

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Surface Water Improvement Fund Grants
LUCAS COUNTY ONLY—01/12/13
Supplemental GLRI-SWIF Project Funds
Application Deadline 2/28/13

Dear Lucas County Water Resource Management Partner:

We are currently seeking grant applications for funding that will be awarded to communities, park districts and others in **LUCAS COUNTY ONLY** to design and install innovative storm water management demonstration projects. This is supplemental funding to the FY12 Lucas County Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Stormwater Demonstration Project which is underway. Due to the limited amount of funds available we anticipate awarding grants for only two or three projects. If you have not already received a SWIF or Section 319 grant from Ohio EPA you are eligible to apply under this supplemental Request for Proposals. Grants will be awarded for a two year term— as a result, it is anticipated that most awards will be made for single site-specific projects that are (or will be) nearly construction ready during the summer of 2013.

Background: The Surface Water Improvement Fund was created in 2008 and authorizes the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to provide grant funding to applicants such as local governments, park districts, state agencies, and others listed below. We have about \$106,000 in FY12 GLRI-SWIF funding that is available to fund 2 or 3 small stormwater demonstration projects (approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 per project) within the Lucas County area ONLY. Funds were awarded to Ohio EPA under the Lucas County Stormwater Demonstration Project being implemented by Ohio EPA and local partners under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). ***These grants do not require local match.***

Eligible Applicants: The following entities are eligible to receive grant funding from the Surface Water Improvement Fund:

- Local municipalities, counties and townships within Lucas County
- Park Districts
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Conservation Groups with land management responsibilities

Eligible Projects: This supplemental Lucas County GLRI-SWIF Request for Proposals will result in the award of two or perhaps three local subgrants for locally implemented storm water management demonstration projects. Specific types of activities are limited to “green” storm water BMPs or management practices—a more detailed listing is included on page 3 of this request.

Priority Funding: This county-specific supplemental round of Surface Water Improvement Fund grants are targeted to Lucas County waters where nonpoint source pollution from storm water runoff is a significant cause of aquatic life use impairments.

Grants will be awarded under the Surface Water Improvement Fund using a competitive process. Projects demonstrating the following at the time of application will receive more favorable consideration during the review process:

- A readiness to proceed.
- Site specific information or a specifically defined area of focus.
- Project will be completed in a highly visible and accessible public facility
- Consistency with an approved TMDL, endorsed watershed action plan and/or an approved remedial action plan.
- Evidence that successful completion will result in the reduction and/or passive treatment of storm water runoff.
- Allowable, appropriate and reasonable project costs.
- Sponsors with the appropriate authority to complete the proposed project.

Grant Amounts: Applicants may request up to \$50,000 in Surface Water Improvement grant funding. There are **no local match requirements.** However applicants providing local matching funds (**cash only**) will receive additional points during the grant review process.

Grant Terms & Requirements: Surface Water Improvement Fund grants are awarded for a two-year period. Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement with Ohio EPA and projects must be completed within the two-year grant year period. **Projects that are “shovel-ready” will receive higher consideration.**

Public Outreach Requirements: All applications for SWIF grants must include project-specific public outreach activities such as public meetings, project tours, signs, newsletters, and fact sheets that are designed to describe the successes of the project throughout the community. Costs associated with project-specific public outreach activities are eligible as a cost component of a SWIF grant, but may not exceed 5 percent (5%) of total project costs. *General nonpoint source and/or environmental education and outreach activities are NOT eligible for SWIF funding.*

Eligible Project Listing

Innovative Storm Water Demonstration Projects

Uncontrolled runoff from storm events is a serious contributor of nonpoint source pollutants to many of Ohio's streams. Many urban areas in Ohio are required to regulate and/or manage storm water flow and do so under storm water permits issued by Ohio EPA. **(SWIF grants may not be used to implement any activities required under storm water permits, consent decrees, enforcement orders or as mitigation for other permits such as those issued under section 401 of the Clean Water Act).**

Recent trends in storm water management have identified innovative practices and techniques that are showing increased promise in the management of storm water.

Ohio EPA is interested in promoting these practices by funding **HIGHLY VISIBLE** local projects that demonstrate these innovative storm water management practices. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Retrofitting public commons or parking areas with permeable pavements.
- Installing small scale green roofs on public buildings
- Installing bio-filtration islands and/or vegetated retention structures such as large public rain gardens* or large infiltration planting areas.
- Installing passive “treatment trains” combining multiple BMPs such as pocket wetlands, bio-filtration islands and others.
- Constructing storm water treatment wetlands.
- Constructing rainwater harvesting and reuse systems on public buildings or facilities.
- Other practices designed to demonstrate innovative storm water management.

Projects that are completed at highly visible public facilities such as city halls, heavily visited public parks and other areas where projects may help to educate the public on alternatives to traditional storm water management are highly encouraged.

SWIF grants **may not be used for projects such as rain gardens, rain barrels or others conducted on lands owned by private for-profit businesses and/or individual homeowners.*

Ineligible Projects: The following activities are not eligible for SWIF grant funding:

1. Projects required under enforcement order or a supplemental environmental project required as part of a settlement agreement or required as mitigation under conditions of a regulatory permit.
2. Any stormwater demonstration project designed to mitigate for Combined Sewer Overflows under consent decree or settlement agreement.
3. Any project that is part of a nutrient trading program;
4. Projects that propose the construction of dikes or levees within a floodplain;
5. Projects that propose best management practices (BMPs) or “end-of-pipe treatments” which are either required or anticipated to be required under an NPDES permit or a Permit to Install;
6. Projects required under Phase 1 or Phase 2 NPDES storm water compliance;
7. Research or monitoring activities (monitoring will be conducted by OEPA)

Application Deadline & Review Procedures

The deadline for submitting grant applications is February 28th, 2013. Applications must be complete and postmarked by the above date to be considered for funding. Applications postmarked (or hand-delivered) after this

date will be returned to the applicant without further consideration. Please submit three (3) copies of the complete application with original (blue ink) signatures and one (1) copy of the application in Microsoft Word format and any project site photos or design drawings on a CD. Completed applications may be mailed or delivered to:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Surface Water
Attn: Russ Gibson, NPS Program Manager
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Upon receipt, all supplemental GLRI-SWIF grant applications will be reviewed for completeness, technical merit and adherence to the SWIF grant RFP criteria. Applications found to be administratively complete will undergo a comprehensive review using criteria designed to evaluate and score the following:

- Environmental results likely to be achieved
- Status of TMDL report and/or local watershed planning efforts
- Overall effectiveness of the project
- Feasibility of completing the proposed project in a timely manner
- Applicant's capability to administer state grant funds
- Project's readiness to proceed
- The project includes a site specific location
- The long term benefits of the project
- The cost effectiveness of the project and
- Existing environmental quality and restorability of the watershed
- Project specific educational and outreach activities

In addition to the above general criteria that are applicable to all applicants, projects also will be evaluated using specific technical criteria developed for the specific type of proposed project.

Upon completion of all reviews, applications will be ranked according to their review scores and recommendations for funding will be developed based upon this ranking. Funding decisions will be made by the Director of Ohio EPA. We anticipate that grant awards will be announced by late-March 2013. Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement and adhere to all requirements of the GLRI-SWIF grants program.

Application Materials and Technical Assistance

Applications are available at the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water (DSW) homepage located at www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index.aspx. Applications are also available by contacting us at the numbers listed below.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you to help communities and others within Lucas County to meet important water quality goals and to demonstrate innovative practices for managing storm water runoff. If after reviewing this information you require additional assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Martha Spurbeck at 614-644-2869 or Russ Gibson at 614-644-2020.

Sincerely,

George Elmaraghy, P.E., Chief
Division of Surface Water

GAE/rg/jh
Attachments