



Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grant Guidelines for 2011 Round

Goals and Purposes of Watershed Restoration grants

Watershed Restoration grants are available to non-profit organizations, county & municipal governments, and other related government agencies to undertake implementation projects that will improve the quality and quantity of water in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. The goal of the Schuylkill River Restoration Program is to fund projects in the Schuylkill River Basin that are consistent with restoration and water management goals for the Schuylkill River.

New Pilot funding area for 2011

--LAND TRANSACTION ASSISTANCE--

A small portion of this year's grant funds will be targeted to assist Land Trusts with the transaction costs associated with the preservation of targeted lands within priority watersheds. A separate set of guidelines has been established for this program. Please contact the Schuylkill River Heritage Area for more information.

Funding Priorities

Projects must fit into one of the following three funding priorities:

General Funding Area – Funding will be given to projects that mitigate water quality and quantity problems in the Schuylkill River watershed resulting from acid mine drainage, agricultural runoff, and stormwater issues.

Focus Area 1: Perkiomen Creek - At least 10% of available Exelon funds may be targeted toward implementation projects within the Perkiomen watershed. Eligible projects in the Perkiomen Creek Watershed may include stormwater management, agricultural runoff mitigation, and pathogen remediation.

Focus Area 2: Philadelphia Water Supply - A portion of the available funds will be set aside for projects that are able to demonstrate direct protection of the Philadelphia drinking water supply. Eligible projects will address stormwater management, agriculture runoff mitigation and pathogen remediation directly upstream of, within the drainage of, or in areas of significant influence on the Philadelphia drinking water intakes in the Schuylkill River.

Evaluation Process

Projects will be evaluated in a two-step process that includes (1) a letter of intent followed by (2) an invitation to submit a full application if the letter of intent is recommended by the Advisory Committee.

Criteria

Evaluation factors include:

- The project's ability to improve the quality and quantity of water in the Schuylkill River;
- The project exhibits high standards of planning and design, including implementation of Best Management Practices;
- The relationship to previous watershed restoration efforts within a particular area;
- The project is consistent with local, state, federal, or other plans;
- The project is positioned for implementation with little or no additional planning;
- The project is single-phased or in the final phase of implementation.
Projects that will require multiple phases to have demonstrable affects on water quality or quantity will not be considered unless the submitted phase will result in measurable improvements;
- The project will require minimal monitoring following completion to demonstrate positive environmental effects;
- The project will effectively leverage the resources of two or more partners, including a sponsoring partner with sufficient capacity to manage the project following completion or will utilize volunteers;
- How the project will impact low income or minority populations.

Award Amounts

- Grant applicants may request between \$25,000 and \$100,000.
- Applicants working in the Perkiomen Creek Watershed may request between \$5,000 and \$100,000.

Match Requirements

- All projects require a minimum of 25% match.
- Cash and in kind services are eligible match sources. However, projects showing high levels of cash Match will be given priority in the ranking and grant award process.
- Matching funds derived from private, non-governmental sources are encouraged, but not required.

Grant Period

All projects must be completed by December 31, 2013.

Eligible Expenses

Grant funds may be used for the following purposes:

- Implementation: Includes labor, materials, signage, site preparation, permit fees, and any other "hard costs."
- Project management: Up to 10% of the grant award may be utilized for direct costs associated with project management by the applicant or subcontractor.
Eligible project management expenses include: subcontractor/consultant fees, salary for organizational staff responsible for project implementation, travel, meeting expenses and other direct costs.
- If a project has remaining design issues that need to be completed prior to implementation, the review committee will consider this as an eligible expense on a case by case basis. However, the applicant must demonstrate that the project's implementation phase will still be completed during the three year grant period.

Grant funds may NOT be used for the following purposes:

- Land acquisition
- Projects that are being undertaken to satisfy local, state, or federal regulatory requirements.

Contractor Selection:

All contractors working on projects funded by a grant through this program must be selected by a competitive process. Applicants who desire to use specific contractors not selected competitively, may request approval to do so from the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. The Schuylkill River Heritage Area reserves the right to review and approve all selected contractors.

Letter of Intent Process

Organizations must submit one (1) hard copy of their letter of intent as well as an electronic copy tfenichel@schuylkillriver.org.

The letter of intent shall be no longer than two (2) pages, should be on company letterhead and must include the following:

- Project Name and location
- Project Director and contact information
- Brief summary of the project
- Objectives of project and how it meets the program guidelines and criteria
- Estimated grant request and matching fund sources

Full Application Process

Invited organizations should submit two (2) original hard copies of their full application. This application will include:

- A Cover Letter
- Completed application form. Two pages
- Project narrative that is a maximum of five (5) pages
- Attachments as noted in narrative

Copies should **NOT** be stapled but bound by paperclip and/or butterfly clip. Applicants should also submit an electronic copy of their full application no later than the application date of May 25, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Application narratives longer than five pages WILL NOT be considered for funding.

Applicants who are invited to submit a full application will also be expected to present their proposed project to the Advisory Committee. These presentations will be held during the month of June at the offices of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

2011 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grant Timeline

- February 11: Application materials available online at www.schuylkillriver.org
- March 24: Letters of Intent due to SRHA by 4:00 p.m.
- April 18: Invitation to submit Full Application notice sent
- May 25: Final applications due to SRHA by 4:00 p.m.

Full Applications are due to the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, Attn: Grants Program Coordinator, 140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464 by 4:00 p.m. on May 25, 2011.

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