



Allen Park
Belleville
Berlin Township
Brownstown Township
Dearborn Heights
Ecorse
Flat Rock
Gibraltar
Grosse Ile Township
Lincoln Park
Melvindale
Riverview
Rockwood
Romulus
Southgate
South Rockwood
Sumpter Township
Van Buren Township
Taylor
Wayne County
Wayne County Airport
Authority
Woodhaven-Brownstown
School District
Westland
Woodhaven
Wyandotte

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ALLIANCE OF DOWNRIVER WATERSHEDS

GROW ZONES ACROSS THE WATERSHED MINI-GRANTS

PROJECT SITES

ISSUED: JANUARY 24, 2008

Alliance Of Downriver Watersheds Grow Zone Mini-Grant Project Request For Proposals

INTRODUCTION

Excessive storm water runoff and stream flow caused by increased imperviousness is a major challenge for restoring and protecting our waterways. Re-vegetation with more complex and diverse native vegetation including trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers (Green Infrastructure/Grow Zones) is arguably the simplest, most cost-effective action that can be implemented to reduce storm water and mitigate impacts of imperviousness. Grow zones increase infiltration of rain, reduce pollution and cost less to maintain than traditional landscapes. Improved water quality and additional natural areas benefit fish and wildlife, improving recreational opportunities, quality of life activities and ultimately the economic viability of our communities. Opportunities for grow zones exist throughout our communities.

The purpose of the Grow Zone Mini-Grant Project is to find host sites to implement upland and/or riparian native planting projects across the Alliance of Downriver Watershed (hereafter referred to as “ADW”). Funding for implementation will come from the *Grow Zones Across the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds* project, funded in part by the MDEQ Clean Michigan Initiative. The overall goal is to maximize infiltration by increasing the green infrastructure within the ADW. Funding decisions will be made on the basis of the availability of funds and the selection process described below. Currently \$38,000 is available for the mini-grants to purchase the plants and seed needed to implement Grow Zone projects (The ADW has applied for an additional grant to increase the funding available to the grant project). The objective is to identify up to 10 project sites that will convert paved surfaces, turf grass and/or sparsely vegetated upland or riparian areas into healthy diverse green infrastructure areas.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants eligible for receipt of ADW mini-grant funds must be from nonfederal units of government (U.S.), academia or the nonprofit sector, with an interest in addressing water quality and habitat issues within the Ecorse Creek, Combined Downriver, or Lower Huron River watersheds. Eligible applicants include but are not limited to entities such as soil and water conservation districts; county and municipal government; regional planning commissions; colleges and universities; local school districts; research institutes; nonprofit, and citizen-based organizations. Examples of nonprofit organizations include watershed organizations, stream and lake associations, citizen monitoring groups, environmental groups, conservation groups, and fish and wildlife groups. While encouraged to participate as project partners with eligible applicants, private landowners cannot apply directly.

Projects that seek funding for land or easement acquisition, political advocacy, lobbying, or litigation are not eligible.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

To be eligible for consideration, projects must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Be located within the Alliance of Downriver Watershed area.
- The site must be on public land or part of a public easement.
- The grantee must commit to operation & maintenance of the project site for a minimum of 5 years. (If site is located on property owned by party other than the grantee, the grantee must have the property owner’s documented written permission to maintain the site.)
- The grantee must be able and willing to prepare the site for planting.
- The grantee must be able and willing to provide or help recruit staff or volunteers to participate in the project planting and subsequent progress evaluation and monitoring.

No match is required for this grant. As part of this project Wayne County and the ADW will provide multiple services and materials. These include:

- Design services. The ADW will provide a consultant to work with grantees to design their site specific grow zone project.
- All grant funds will go towards the purchase of plant materials to implement project as designed and approved by the grantee and MDEQ.
- Construction support. The design consultant, Wayne County, Friends of Detroit River, Stream Team and/or Huron River Watershed Council staff will provide staff support for the construction/implementation of the project.
- Public education and technical assistance to implement a Grow Zone installation public involvement workshop and planting event.
- Grow Zone boundary markers and educational signs will be installed.
- Volunteer recruitment assistance. ADW and its partner organizations will assist the applicant to recruit volunteers to participate in site preparation, planting and project performance evaluation monitoring.
- Project specific performance evaluation monitoring coordination, data and reports
- Regional impact project evaluation monitoring coordination, data and reports.
- Pollution prevention and public relations materials regarding the impacts and benefits of green infrastructure.

GRANT GUIDELINES

These project areas are envisioned to be small areas (less than 2 acres) that are easily managed over the long term by the grantee. In making award decisions, the ADW seeks to represent the geographic diversity and the variety of communities and organizations in the ADW watershed area. A Selection Committee will be comprised of those that attend the Technical/Pub Ed Committee on February 21st (as long as they're not an applicant). RCM TAC and State DEQ will also be involved in evaluation and approval process. The Selection Committee will make recommendations to the full ADW committee for project awards. The following guidelines will be used in making recommendations:

- Grants range between \$2500 and \$5000.
- Project should demonstrate partnerships and build capacity for future projects by the grantee.
- Project must be ready to complete within approximately 18 months upon award.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Should have the most dramatic reduction in storm water runoff pre- to post- project implementation.
- Have long-term and/or existing public education impact (e.g. schoolyard habitats, public building demonstration area).
- Provide an in-stream monitoring/riparian corridor expansion and/or woody debris management opportunity.
- Are one component of a larger storm water management or resource restoration/protection project, program or initiative.
- Involve multiple partners.
- Additional consideration if the applicant can provide monitoring assistance

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For assistance with questions regarding the application, contact Nancy Gregor of Wayne County Department of Environment - Water Quality Division. (Office Phone - (734) 326-3936 E-mail – ngregor@co.wayne.mi.us)

SUBMISSION

A complete application package should include the following:

- A completed and signed original application form;
- A proposal narrative not to exceed 5 pages (see application for details);
- A map indicating the location of the project (e.g., USGS quadrangle map);
- On a second map, please sketch where the proposed project would be located in relationship to other features on the property.
- Estimated plant cost?
- Letters documenting partner contributions; and
- Additional materials as appropriate (e.g. figures, photos...)

Please include one original and two copies of the application package. Applications should be sent to Mr. Matthew R. Best, Wayne County Department of Environment, Water Quality Division, 3600 Commerce Court, Building E., Wayne, Michigan 48184 **on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 15, 2008.** Prospective Applicants are responsible for the timely receipt of their proposal. Proposals shall be titled “Request for Proposal, Alliance of Downriver Watersheds, Grow Zone Mini-grant Project”. Applications sent by facsimile or other electronic means will not be considered.

Anticipated announcement of awards: March 2008.

SECTION III
APPLICATION FORM

Title: _____

Type of Project: **Native Plant Garden** **Wildflower Garden** **Schoolyard Habitat**
 Native Prairie **Riparian Buffer** **Combination**

Contact Information

Applicant Organization: _____
Applicant Contact: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Project Manager Phone: _____
Project Manager E-mail: _____

Authorizing Officer's Name and Title: _____

Project Location: _____

Estimated project area (in acres or square feet): _____

Please supply a map showing location of project in relationship to major cross streets. On a second map, please sketch where the proposed project would be located in relationship to other features on the property.

Estimated Project Installation Date: _____

Opportunity Statement: Describe, **in a few sentences**, the opportunity or issue your project will address and its relevance to the improvement of water quality and/or wildlife habitat efforts in the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds. Please describe what this project will accomplish for your organization and/or its partners (Please attach on separate sheet.)

Project Description: Describe in detail the project that is proposed. (Please attach separately. Do not exceed 5 pages.) Be sure to address the following:

- What is the project? (What do you want to do?)
- Who are the partners involved?
- Who will be responsible for the project site preparation?
- What is the existing land cover?
- Is this project part of a larger project? If so, describe including estimated budget if known.
- What is the proposed use of the project after installation?
- Who will be responsible for maintaining the site and contributing to monitoring?

As the authorized officer, I certify that the above information is accurate and agree to the terms of this request for proposals. I hereby submit this proposal for consideration for funding.

Authorized Officer Signature: _____ **Date:** _____