Ecosystem Restoration Grant Opportunities

Fiscal Year 2018





Ecosystem Restoration Grant Opportunities – FY 2018

Ecosystem Restoration Grant RFP - est. \$3.1 million

Standard grant program

Release May 22

Batch review - July 5

Announce approximately July 28*

River Corridor Easement RFP – est. \$325,000

Released May 10

Due June 20

Announce approximately June 30



Ecosystem Restoration Grant Opportunities – FY 2018

Block grant Program – est. \$2 million

Construction of priority projects statewide –Step 3/"Go-list"

Additional projects continually recruited for database

Release of RFP - May 22 for process only

Due June 5

<u>Municipal Roads Grant-in-aid Pilot - est. \$2.5 million</u>

Support for municipalities to implement road BMPs by directly distributing funds

Implementation – approximately May 30

Other categories

Clean Water Fund Partner support – est. \$592,000 Direct Grants – est. \$597,00 Direct Contracts – est.\$314,000

- 1. Grant application manual
- 2. Grant Award timeline
- 3. Funding sources, amounts, priorities
- 4. Equipment grants
- 5. Watershed Project database
- 6. ANR Atlas Map requirement
- 7. Operations and maintenance
- 8. Milestones and deliverables
- 9. Grant reporting
- 10. Signage
- 11. Application







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2. Grant Award Timeline

Grant Round	Deadline for Batch Review	Notification of Awards
Round 1	July 5, 2017	July 28, 2017
Round 2	September 19, 2017	October 17, 2017
Round 3	December 15, 2017	January 22, 2018
Round 4 (if funds remain)	March 15, 2018	April 9, 2018



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3. Funding Sources, Amounts, and Priorities

- Capital Construction Fund
- Clean Water Fund

Funding Source	Amount
Funding Source	Amount
FY2017 Reserve for Final FY17 Grant Round	\$1,700,000
Ecosystem Restoration Grants & Block Grants – Capital Funds	\$6,000,000
Clean Water Fund Allocation – Adjusted	\$1,716,378
Total	\$9,416,378



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3. Funding Sources, Amounts, and **Priorities**

- <u>Tier 1 costs</u>: Regulatory cost of compliance with federal and state-required clean water plans, known as total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, compliance with Act 64 of 2015, and the 2016 Combined Sewer Overflow Policy;
- Identified in the Tactical Basin Planning
- <u>Pollution reduction potential</u>: The estimated nutrient pollutant reduction (i.e., phosphorus or nitrogen) expected to occur through project implementation. Nutrient pollutant reduction estimates are modeled using DEC's BMP Accounting and Tracking Tool (BATT) within the Watershed Project Database.
- <u>Project Readiness</u> The determination of a project's readiness for timely implementation, with consideration of the ability to permit the project if a permit is required, confirmation of state support, and documentation of local support for project implementation and long term operation and maintenance.
- <u>Budget and cost-effectiveness</u>: Screening for projects that achieve maximum pollutant reduction results and environmental co-benefits, such as flood resilience and habitat function, for the lowest possible cost.
- Targets Impaired Waters: Addresses sources of water pollution in waters listed as impaired (33 U.S.C. §1313(d).

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3. Funding Sources, Amounts, and **Priorities**Private Land

- Applications to construct clean water improvement projects on private land are eligible for ecosystem restoration funds.
- DEC places municipal project proposals at a higher priority for funding than similar projects on private property.
- Applicants seeking ecosystem restoration funds for stormwater mitigation projects on private land or for road BMPs on private roads will need to:
 - (a) demonstrate that the project will address a significant water quality concern;
 - (b) (b) ensure that the project is not for achieving compliance with a state permit or state order; and
 - (c) (c) include an operations and management plan for the life of the project (a minimum of 10 years).



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4. Equipment Grants

- \$100,000 available for equipment grants
- Required match

Large munis (>5,000) – 50%

Smaller munis/shared – 20%

Operation and maintenance required

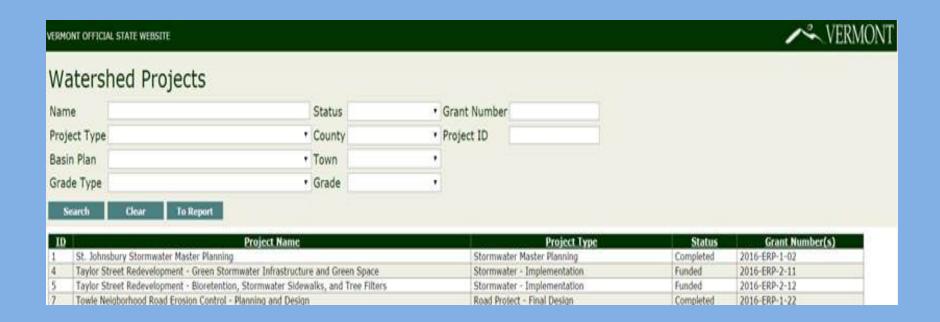
Must demonstrate ongoing use past grant funds (may request an annual report)



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5. The Watershed Projects Database

- All projects must be entered into the database by your project's Watershed Coordinator and given an ID number
- Projects are categorized within the database by their sector and step.

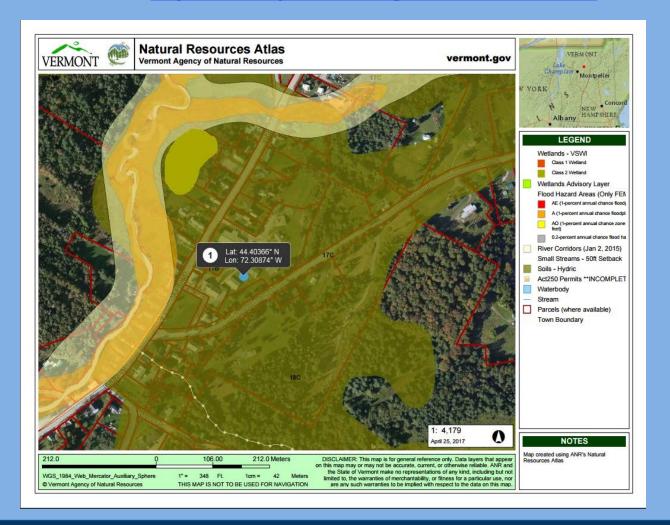




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6. The ANR Atlas Map Requirement

- Requirement for all project types
- ANR Atlas link: http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra5/





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7. Operations and Maintenance agreements

- Implementation projects require a letter of commitment for project operation and maintenance
- Other project proposals that include a letter of commitment to provide operation and maintenance will receive a higher evaluation score
- Operation and maintenance plan must be approved by DEC and business office
- May require future annual reporting (may be part of the grant agreement)



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8. Performance measures, milestones and deliverables

(a) Performance measures – applicant uses those attached to each project type

Stormwater	Stormwater - Final Design	2	Number of 100% designs completed

(b) Milestones and deliverables – pre-selected for each project type

			I roject comprete	" I mai I efformation report , press release
Storn			Project initiated; required permits secured	Permit documentation, including locator map
	Stormwater	Stormwater - Final Design created and signed	Operation and maintenance plan created and signed	2. Signed 10-year minimum operation and maintenance plan
			3. 100% design completed	3. Final Design Report (includes synthesis of prior completed project deliverables, 100% designs, written landowner commitment to implement project, and final cost-estimate)
			4. Project complete	4. Final Performance Report**; press release, additional publicity



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9. Tracking and Reporting on Clean Water Restoration Efforts within the Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program:

Best Management Practice (BMP) Reporting

These two project types are **required** to submit additional reporting data at the close of their grant:

River - Planting

Stormwater - Implementation

Cicaii Water
Outreach
Efforts online
nFORM

Clean Water

Funding Amount

Project
Performance
Measures

New

Best Management Practice Reporting

BMI Repo		Applicable BMPs	Required Data (in addition to location and land use information)
А	 Gravel wetlands Sand filters Wet ponds Infiltration trenches Surface infiltration projects Porous pavement with subsurface infiltration Porous pavement with an underliner and underdrain 		BMP Storage Volume
В			BMP Storage Volume BMP Infiltration Rate
С			BMP Filter Course Depth
D			Total acreage, length, and average width

The information from these BMP reports are loaded into the Watershed Projects Database and used to calculate nutrient load reductions



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10. Project signage

- Section 35a of the Vermont Legislature Capital Bill (H. 519) requires signage to be installed at clean water projects funded by the state.
- Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in collaboration with the Secretaries of Natural Resources and of Transportation, shall develop a plan for signage to identify any clean water projects funded by the State. The signage shall include uniform language and a logo to identify the projects. The signage shall be displayed in a location as visible to the public as possible for the duration of the construction phase of the project.
- Funds appropriated for water quality projects shall be used to pay the costs associated with the signage in accordance with the plan.
- Applicants may be required to use signage as part of their projects in FY18. Details are to be determined and will be included in development of the grant agreement.



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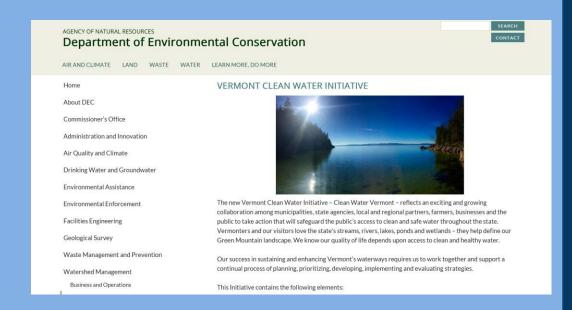


Questions... Contact us!!

Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program

marli.rupe@vermont.gov Emily.bird@Vermont.gov david.pasco@vermont.gov

www.cleanwater.vermont.gov
http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi



Thank you for joining us for this webinar!







- 1. Three different applications
- 2. Funding Sources, Amounts, and Priorities

3. The Watershed Projects Database

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3. The Watershed Projects Database

- All projects must be entered into the database by your project's Watershed Coordinator and given an ID number
- Projects are categorized within the database by their sector and step.

Table of Project Types

Agricultural Pollution Prevention - Identification	Lake Shoreland - Preliminary Design	Floodplain/Stream Restoration - Final Design	Road Project - Implementation
Agricultural Pollution Prevention - Preliminary Design	Lake Shoreland - Final Design	River Corridor Easement - Design	Stormwater/Roads - Equipment
Agricultural Pollution Prevention - Final Design	Lake Shoreland - Implementation	Dam Removal - Implementation	Stormwater - IDDE
Agricultural Pollution Prevention - Implementation	River Project - Identification	Floodplain/Stream Restoration - Implementation	Stormwater Master Plan
Agricultural Pollution Prevention - Equipment	Stream Geomorphic Assessment Phase 1	River - Planting	Stormwater - Preliminary Design
Forestry - Identification	Stream Geomorphic Assessment Phase 2	River Corridor Easement - Implementation	Stormwater - Final Design
Forestry - Design	River Corridor Plan	Road Erosion Control Inventory	Stormwater - Implementation
Forestry - Implementation	Dam Removal - Preliminary Design	Road Project - Identification	Wetland Restoration - Identification
Forestry - Equipment	Floodplain/Stream Restoration - Preliminary Design	Road Project - Preliminary Design	Wetland Restoration - Design
Lake Shoreland - Identification	Dam Removal - Final Design	Road Project - Final Design	Wetland Restoration - Implementation



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4. Project Eligibility Checklist-

- ☐ Meets goal of Grant Program
- Required project supportState permit requirement
- ☐ Act 250 Permit requirements
- ☐ Natural Resource Conflicts
 - Lakes
 - Rivers
 - Wetlands
- ☐ Timeframe requirements
- Operation and maintenance plan in place
- ☐ Risk Assessment Questionnaire

☐ This project is designed to improve or protect water quality from runoff and erosion in order to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution

THE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS
PRIORITY PROJECTS THAT
RESTORE AND PROTECT RIVERS,
STREAMS, LAKES, PONDS, AND
WETLANDS FROM NONPOINT
SOURCE RUNOFF AND
ASSOCIATED NUTRIENT AND
SEDIMENT POLLUTION.





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☐ The project has been discussed with a DEC Basin Planner and has been given a database number.

- ☐ This project has the required municipal (if on municipal land) and/or landowner(s) support*
- ☐ Attach signed letter of municipal and/or landowner support.



* If the project is in the preliminary or final design step, the letter of support does not need to indicate support of the construction of the project, but rather support for the continuation of design.



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■ Does the implementation of this project meet an MS4 permit requirement?



MS4 Communities

- City of St. Albans
- Town of St. Albans
- Town of Rutland
- City of Burlington
- Burlington International Airport (BTV)
- Town of Colchester
- Town of Essex
- Village of Essex Junction
- Town of Milton
- Town of Shelburne
- City of South Burlington
- University of Vermont
- Town of Williston
- City of Winooski
- Vermont Agency of Transportation.

(Future)

- □ Does the implementation of this project meet a Stormwater 3-acre permit requirement?
- ☐ Does the implementation of this project meet a Municipal Roads General Permit requirement?



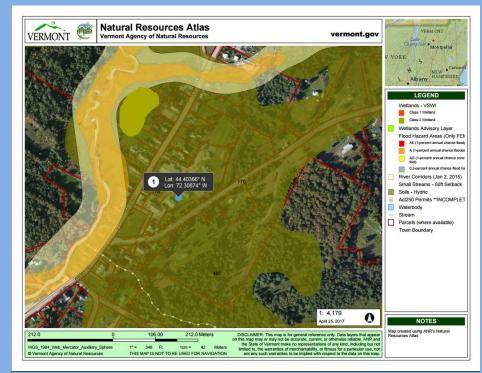
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New and improved 4. Project Eligibility Checklist-

- Meets goal of Grant ProgramRequired project support
- ☐ State permit requirement
- □ Act 250 Permit requirements□ Natural Resource Conflicts
 - Lakes
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- ☐ Timeframe requirements
- Operation and maintenance
- ☐ Risk Assessment Questionnaire

These project type categories do not need to complete this section as no distinct location is identified prior to submitting the application:

Use the ANR Atlas Map requirement to fill in this section of the Project Eligibility Checklist



Agricultural Pollution Prevention - Identification	River Project - Identification	Road Project - Identification
Agricultural Pollution Prevention - Equipment	Stream Geomorphic Assessment Phase 1	Stormwater/Roads - Equipment
Forestry - Identification	Stream Geomorphic Assessment Phase 2	Stormwater - IDDE
Forestry - Equipment	River Corridor Plan	Stormwater Master Plan
Lake Shoreland - Identification	Road Erosion Control Inventory	Wetland Restoration - Identification

^{*}However, a map and/or initial screening may be a requirement in the grant's final deliverables





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*If you have ANY questions about Act 250 permits, please contact a Permit Specialist

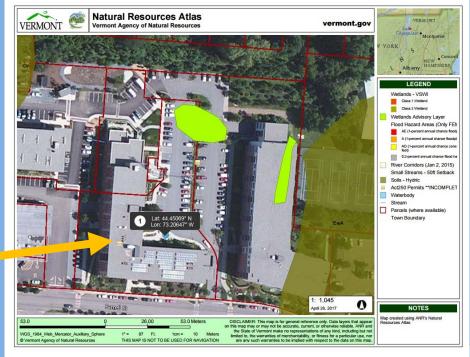
Act 250 Icon:



☐ Have any Act 250 (Vermont's Land Use and Development Control Law) Permits been issued in the project site's parcel location?

If *yes*, please provide the permit number and list any water resource issues or natural resource issues found: Permit Number:

Resource Issues:



Permit Specialist: http://dec.vermont.gov/environmental-assistance/permits/specialists





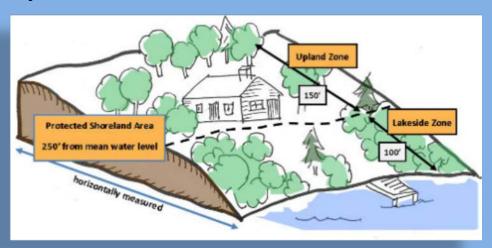
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*For all Lake Shoreland Restoration project proposals, the review process will favor those that specify use of contractors that have the natural shoreline erosion control certification.

- ☐ Is the project site located within 250 feet of a lakeshore water's edge?
 - ☐ If **yes**, have you made the required contact with a <u>Lake</u> and <u>Shoreland Regional Permit Analyst</u> to determine if Shoreland Protection Act or Encroachment permits are required?
 - ☐ If **yes**, have you contacted the <u>Lake Wise Program</u> for project review?



Lake and Shoreland Regional Permit Analyst: http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/permit/contact

Amy Picotte, Lake Wise Coordinator Amy.Picotte@vermont.gov





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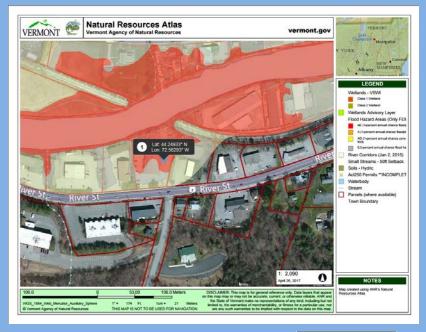
Map Legend

River Corridors

Flood Hazard Areas (Only FEMA-digitized data)

- AE (1-percent annual chance floodplains with elevations)
- A (1-percent annual chance floodplains without elevation)
- AO (1-percent annual chance zone of shallow flooding 1-3 feet)
- 0.2-percent annual chance flood hazard zone

- ☐ Is there any portion of the project site located in a river corridor and/or mapped Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood hazard area?
 - ☐ If **yes**, have you made the required contact with a ☐ DEC River Scientist to determine if they will need to approve the project and/or if a Stream Alteration Permit is required?



DEC River Scientist: http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/rivers/river-corridor-and-floodplain-protection



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- ☐ Is there any portion of the project site located in or within 200 feet of a mapped wetland or within the areas highlighted on the wetland advisory or hydric soil layer in the ANR Atlas?
- □ Are there any indications that you may have a wetland area at the project site outside of mapped wetland areas?
 See <u>Landowners Guide to Wetlands</u> for additional information on identifying wetlands on your project site.
 - ☐ If **yes to either of the above**, have you made the required contact with a <u>District Wetlands Ecologist</u> to determine if a Wetlands permit is required?





DEC District Wetlands Ecologists: http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/contact



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4. Project Eligibility Checklist-

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- ☐ Act 250 Permit requirements
- ☐ Natural Resource Conflicts
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- **□** Timeframe requirements
- Operation and maintenance plan in place
- ☐ Risk Assessment Questionnaire

- ☐ The project's anticipated start date is within six months of the signing of the grant contract date.
- ☐ The project will be completed within one to two years of its start date.







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 State permit requirement
- Act 250 Permit requirements
- Natural Resource Conflicts
 - Lakes
 - Rivers
 - Wetlands
- ☐ Timeframe requirements
- Operation and maintenance plan in place
- ☐ Risk Assessment Questionnaire

- ☐ This proposal identifies the responsible party for the operation and maintenance of the project.
- ☐ Attach letter of commitment to operation and maintenance signed by responsible party.

This is required for projects involving implementation/construction (Step 3 projects) and recommended for preliminary design (Step 1 projects) and final design projects (Step 2 projects).



VYCC Crew maintaining tree plantings



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- ☐ Natural Resource Conflicts
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 - Rivers
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- ☐ Timeframe requirements
- Operation and maintenance plan in place
- ☐ Risk Assessment Questionnaire

- ☐ My organization has completed a Risk Assessment Questionnaire in the last 12 months.
 - ☐ If **no**, complete and attach to this application the Risk Assessment Questionnaire available here.



RISK ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

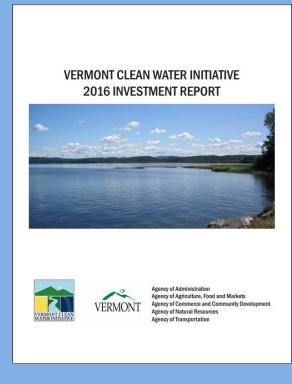
The purpose of the risk assessment is to determine whether or not a potential grantee is financially stable and if the agency uses accounting systems that are adequate to meet the State of Vermont administrative requirements. Please complete the following questionnaire and have it signed by the Executive Director and Fiscal Officer for your organization.



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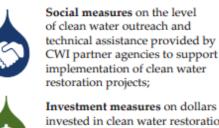
Tracking and Reporting on Clean Water Restoration Efforts within the Ecosystem **Restoration Grant Program:**

Changes in Final Reporting Requirements

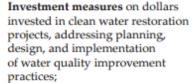








Clean water investment reporting addresses:

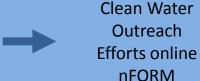




Measures of project outputs, quantifying the results of clean water restoration projects completed by project type; and



Measures of environmental outcomes, quantifying nutrient reductions achieved through Statefunded clean water restoration projects.











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Tracking and Reporting on Clean Water Restoration Efforts within the Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program:

Performance Measures

Clean Water Outreach Efforts online nFORM

> Funding Amount

Project
Performance
Measures

Best Management
Practice Reporting

Project Step	Performance Measures (Generalized)	Sector(s)
Identification	Area of land assessed (acres, road miles, stream miles)	All
	Number of projects identified	
Preliminary Design	Number of 30% designs completed	All
Final Design	Number of 100% designs completed	All
	Area of land treated/ improved (acres, linear feet)	Agriculture, Forestry, Stormwater, Rivers, Roads
Implementation	Area of land restored/reconnected (acres, stream miles, linear feet)	Lake, Wetland, Rivers
	Area of land conserved (acres, linear feet)	Rivers, Stormwater,
	Area/amount of structures/impervious surfaces removed or improved (acres, number of)	Forestry, Roads Rivers, Stormwater
	Area applied for BMP enhancement (acres, miles, linear feet)	Agriculture. Forestry, Stormwater/Roads
Equipment	Hours in Use (annual estimate)	Agriculture, Forestry, Stormwater/Roads
	Amount of material cleaned	Stormwater/Roads

A full listing of project types and associated performance measures are located in Appendix 3 of the Application Manual



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Tracking and Reporting on Clean Water Restoration Efforts within the Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program:

Best Management Practice (BMP) Reporting

These two project types are **required** to submit additional reporting data at the close of their grant:

River - Planting

Stormwater - Implementation

Clean Water
Outreach
Efforts online
nFORM

Funding Amount

Project
Performance
Measures

New
Best Management
Practice Reporting

BMP Report	Applicable BMPs	Required Data (in addition to location and land use information)
 Bioretention areas Extended dry detention ponds Grass swales Gravel wetlands Sand filters Wet ponds 		BMP Storage Volume
В	Infiltration trenchesSurface infiltration projectsPorous pavement with subsurface infiltration	BMP Storage Volume BMP Infiltration Rate
C Porous pavement with an under- liner and underdrain		BMP Filter Course Depth
D	 Riparian buffer plantings 	Total acreage, length, and average width

The information from these BMP reports are loaded into the Watershed Projects Database and used to calculate nutrient load reductions





Not new but worth repeating!

- 1. All subject to availability of funds some might be wait-listed
- 2. Match strongly encouraged table showing approved match
- 3. Letters of support strongly encouraged
- 4. Discourage extensions

6. Priorities

- From state plans
- Implementation (especially if the result of a prior planning grant)
- Less than two years for implementation and ready to start within six months
- 7. General
- Don't miss the deadline
- Use application form. Additional materials can be submitted as attachments.
- Do not assume we know you OR your project.



2017 Round 2 Ecosystem Restoration Grant Application

- The project, once implemented, meets the goal of the ERGP
- The project has the required project support
- Does the project meet a State permit requirement?
- The project has no conflicting Act250 Permit requirements
- Natural resource conflicts, if present, are flagged and discussed with DEC Staff
 - Lakes
 - Rivers
 - Wetlands
- ☐ The project meets the grant program timeframe requirements
- ☐ The project has an operation and maintenance plan in place (when applicable)



River Corridors

Flood Hazard Areas (Only FEMA-digitized data)
AE (1-percent annual chance floodplains with

elevations)

A (1-percent annual chance floodplains without

elevation)

AO (1-percent annual chance zone of shallow

flooding 1-3 feet)

0.2-percent annual chance flood hazard zone





<u>Partnership</u> <u>Grants –</u>

WORK CREW

Work crew to support implementation

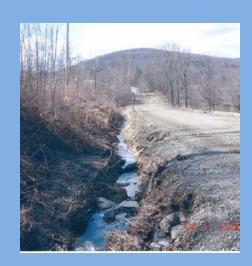
Purpose – to increase project implementation

Criteria – demonstrated ability to develop, coordinate and implement projects demonstrated knowledge of the region and partners projects will be identified *during* the grant process and not prior

Project types –green Stormwater infrastructure

rural and urban road projects (road inventories)

riparian buffer restoration









<u>Partnership</u> <u>Grants –</u>

COLLABORATIVE
PROJECT
PARTNERSHIP
PROPOSAL

Collaborative Project Partnership Proposal

Purpose – to allow for combined multi-sector, capital projects that comprehensively address a problem or region, involve multiple partners for efficiency and collaboration and reduce administrative burden on applicant and DEC.

- Must have some connection (regionally, sector, priority)
- Can include non-capital work if related to project
- Can be cross-project types (Stormwater treatment and road runoff and riparian buffer)
- Can NOT be cross-project category (cannot be scoping and implementation) phase instead
- Proposals must be submitted by one applicant on behalf of others (priority to three or more)
- Partners will act as subcontractors and must submit letters of agreement

All projects must be identified as either priority projects or within a high priority subwatershed and must address the high priority concerns in that watershed.











<u>Partnership</u> <u>Grants –</u>

Outreach and Assistance Partnership Proposal

Outreach and Assistance Partnership Proposal

Purpose – to allow for combined multi-sector, non-capital activities that will lead to future implementation.

Activities include:

- Technical assistance
- Education
- Training
- Technology and information sharing

Also:

- Must have some connection (regionally, sector, priority)
- Must be directly related to implementation
- Must do n-forms (training may be provided)
- Proposals must be submitted by one applicant on behalf of others (priority to three or more)
- Partners will act as subcontractors and must submit letters of agreement.

All projects must be identified as either priority projects or within a high priority subwatershed and must address the high priority concerns in that watershed.





Equipment Grants

Equipment Grants

- Larger municipalities can be sole owners
- Smaller municipalities must share among a minimum of four municipalities







- 1. Relationship to Tactical Basin Planning (or other state sanctioned plan)
- Use direct references (page numbers) where possible
- Other projects are eligible but lower priority
- Work with the watershed coordinators
- 2. Project Scope description of the project
- Current condition of the affected waterbody
- Water quality issues or threat being addressed
- How the project addresses these issues
- Whether the project is targeting critical pollution sources
- Why the work is necessary
- Likelihood of success
- Is this a continuation of an existing or prior project

Priority is given based on severity of the condition, magnitude of problem, benefits derived from the project and its likelihood of success





- 3. Collaboration and support extent to which this has been identified and secured
- Where applicable
- Priority to applications with letters of commitment and support (attachments)
- 4. Measurable outcomes

<u>Performance measures - Drop down menu in performance reporting tab 3</u> <u>Milestones and completion dates – see performance standards tab 2</u>

Project type: Riparian planting

Performance Measure: # of acres of streambank planted: 5 acres

	Milestone	Deliverables	Cost/Unit	Payment
1	Identify sites Identify constraints	Locator map Site descriptions	\$450/acre	No to exceed \$2,250
2	Develop planting plan Secure landowner agreement Develop sterwadship plan	Planting plan (including species type, number, and estimated cost) Signed landowner agreement Stewardship plan	\$900/acre	Not to exceed \$4,500
3	Order supplies and materials	Supply and material invoices	\$2,700/acre	Not to exceed \$13,500
4	Complete planting	Before, during, and after photos (minimum resolution of 1200 x 1600) Project summary Performance report	\$450/acre planted	Not to exceed \$2,250
	TOTAL			\$ 22,500





4. Measurable outcomes – partnership grants

Milestone	Deliverables	Cost/Unit	Payment
Riparian Planting - identify sites and constraints	Locator map, Site description	\$450/acre	Not to exceed \$2,250
RP - develop planting plan. Secure landowner agreement.Develop stewardship plan.	Planting plan (including species type, number and estimated cost). Signed landowner agreement. Stewardship plan	\$900/acre	Not to exceed \$4,500
RP -Order supplies and materials	Supply and material invoices Before, during and after photos. Project summary.	\$2,700/acre	Not to exceed \$13,500
RP - complete planting	Performance report	\$450/acre planted	Not to exceed \$2,250
Stormwater Construction - Request for proposals			
developed	Issued Construction RFP Signed agreement and	\$1,000	\$1,000
6 SWC - Contractor Selected	meeting minutes 25%, 50%, 75% and 100%	\$1,000	\$1,000
7 SWC - Practice Installed	progress report As-built plans and project	\$50,000/report	\$200,000
8 SWC - Practice installed SWC - Operations and	photos	\$1,000	\$1,000
9 maintenance plan developed	Maintenance plan	\$1,000	\$1,000





- 5. Project Readiness
- Ready to begin within six months?
- Able to complete within one to two years?
- Do not expect to be granted an extension
- 6. Itemized budget and narrative
- Yes, we know we're asking you to cost out this project two ways sorry 😊
- Narrative is the description
 - e.g. Budget table includes a request for \$10,000 for personnel Narrative says "Project director, 100 hours at \$100/hour" Be specific
- 7. Past performance
- Prior projects with any sources of funding.
- If ERP funds, indicate.
- If no prior grants, indicate past ability to successfully complete a project

Additional points

- Match
- Stewardship commitment (was previously an application question)
- Green infrastructure



