



## Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure

### Developers' Green Infrastructure Grants Program

#### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Who is eligible to apply for the developers' green infrastructure grants?**

Developers, corporations, private non-profit organizations, or other private-sector entities

At least two private sector development or redevelopment projects will be selected.

#### **Are there specific areas of the state where a project must be located?**

Yes. Eligible projects must be located within one of two [target areas](#).

The William Penn Foundation, which funds the Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure program, directs resources to protecting the Delaware River watershed and ensuring an adequate supply of clean water through the [Delaware River Watershed Initiative](#). This initiative focuses its work in eight clusters of Delaware River sub-watersheds, and two of those clusters – the New Jersey [Highlands cluster](#) and the [Kirkwood Cohansey Aquifer cluster](#) – are in New Jersey. Eligible projects must lie within the Delaware River Initiative Area in one of those two regions. Preference will be given to projects that **also lie in a growth area** designated by a municipal or regional master plan.

#### **What qualifies as green stormwater infrastructure?**

Green infrastructure is “an approach to stormwater management that is cost effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure practices capture, filter, absorb and reuse stormwater to help restore the natural water cycle by reducing stormwater runoff, promoting infiltration, and enhancing evapotranspiration.”<sup>1</sup> Examples include bioretention, green roofs, pervious pavement, vegetated swales and cisterns. Green infrastructure practices range in size from modest downspout planters to large underground storage systems that capture stormwater to infiltrate slowly or re-use for irrigation, industrial cooling, flushing toilets, washing vehicles and any number of other uses. Whether through groundwater recharge or capture and re-use, green infrastructure treats stormwater as a precious resource.

#### **Should projects show green infrastructure integrated into a building or standalone installations such as a rain garden or bioswale?**

Projects may incorporate any and all types of green infrastructure. Projects with a variety of green infrastructure practices that confer a variety of benefits are preferred. For projects not yet fully designed, applicants may indicate what types of green infrastructure practices they would like to incorporate, and offer ideas about where and how. Our technical and design experts can work with your team to help turn an aspirational concept plan into a real, workable plan.

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<sup>1</sup> “Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual for New Jersey,” Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

**How far along does a plan or project need to be?**

Projects can be conceptual or in design, provided the opportunity exists to add or enhance stormwater management with green infrastructure practices. The project sponsor will commit to making every effort to meet the following timeframe:

- Fully-engineered site plan within six months of receiving technical assistance funding
- Site plan approvals and permits within 14 months of receiving technical assistance funding
- Construction started before July 2020.

**What is the best way to demonstrate quantifiable beneficial impact on water quality? Is there a specific standard you expect projects to meet?**

Every project is different, but all should be capable of retaining and managing at least 100 percent of stormwater on site for a “water quality storm” (1.25 inches of rainfall over two hours). Here are a few hypothetical examples of the types of projects that would be suitable for submission:

- A redevelopment project near a key, vulnerable river or stream that eliminates runoff from the site through the use of infiltration, thus helping recharge groundwater, and that also captures water to reuse for irrigation or other purposes, enabling the property owner to conserve water.
- A road or park project that eliminates a nuisance flooding problem or prevents uncontrolled runoff into a high-value stream by redirecting stormwater into swales, tree pits and/or bioretention basins.
- A school that employs multiple techniques, such as: converts parking from impervious pavement into permeable pavers; converts a large expanse of lawn to meadow; plants trees in or near a parking lot to provide shade; and/or disconnects gutters from a storm sewer system and channels water instead to a rain garden. For school submissions, evidence that green infrastructure practices have been integrated into curricula will be given additional consideration.

**What types of projects is New Jersey Future looking for? Should the project already have green infrastructure features or is it more important to demonstrate an ability and a willingness to incorporate them?**

New Jersey Future seeks to facilitate impressive, high-profile projects that show innovative and effective use of green infrastructure in private-sector settings. Projects can be conceptual, in design, or even fully engineered -- provided (a) the opportunity exists (and the project sponsor is motivated) to add or enhance stormwater management with green infrastructure practices, and (b) the project sponsor wants and intends to start construction within 24 months.

**Who will choose the winning projects?**

The winners will be chosen by New Jersey Future and its technical consultants.

**Will winning projects receive funding?**

Support for winning projects will come in the form of design, finance and/or legal consulting services valued at up to \$25,000 to help develop, present and implement detailed plans that demonstrate innovation and design excellence, as well as technical, financial and regulatory feasibility. Assistance will come from experts identified and paid by New Jersey Future. The specific services or work products that technical assistance funds may be used for will be agreed upon by the applicant and New Jersey Future.

Examples include, but are not limited to, detailed engineering plans prepared by an engineer or design team agreeable to NJF and the applicant; renderings and/or functional diagrams to help the applicant present a persuasive case to a municipal planning board and the public; feasibility study to evaluate short- and long-term costs and benefits of specific green infrastructure practices on a given site; legal or financing advice or services to help overcome permitting obstacles or other barriers.

Selected projects also will receive media exposure and other positive publicity through New Jersey Future's website, social media, Future Facts electronic newsletter and a press release circulated to local and regional media.

**Who will receive the consulting funds? How will that decision be made?**

New Jersey Future will be flexible on where the consulting funds flow. New Jersey Future has design Consultants—and potentially legal consultants, as needed—to provide technical assistance and advice to the applicant's design team. At New Jersey Future's discretion, up to 85% of funds can be directed to an applicant as reimbursement for costs paid to the applicant's design team for an innovative, cutting-edge design, or for costs paid to others employed by the applicant to overcome implementation obstacles. Applicants should confer with New Jersey Future to determine if the scope of work and professionals employed will qualify for this reimbursement.

**What is the due date for applications and the overall program timeframe?**

New Jersey Future will accept project proposals through Monday, November 19, 2018. Winning projects will be selected by Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

**Applicants must be willing to sign an agreement with New Jersey Future. What is the purpose of that?**

The agreement will define and formalize the obligations of both parties. It will stipulate, for example, the kinds of technical, financial and legal expertise New Jersey Future will provide (up to \$25,000). It will also define the project sponsor's commitments – for example, that the sponsor will make every effort to meet a relatively aggressive timeframe, that the sponsor is willing to adopt a maintenance plan for green infrastructure installations, and is willing to deed-restrict the area immediately underlying a green infrastructure feature such as a bioretention basin or permeable pavement portion of a parking lot.