

GREEN GRANTS

City of Chattanooga
Water Quality Program



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Grant Eligibility & Requirements	3
Program Process Evaluation	4
Resources.....	5
Appendix A.....	6
Appendix B.....	11
Appendix C.....	9

Introduction

The City of Chattanooga, through the Water Quality Program (WQP), has created the Green Grants program for property owners who seek to improve water quality and/or go beyond their required Stay-on-Volume (SOV) requirement for a redevelopment or retrofit project. The grant will provide businesses, institutions and other non-single family residential customers funding for the design and construction of green infrastructure (GI) projects on private properties. Examples of GI include, but are not limited to:

- Bioretention
- Pervious Pavement
- Tree Trenches/Boxes
- Green Roofs
- Reduced Impervious Surface
- Capture & Reuse
- Naturalized Basins

Applications will be accepted from September 1st through December 31st of each year. Projects will be evaluated based on a variety of criteria detailed in the Program Process Evaluation section. A selection committee comprised of City staff will evaluate applications. Applicants will be notified no later than three months after submission deadline if they will be awarded any grant funding. All funded projects with structural stormwater controls will be required to record an Inspection and Maintenance Agreement with the property. This is a reimbursement grant. The money will be awarded after the project As-built is approved by the City. The successful construction and ongoing maintenance of GI can also provide the property owner/user with annual Water Quality Fee Discounts (WQFD) and/or SOV Credit Coupons. Receiving a Green Grant does not automatically entitle the property to these additional incentives. Please see the City of Chattanooga's Credits and Incentives Manual for additional information about these incentives.

Objectives

- Increase water quality of Chattanooga's local waterways by focusing efforts on existing sites the currently have little to no water quality/quantity controls.
- Foster community stewardship and enthusiasm for green infrastructure practices.
- Catalyze private interest and spur property owners to invest in green infrastructure retrofits.
- Demonstrate the potential cost effectiveness of green infrastructure over conventional methods.
- Raise awareness for the additional environmental benefits of GI (e.g., better air quality and habitat improvement for wildlife).
- Increase education about the secondary community benefits GI (e.g., job growth, increased property values, health benefits, and increased recreational space).
- Encourage greater use of sustainable development measures for enhancing the environment and neighborhoods in Chattanooga.

Grant Eligibility & Requirements

The maximum amount of funding is \$100,000. No more than 20% of the allocated grant is eligible to fund the conceptual design and engineering for the project.

- The City will provide \$1/square foot of reduced/eliminated imperviousness for projects that have no SOV.
- The City will provide up to \$15/ft³ for the installation of SOV beyond the project's required SOV.

Eligibility

- Any retrofit or redevelopment project on any privately owned commercial, industrial, institutional, or multi-family residential property is eligible to participate in the Green Grants program.
- New development sites are not eligible.
- Properties must be located within the City of Chattanooga limits.
- Government and government-required projects are **not** eligible to participate in the program.

Requirements

- Redevelopment projects have a baseline SOV of 0.5-1.0" as detailed in Sec. 31-313.5.D.i of City Code. Only the SOV obtained over the baseline is eligible for grant funding.
- Retrofit projects have no SOV baseline requirement. However, to qualify for grant funding a retrofit project must manage a minimum SOV of 0.5" from the contributing drainage area.
- Projects without SOV installation must show the water quality enhancements being proposed and the environmental benefits of said project.
- The applicant is responsible for securing all required permits.
- Property owners are required to record a long-term Inspection and Maintenance Agreement (IMA) with the Deed's Office.
- A detailed Inspection and Maintenance Plan of all of the property's stormwater control measures must be approved by the City and recorded with the IMA.

Program Process Evaluation

The City of Chattanooga has a heightened stay-on-volume (SOV) requirement within the South Chickamauga Creek Watershed in order to aid in the protection of habitat for the state threatened Chickamauga Crayfish and federally listed Snail Darter. In addition there is a siltation Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for South Chickamauga Creek which defines the allowable amount of sediment into the creek and assigns a percentage decrease of sediment for the City to achieve. Increased infiltration from GI can naturally feed streams during baseflow conditions through the recharged groundwater. Therefore, projects within the South Chickamauga Creek Watershed are ranked at a higher scale than other applications submitted from other watersheds.

Projects will be evaluated based on the information provided in the Green Grants Application (see Appendix A). The WQP review committee will evaluate proposals and assign grants. The following steps shall be followed.

1. Applicant prepares the application with all supporting documents and submits to the City Of Chattanooga WQP at ChattanoogaWQ@chattanooga.gov. Included with the application must be the following:

- a. Conceptual Site Plan – shall include:
 - i. Location map
 - ii. Location of GI and/or areas for preservation/restoration
 - iii. Direction of flow
 - iv. Labeled features
 - v. Important features of the property (e.g., limiting conditions)
 - vi. Existing trees and stormwater infrastructure
 - b. Maintenance schedule for proposed stormwater control measure/s
 - c. Proposed Budget (including design cost)
2. WQP staff will review application and request additional information as necessary.
 3. WQP staff will perform a site inspection using the Green Grants Scorecard (see Appendix B).
 4. WQP will make an offer of *estimated* financial contribution for the project. Final contributions are determined based on actual SOV managed, square footage of impervious area removed, and/or environmental enhancements achieved.
 5. Applicant must follow the steps for the Land Development Office’s (LDO) 3-phase project development process outlined in chapter 4 of the RMG. Each phase – concept, preliminary, and final – require City review and approval.
 6. Applicant obtains all necessary permits for the project.
 7. Project is constructed and AsBUILTs are submitted for LDO approval.
 8. Upon AsBuilt approval, the reimbursement will be issued.
 9. Applicant can choose to apply for WQFDs or Credit Coupons.

Resources

Resource Rain: Rainwater Management Guide

<http://www.chattanooga.gov/resourcerain>

US Environmental Protection Agency: Green Infrastructure Defined

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm>

City of Chattanooga Credits and Incentives Manual

http://www.chattanooga.gov/images/citymedia/publicworks/CIM_Final_3-3-15_forms_added.pdf

Appendix A

Application Form



City Of Chattanooga

Public Works - Water Quality Program

2016 GREEN GRANTS APPLICATION

Grant applications must be submitted electronically to ChattanoogaWQ@chattanooga.gov with the subject field "Green Grants Application". The email must be less than 10 MB (megabytes).

Applications will be accepted from Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 each year.

Applicant Name:		
E-mail:	Phone:	
Mailing Address:		
City	State	Zip
Property Owner Name (if different than applicant):		
Property Owner E-mail:	Phone:	
Site Address:	Parcel #	
Watershed:		
Total Grant Request: \$	Percent of Total Budget:	

- **Which of the following describes your project?**
 - RETROFIT SOV
 - REDEVELOPMENT Non-SOV

- **Which of the following best describes your site/organization?**
 - NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION
 - COMMUNITY GROUP
 - INDIVIDUAL
 - COMMERCIAL BUSINESS
 - INDUSTRIAL
 - INSTITUTIONAL

- **Additional required information:**
 - CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
 - LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE
 - PROPOSED BUDGET (including engineering & design costs)

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Answer the following questions using additional pages (**3 page max**).

1. Briefly explain the project's pre-development conditions and current usage.
2. Explain the project's planned post-development conditions. This narrative should be clearly illustrated on the conceptual site plan.
3. Describe the project objectives in light of improving the environment and neighborhood. How will these be met?
4. Outline the scope of work, being sure to include a project timeline. Note any in-kind contributions and planned monitoring efforts?
5. Does the project include partners? If so, describe the role of each.
6. Explain how the project will include community participation and education and indicate by what means (e.g., community events, press releases, project signage, presentations, etc.).
7. How will this build support for local water quality efforts?
8. Define project success and how it will be measured for both the immediate impacts and long-term goals.
9. Why is this project important to do now?
10. What is your project timeline?

Applicant Name:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix B

Green Grants Scorecard

Green Grants Evaluation Scorecard

Project Title: _____

Score based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 “not meeting objectives” and 5 “meeting all objectives”. Use the space provided to comment on how you decided on each score.

1. Does this project meet the requirements of the program and has the applicant submitted all the required documentation? Score: _____
2. Are the objectives clear from the project narrative? Are they achievable? Score: _____
3. Does the conceptual site plan thoroughly illustrate the project narrative? Score: _____
4. Does it offer public accessibility or have high visibility? Score: _____
5. Does the project have SOV and/or does it have additional WQ benefits? Score: _____
6. Has the applicant secured community support and/or additional partners? Score: _____
7. Are there outreach and education components and are they practical? Score: _____
8. Is the timeline acceptable? Score: _____
9. Is the project cost-effective? Does the proposed budget make sense? Score: _____
10. Is the maintenance plan comprehensive and reasonable? Score: _____

Total Score: _____

Evaluator: _____

Date: _____

Appendix C

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are non-profits eligible?
 - a. Yes
2. Are private schools eligible?
 - a. Yes
3. Are mixed-used development projects eligible?
 - a. Yes.
4. Are single family residential (SFR) developments eligible?
 - a. No. The long term operation and maintenance of stormwater control structures is a difficult responsibility to place on single family residential customers. In addition, residential property owners are billed a flat rate for the water quality fee (\$115.20/yr) and do not have their impervious area measured; therefore, they are currently not eligible to receive Water Quality Fee Discounts or Credit Coupons. In addition, SFR properties are not required to comply with the City's SOV requirements unless they are part of a larger common plan of development in which the entire site (i.e., subdivision) would be required to comply with the standards. This is typically done on community lots owned by an entity.
5. Are condominiums/multi-family residential developments eligible?
 - a. Yes. Apartments and condo units are built with the same requirements for water quality and water quantity as are other non-residential sites (e.g., commercial, industrial, etc.).

5. Are condos or multifamily buildings eligible?

Yes - Most apartment buildings and all condos are classified as non-residential and are eligible to apply for stormwater grants. Residential property is defined as property used exclusively for residential purposes with at least one and no more than four dwelling units.

6. Can a nonprofit organization apply for the Grant for a stormwater project that is located on City owned land (e.g. a park)?

No – stormwater grants are aimed towards helping commercial customers. The plans on offering other opportunities to parties interested in working on City-owned land.

7. Is an organization with a long term lease on City-owned property (30 plus years) eligible to apply for grants?

Entities that have long term leases are encouraged to contact us before applying.

8. If an organization is doing a substantial renovation project (e.g. charter school construction or rehabilitation) that involves more than just a stormwater project, should it carve out the stormwater component for the grant application?

Yes – An applicant can only receive stormwater grant funding to support the stormwater component of the project. Additionally, the stormwater component of the project is only eligible for grant funding if it is not required under Stormwater Regulations or if the proposed system goes above and beyond the management requirements (please refer below to question 9).

9. What is the difference between a 'Retrofit Project' and a 'Redevelopment Project'? Are 'Redevelopment Projects' eligible for grant funding?

A 'Retrofit Project' refers to voluntarily modifying and updating a property solely for the purpose of

managing stormwater. A ‘Redevelopment Project’ refers to a construction project, for example building a new warehouse, apartment building or renovating an existing property. Stormwater Regulations can require certain Development Projects to manage stormwater. Grants will not pay for stormwater management requirements triggered by Development Projects. Grants will pay for components of a required system that go above and beyond the management requirements, e.g., if a detention system is re-designed to handle street runoff, the grant could pay for the difference.

10. What are concept design drawings?

A concept drawing shows the vision of the project. It outlines the proposed stormwater project and the areas of the property it will manage. It does not need to be a complete engineering design drawing, but likely needs to be prepared with the assistance of a design professional. The major points that need to be captured in the concept design drawing are:

What are the stormwater management practices?

How does the site manage stormwater? (e.g. infiltration, detention, etc.)

What areas of the property are being managed by stormwater practices?

11. What entity will make award decisions?

Water Quality Program retains the sole discretion to evaluate proposals, make recommendations and provide grants.

12. What happens if a property owner eventually demolishes and rebuilds on a property which has Grant funded green stormwater infrastructure?

The property owner is legally obligated to operate and maintain the stormwater management system constructed with the grant proceeds for the duration of time specified in the Operations and Maintenance Agreement. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the volume managed on the site is maintained, so if redevelopment occurs the stormwater project will need to be replaced elsewhere on site.

13. Can the application be submitted via email or must the applicant submit the application electronically? Yes, the WQP will accept applications via email, CD or flash drive.

14. Is there a minimum or maximum grant award amount?

Yes, the maximum an applicant can receive is \$100,000 there is no minimum at this time.

15. Will grants be released during design and construction?

No, WQP will disburse funds after the as-built has been approved by LDO. Invoices and/or receipts must be provided to document expenses.

16. Is a project more competitive if it diverts water from publicly owned streets in addition to the privately owned property?

Yes – Please refer to the Green Grants Evaluation Scorecard.

17. What is the relationship between grants and stormwater credits?

Grantees will be eligible for the stormwater credits program once construction is complete and the stormwater as-built has been approved by the City. Grantees must complete a Stormwater Credit Application to receive credit. For more information about Stormwater Credits please visit