



Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grant Program

Grant Guidelines for 2010 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.

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.

A portion of the overall fund will be targeted to focus areas in the watershed:

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.

Projects that are being undertaken to satisfy local, state, or federal regulatory requirements are not eligible for funding.

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. 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 effects 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.

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.

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 \$1 of matching funds for every \$3 of grant funds (25%). The grant award may not exceed 75% of the total project cost.
- Cash and donated products/professional services are eligible match sources.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** IN-KIND services and match are now considered ELIGIBLE match for this grant program. However, projects showing high levels of Cash Match will be given priority in the ranking and grant award process.
- All public and private sources are considered eligible matching funds.
- Matching funds derived from private, non-governmental sources are encouraged, but not required.

Grant Period

All projects must be completed within three (3) years. Grants awarded during the 2010 cycle are required to be completed by December 31, 2012.

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 projects 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.
- Indirect Costs

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.

Source of Funds/Restrictions:

Watershed Restoration Grants are funded by Exelon Nuclear and the Philadelphia Water Department through the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund. These funds are derived from private and public sources and may be used as match for other funding sources.

Letter of Intent Process

Organizations must submit (1) one hard copy of their Letter of Intent as well as submission of an electronic copy of the LOI to tfenichel@schuylkillriver.org. Both hard copy and electronic copy must be received no later than 4:00 PM on March 25, 2009.

The Letter of Intent shall be no longer than (3) three pages, should be on company letterhead and must include the following:

- Project Name and location
- Project Director and contact information
- Brief description of project scope and how it meets the program guidelines and criteria
- Estimated grant request
- Projected partners and matching funds
- A map locating the project/property in its watershed

Full Application Process

Eligible organizations should submit (2) original hard copies of their full application including a Cover Letter, completed application form, project narrative that is a maximum of five (5) pages, not including cover letter, and financial information. 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 27, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

All applications should include the following:

- Name of applicant organization
- Name of Project Director
- Contact information for Project Director
- Project name
- Project location (include municipality and county)
- Total project budget
- Amount of grant requested
- Potential partner organizations
- Complete list of matching fund sources. Please delineate between cash match and In kind match
- Project Description:
 - What do you propose to do?
 - How will results be measured and monitored, and how will success be demonstrated?
 - How will it improve the quality and or quantity of water in the Schuylkill River or its tributaries?
 - How does your project correlate to previous restoration efforts in the watershed?
- Project Type:
 - Please list:
 - General Funding Area - AMD, Ag, Stormwater
 - Focus Area 1 – Ag, Stormwater, Pathogen
 - Focus Area 2 – Ag, Stormwater, Pathogen

- Project Photographs/topographic maps/sketches/sealed drawings:
 - It is highly recommended that you include photographs of the property/project site. Topographic maps, sketches, drawings or any other visual displays that will help the review committee understand the project better are also suggested.

2010 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grant Timeline

- February 8: Application materials available online at www.schuylkillriver.org
- March 25: Letters of Intent due to SRHA by 4:00 p.m.
- April 21: Invitation to submit Full Application notice sent
- May 27: 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 27, 2010.

For more information contact:

Schuylkill River Heritage Area.140 College Drive • Pottstown, PA 19464 • 484-945-0200
Fax 484-945-0204 • tfenchel@schuylkillriver.org