



2012 Clean Water Cost Share Program

Overview:

Opportunities for regional water quality improvement projects are limited and difficult to coordinate. Opportunities for smaller projects, however, exist on every residential, municipal, and commercial property. The South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) Clean Water Cost Share Program offers financial assistance to encourage and enable citizens, municipalities, and businesses to use innovative practices to protect and improve lakes and streams within the district. This program promotes water quality improvement by focusing on the reduction of phosphorus in stormwater runoff. Each pound of phosphorus, a nutrient critical to algae growth, removed from stormwater runoff can prevent up to 500 pounds of algae in our lakes, streams, and rivers.

Eligibility:

Applicants must apply for funding, be approved by the SWWD Board of Managers, and have a signed contract prior to beginning their project.

Those eligible for cost share funding include:

- Residents of the SWWD
- Not-for-profit and religious organizations serving the SWWD
- Local Government Agencies serving the SWWD
- Public and private schools located within the SWWD
- Businesses and corporations located within the SWWD

Applicants who have received previous cost funding must wait one year after the close out (completion and payment) of a project, before applying for additional project funds.

Available Funds:

The SWWD has allocated \$70,000.00 for the BMP Clean Water Cost Share Program for 2012. With the goal of reducing phosphorus loading to SWWD lakes, streams, and rivers by 20 pounds, SWWD has set the 2012 funding rate at \$5,000.00 per pound of phosphorus treated or retained on site. This funding level is expected to cover approximately 50% of a typical residential raingarden. The SWWD will accept funding applications year round until funds are depleted for the calendar year.



Project Design and Estimate of Benefits:

An estimate of water quality benefits (phosphorus reduction) will be completed by WCD or SWWD staff using methods outlined in the MN Stormwater Manual. The estimate serves as the basis for determining the amount of reimbursement and will be provided to the applicant prior to submission of an application. Staff may require access to the site to complete the estimate.

Applicants may use any designer; however SWWD encourages applicants to work with the Washington Conservation District (WCD). Design assistance, free of charge to the applicant, is available through the WCD. WCD staff will work with applicants to develop a concept plan that maximizes benefit to our lakes and streams and complete all documentation necessary to apply for cost share funding. Upon completion of the project concept plan, WCD staff will also provide the applicant with an estimate of the reduction of phosphorus leaving the site, which serves as the basis for determining the size of the cost share grant. Contact Rusty Schmidt at (651)275-1136, ext 36 or rusty.schmidt@mnwcd.org to schedule a site-visit. Applicants using a designer other than the WCD can contact SWWD for an estimate of phosphorus reduction benefits prior to applying for funding.

Reimbursement and Eligible Expenses:

Applicants must apply for funding, be approved by the SWWD Board of Managers, and have a signed contract prior to beginning their project.

This is a reimbursement program. After completion of the project and verification by SWWD staff that the feature is functioning, funds will be dispersed to program participant(s). In no cases will the reimbursement exceed the total project cost. Total project cost will be calculated by SWWD. In calculation of total project cost:

- Only those expenses with itemized receipts or invoices will be included
- For projects using plant material, only expenditures for plants native to this region will be included
- Applicant labor at the rate of \$10.00/hour will be included with submission of a signed labor log of hours worked (SWWD reserves the right to set a cap on labor hours)

How to Apply:

Cost share applicants are responsible for submittal of all required information, including: **a completed application and sketch of the project.** All necessary information will be provided by WCD staff for projects they design. Additional information, if needed, will be requested by SWWD staff. Upon submittal of complete application, the SWWD staff will review it for eligibility and completeness, and submit a funding recommendation to the SWWD Board of Managers, who make all final funding decisions. The SWWD Board of Managers reserves the right to deny an application for any reason. Incomplete applications will not be presented to the Board for review.



Funding Agreement:

Projects that are awarded funding will enter into an agreement with SWWD. This agreement will stipulate the responsibilities and obligations of both the grant applicant and the SWWD. Cost share contracts are void one year from the date the agreement is signed by the applicant, unless a written extension has been granted by SWWD. All applicants are responsible for ensuring all permits necessary for the work are secured.

1099-Misc. Form- Applicants may want to consult a tax advisor for any tax implications regarding grant acceptance.