status, draft and final deliverables, project meeting summaries and other relevant work products for the project
- Obtain written approval from CRWD that the final plans and specifications meet the intent of the grant program prior to construction
- Grant recipients shall recognize CRWD as a project partner on any public promotion including but not limited to press releases, pamphlets, websites, and permanent signage
- A final project report or BMP data sheet(s) for each grant-funded element identifying:
  - BMP size
  - Drainage area details
  - Water quality benefits (reductions in volume, TP, and TSS)
- Records related to this grant may be governed by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, as amended (“Minnesota Governmental Data Practices Act”). Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 16C.05, subd. 5, the books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices related to this grant shall be subject to examination by the District or its representative, and that complete and accurate records of the work performed pursuant to an executed grant agreement shall be kept for a minimum of six (6) years following termination of the agreement for auditing purposes.
- The Grantee will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the District against any and all claims, liability, loss, damage, or expense arising under the provisions of this Agreement, whether by the parties or by their agents, employees or contractors. Neither the District, or the Grantee, if applicable, waive any immunities provided by any law or doctrine, including those of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466.
- The Grantee will allow CRWD access to the site for periodic inspections, site visits, and public tours.

## **LONG-TERM OPERATION & MAINTENANCE**

To ensure that the expected operational life of a grant funded BMP is achieved, an Operation and Maintenance Agreement is incorporated into the Grant Agreement and an O&M plan is required to be developed as part of the project. Project maintenance is the sole responsibility of the applicant. CRWD will conduct periodic inspections of the final project to ensure O&M responsibilities are met for the effective life of the project. The “effective life” listed below is the minimum number of years the grantee will be required to maintain the project per the executed grant agreement:

- *10 years* – small BMPs that typically do not require engineering such as rain gardens, shoreline/habitat restorations, pervious surfaces
- *25 years* – large BMPs typically considered a Capital Improvement and requiring some level of engineering such as underground treatment systems, structural slope stabilization, and rainwater harvesting/reuse systems

## **PERMITTING**

The grantee is responsible for obtaining all necessary federal, state and local permits and ensuring the project meets all water quality rules. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate regulatory agencies early in the application development process to ensure potential projects can meet

all applicable regulatory requirements. The applicant must have all required permits and approvals prior to start of construction or the project will be considered ineligible for funding.

## **PREVAILING WAGE**

It is the responsibility of the grant recipient or contractor to pay prevailing wages on construction projects to which state prevailing wage laws apply (Minn. Stat. 177.42 – 177.44). All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with CRWD grant funds included in this RFP shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality. Additional information on prevailing wage requirements is available on the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) website <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/prevailing-wage-information>. Questions about the application of prevailing wage rates should be directed to DOLI at 651-284-5091.

## **CONFORMANCE TO POLICIES**

CRWD reserves the right to withdraw funding for any project not completed in accordance with these guidelines or the terms of the executed Grant Agreement.

## **APPLICATION EVALUATION**

**Water Quality Capital Improvement Grant applications will be evaluated on the following 4 criteria:**

### **1. Water resource management effectiveness and efficiency (30 points)**

- a. Water quality benefit: The proposed project provides cost-effective water quality improvement (20 points)
  - i. Point calculation = (CRWD grant calculator estimate/grant request) x 20
- b. Other natural resource benefit: The project addresses another environmental issue (habitat, erosion, urban heat island etc.) (5 points)
- c. Watershed Management Plan: The project directly addresses issues and goals identified in CRWD's Watershed Management Plan (5 points)

### **2. Education and Demonstration (25 points)**

- a. Located in an area highly visible/accessible to the public (10 points)
- b. Educational signage and outreach that features community/public involvement, historic and artistic elements (10 points)
- c. Located in an underserved community as defined by CRWD (5 points)

### **3. Project Innovation (25 points)**

- a. One of the first projects of its kind within CRWD (10 points)
- b. Follow-up monitoring of effectiveness included as part of project (5 points)
- c. Project provides multiple environmental, social and/or economic benefits (5 points)
- d. Likelihood of future acceptance and widespread implementation (5 points)

### **4. Project Readiness (20 points)**

- a. Level of completion of designs, and cost-estimates (10 points)
- b. Matching funds provided for water quality related expenses (5 points)

- c. Landowner endorsements, required approvals and permits secured or will be secured and project likely to be implemented within 2 years (5 points)

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Water Resource Management Effectiveness	30
Education and Demonstration	25
Innovation	25
Project Readiness	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

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