

Stormwater Grants Application Criteria

Fall 2020 Deadline

Due to a limited budget and increased demand, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is working to make our ranking criteria transparent for all Stormwater Grant applicants. By expanding on some of the criteria listed in our [Stormwater Grants Application Guide](#), we aim to provide applicants with the information they need to develop strong, competitive, quality applications.

The prerequisites and criteria below will be considered as the Stormwater Incentives team evaluates Stormwater Grant applications. As always, if a project team has any questions about their project and meeting these criteria, they are welcome to contact Stormwater Incentives at PWDStormwaterCredits@phila.gov. Please note that emails are strongly suggested, as response to calls to the Stormwater Incentives team’s office number may be delayed at this time.

Prerequisites (2):

1.	Complete and Navigable Application	<p>Application is complete, on time, and easy to navigate and understand. Common mistakes to avoid are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not submitting all exhibits. All forms must be included, signed and complete. - Lacking property owner or vendor signatures. - Not summarizing exhibits, such as the Environmental Due Diligence and related reports. - Lacking page numbers or a Table of Contents to easily navigate the application, especially if the application is long due to included reports. <p>Refer to the pages 22-24 of the Stormwater Grants Application Guide for the Pre-Application Checklist and the Common Application Mistakes Checklist and use them as you prepare your application.</p>
2.	Eligibility	<p>Property, property owner, and applicant/grant manager meet eligibility requirements. See our Stormwater Grants Application Guide for more information.</p>

Criteria for Evaluation (8):

	Criteria Title	Description	Weight
1.	Greening	<p>Project prioritizes stormwater management practices with a greening component, such as vegetated surface systems, trees, and depaving. Helpful hints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetated surface systems, such as rain gardens, will be the strongest greening components to propose. - If stormwater management practices are implemented in a way that benefits the public or users of the site, green 	20%

		components may also be eligible for Additional Benefits below.	
2.	Cost Effectiveness	<p>Requested amount from PWD grant funds is below \$200,000 per “greened acre”, where a greened acre is 1.5 multiplied by the drainage acre(s) proposed to be managed on site. Please note, the greened acre is term specific to Philadelphia’s combined sewer service area. Projects located in a separate sewer service area do not result in greened acres. Projects can increase cost effectiveness by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximizing the drainage acres captured on site, considering site characteristics and limitations - Lowering grant request amount to PWD - Reducing runoff to a combined sewer - Combination of the above strategies 	20%
3.	Project Funding	<p>Additional funding is committed to the project, either through other grant funding, loans, or from the property owner or project team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Match funding for stormwater-related project costs is the most beneficial for a competitive application. Please clarify any match funding sources and amounts within the application. - If the stormwater-related grant request is one component of a larger site project, please list the full project scope and costs in the application and clearly separate the costs from the grant request. Listing other funding commitments to a full site project can make a stormwater component more competitive. - Another method is for the property owner (or other) to commit to funding overages beyond the conceptual budget during construction, if they arise. 	15%
4.	Additional Benefits from Project	<p>Project provides benefits beyond stormwater management. See a list of ideas below*. Innovative methods can also be considered in this category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All project benefits must be clearly described in Project Narrative. - Benefits may be a result of innovative design, how the property is seen or used by the public, the property owner, or the neighborhood. - Including green components may impact both Greening and Additional Benefits categories. 	10%
5.	Right-of-Way (ROW) Impervious Area Capture	<p>Project proposes to manage as much available right-of-way (streets and sidewalks) area as possible given site characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If available ROW is not feasible to capture, please describe why in the Project Narrative. 	10%
6.	Project Team Composition	<p>Project team vendors have demonstrated a strong track record with stormwater management and demonstrated quality designs, construction capabilities, and project management. Vendors’</p>	10%

		previous involvement with the Stormwater Grant program, including number of open projects and workload constraints, will be considered.	
7.	Professional Judgement	Project team provides additional information and confidence beyond the minimum conceptual level for project design, budgeting, and completion deadline as listed in the Stormwater Grants Application Guide . In addition, the Incentives Team has confidence that application clearly and accurately demonstrates technical feasibility, mobilization timeline, accurate budget information, and project completion capacity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicants should provide any reports, analyses, or additional design information in their application, including a summary of these reports. - Confidence in the project proposal may be inferred from utility survey, geotechnical analysis and reports, design calculations, advanced design plans, etc. 	10%
8.	Strong Property Owner Involvement	Property owner is invested in project. This may be shown by attending meetings, responding to emails, writing letters, or otherwise demonstrating accessibility with PWD staff and involvement in design decisions.	5%

*Examples of Additional Benefits. Note that the benefits below are examples and for illustration purposes only. All project features, including potential benefits not listed below, should be clearly described in the Project Narrative.

- Schoolyard learning, outdoor/living classroom and curriculum development about stormwater management
- Community presence, highly visible and accessible green infrastructure
- Community outreach and/or educational component
- Economic impact of project to surrounding areas based on project location, local job creation, etc.
- Providing usable outside space for the property, such as a green gathering space for employees on site
- Addressing the heat island effect, especially in highly impacted Philadelphia neighborhoods
- Alignment with other City plans and priorities