Department of Energy and Environment
RiverSmart Communities
Demonstration Program

Overview

The District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), Watershed Protection Division’s 2021 RiverSmart Communities Grant Program is now accepting online applications through the Anacostia Watershed Societies website. Eligible applicants will include 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and houses of worship. Qualifying projects include the installation of practices that will reduce pollution to local waterways, reduce their stormwater fees, and educate the public about water pollution. The RiverSmart Communities program focuses on effective stormwater treatment and emphasizes community engagement and outreach which enriches the community appreciation for stormwater practices.

Note: this grant program will not fund projects that are required to meet stormwater regulations. All projects must be voluntarily installed by each selected applicant.

RiverSmart Communities is a true partnership effort. In the 2021 grant cycle, The District will fund a limited number of projects each typically ranging in cost between $20k and $40k. Our goal is to reduce stormwater pollution from selected non-profit organizations or houses of worship, beautifying their property while potentially reducing their stormwater fees. In return, the selected organizations will reach out to the communities that they serve – educating them about water pollution, ways that they can help address it, and District programs that help finance stormwater retrofits.

Applicants wishing to install stormwater practices on their property through this exciting program must 1) provide a plan for reaching their audience through outreach and engagement opportunities, and 2) demonstrate their ability and long-term commitment to maintain the installed stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Eligible BMPs include, but are not limited to, shade trees, rain gardens/bioretention cells, impervious surface removal and replacement with permeable/vegetated surfaces, rain barrels/cisterns which can drain to other BMPs, stormwater planters, and bioswales. To find out more information about stormwater management practices please visit http://www.cwp.org/stormwater-management/.

The RiverSmart Communities Demonstration Program is administered by the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS). Applicants will be selected based on the environmental benefits of their project, their plan for community engagement, project visibility, their commitment to project maintenance, project cost effectiveness, and feasibility.
How can this program help reduce the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) on your water bill? Green infrastructure projects installed as part of this program will count towards eligibility for the mitigation requirements of the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program. When feasible, projects will be designed to treat the runoff from a minimum of 10% of the property’s impervious surfaces. CRIAC relief applicants also need to demonstrate they qualify based on financial hardship. For information about the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program and to see if your organization qualifies for a credit of up to 90% of the CRIAC charge, visit https://doee.dc.gov/service/clean-rivers-impervious-area-charge-nonprofit-relief-program.

Anticipated Timeline:

- Online Application period begins: October 15th, 2020
- Online Application due date: Close of Business November 16th, 2020
- Virtual Application Q & A meeting: November 5th, 2020
- Anticipated awards announced: December 2020
- Kickoff Meetings with awarded applicants: January 2021
- Concept Design: February - April 2021
- Engagement Letters signed agreeing to work: April 2021
- Construction Document Work/Permitting/Project Bidding: April 2021 - September 2021
- Project Installations: October – December 2021

Complete applications online at anacostiaws.org/riversmart.

Send questions to:
Bryan McKnight, Anacostia Watershed Society bmcknight@anacostiaws.org
4302 Baltimore Avenue Bladensburg, MD. 20710 fax: 301.699.3317

***Feel free to contact Bryan McKnight with any questions. Sample applications from previous years are available upon request.

For general questions about DOEE’s other RiverSmart Programs, contact Andrew Oetman at Andrew.oetman@dc.gov
2020 RiverSmart Communities Program

Application Instructions: Answers must use the online Google Form

The Google Form application will ask for the Name of Organization, Address of Proposed Site, City, State, Zip: Phone; and your Watershed (Anacostia, Rock Creek, or Potomac)

If unsure, find out at http://geospatial.dcgis.dc.gov/WatershedFinder/

Participating Team- Please provide into the Google online application the information requested in the example table below. Teams must include at least the site owner, a person that has the authority to approve capital improvement projects on the property, and at least three other concerned individuals (minimum of 4 individuals) such as the building manager, maintenance/grounds representative, community member, or board member. Designate one person as the overall project lead.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
<th>Project Role(s)</th>
<th>Email address</th>
<th>Phone number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site Owner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approves capital improvement projects</td>
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</table>

*Note: Please contact DOEE or AWS if a new person has been added or removed from the team.*
**Application Instructions:** Answers must use the online Google Form

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**Letter(s) of Support**

A letter of support for your application must be provided by the organization’s governing body that approves Capital Improvement Projects on the property. For all selected awardees, there will be a formal meeting with this governing body to approve the project concept before final designs are submitted for permitting. Additional letter(s) of support from partner organizations and/or community members are encouraged but not required.

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**Current Site Conditions & Context**

Are there any expected plans for new construction at your location in the next 5 years? If so, where? If future plans could impact your project area, this could disqualify your project site.

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Project area details. If available, please provide the following information:

- A rough estimate of the size of the total property. Your total property area can be found at [https://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com/RP_Search.jsp?search_type=Sales](https://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com/RP_Search.jsp?search_type=Sales).
- A rough estimate of the impervious surface area of your property (asphalt, rooftops, concrete, etc.). This can be found near the top of your DC Water bill after “Impervious Surface Square Footage.”
- Is the site in a historic district? If you are unsure just say “unsure”.

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Please include wide-angle photos of the property to this application (You may attach photos in jpeg/png format or paste photos directly into your application). If you have ideas for work at a specific location be sure to include photos for that area. Label the photos to aid in our understanding. These photos could include downspouts, problem areas where rain water doesn’t soak in or where dirt washes away, etc. If possible, please attach a Google aerial photo image of your site with potential locations of BMPs.
Application Instructions: Answers must use the online Google Form

**Stormwater Management Design**

Eligible stormwater practices include, but are not limited to, shade trees, rain gardens/bioretention cells, impervious surface removal and replacement with pervious/vegetated surfaces, cisterns that drain to other BMPs, stormwater planters, and swales.

Do you have any particular green infrastructure projects in mind for your site? Please reference the appendix in this application for possible types. If so, please elaborate. Do you have any particular BMP projects that you would not want to undertake? (A preconceived project concept is not required to participate in the RiverSmart Communities Demonstration program)

**Outreach and Education through Demonstration activities**

Describe your organization and its community.

a. What kind of activities are offered through your organization? How many people typically participate in your organization’s activities or visit your organization on a weekly basis?

b. Describe the neighborhood and/or community that you are a part of. Who are they, what do they value, and how they might benefit from this project? How is your organization connected with your neighborhood and/or community?

Provide a community engagement plan that identifies the educational and outreach activities you will undertake to accompany the stormwater project installation. Please include:

a. an expected timeline.

b. the team members responsible to insure execution of the plan?

c. your target audience(s)

d. organizations, volunteers, or businesses from the surrounding community that could be involved in your project. Have they already agreed to participate? (Please attach any letters of support.)

Do you have matching funds to contribute and/or available volunteer hours (Additional funds are not required to participate in the RiverSmart Communities: Demonstration program)?
**Application Instructions:** Answers must use the online Google Form

**Maintenance of Best Management Practices**

Successful applicants must be able to clearly demonstrate that the installed BMP(s) will be maintained indefinitely by a dedicated group of project participants or subcontracted to a qualified service. AWS and DOEE are not responsible for the maintenance of any installed BMPs. Please provide information for how the BMP(s) installed on your property will be maintained and who on the project team is ultimately responsible for maintenance. Note maintenance table below.

**Goals**

What is the mission of your organization and how will this project enhance and benefit your organization’s mission or goals?

Does your organization plan to apply for CRIAC relief? If so, please tell us what percent the CRIAC fee for your location is of your total annual revenue. For example, a $2500 annual CRIAC fee would be 2.5% of annual revenue of $100k. (Enrolling in the CRIAC relief program is not required to participate in the RiverSmart Communities: Demonstration program.)

End of Application Instructions
**Application Award Selection:** All applications will be reviewed and assessed by a selection committee composed of an AWS staff & management, DOEE staff, and representatives from local organizations. The selection committee will evaluate the applications for potential projects based on both technical and non-technical criteria as noted in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technical Assessment</strong></td>
<td>· Potential to treat and/or retain stormwater runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Cost &amp; feasibility of implementation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Commitment and capability for long-term maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-technical Assessment</strong></td>
<td>· Visibility of the project, proximity to other RSC locations, and potential to be seen by constituents of host organization and the broader community</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Strength of the education &amp; outreach plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· Strength of the support team</td>
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<td>· Consistency with mission &amp; letters of support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>· CRIAC financial burden</td>
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**Complete applications online. Send questions to:**

Bryan McKnight, Anacostia Watershed Society [bmcknight@anacostiaws.org](mailto:bmcknight@anacostiaws.org)
4302 Baltimore Avenue Bladensburg, MD. 20710 fax: 301.699.3317
# EXAMPLES OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMP type</th>
<th>Maintenance may include:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rain gardens/bioretenion cells</td>
<td>Weeding, watering, maintaining infiltration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impervious surface removal and replacement</td>
<td>Weeding, watering</td>
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<tr>
<td>with pervious/vegetated surfaces</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swales</td>
<td>Weeding, watering, prevent blockage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisterns</td>
<td>Emptying before winter or when full, cleaning gutters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater planters</td>
<td>Weeding, watering, maintaining infiltration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pervious or permeable pavement</td>
<td>Sweeping, cleaning, maintaining infiltration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>