



BUCKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1456 FERRY ROAD, SUITE 704
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901-5550

Over 60 Years In Pursuit of Environmental Excellence

Water Quality Fund (WQF) Proposal for Collaborative Project Funding

The Bucks County Conservation District (BCCD) offers this reimbursement mini grant, valued at up to \$10,000. WQF projects will increase collaboration between the District, Municipalities, Environmental Advisory Councils (EAC), community groups, conservation nonprofits, and watershed associations. Funded projects will produce water quality improvements through direct implementation or outreach that encourages beneficial behaviors.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be a Bucks County based business, organization or resident and submit a W-9 or Tax Identification number for use in District accounting. Projects sites may be public or private land, with applicants and landowners identified. Landowners must sign BCCD's Landowner Consent form which is an agreement to maintain a practice (where applicable) throughout its lifespan and allow BCCD access for inspection.

Project partnerships are strongly encouraged. Potential partners include municipal EACs, Parks and Recreation departments, HOAs, neighborhood groups, scouting, civic, or recreational groups, watershed or other conservation associations.

Water Quality Fund awards can support a variety of projects including but not limited to small planting projects, streambank restoration or stabilization, basin naturalization, nature-based stormwater control measures (SCM), land management and invasives control, specialized contracted services, planting materials and protection, signage, or public outreach initiatives. Funds may be used as match for private, state, or federal grants. Eligible projects will fall into one of the following categories:

1. **Education Outreach** (<\$1,500) Materials or supplies supporting workshops or clean up events for resident participation. E.g. Rain barrels, drain marking, trash bags, grabbers, safety supplies.
2. **Community Science** (<\$1,500) Establish or maintain volunteer-based water quality monitoring programs. E.g. test strips, sample bottles/jars, macroinvertebrate collection nets, identification keys, safety vests, etc.
3. **Stormwater Mgmt.** (<\$5,000) e.g. Basin / green space naturalization / SCMs E.g. tree plantings, tree protection, plugs.
4. **Stream Repair/Maintenance or Basin retrofits**(<\$10,000) Support for larger, often permitted and/or engineered bank restoration or retrofit projects.
5. **Land Management / Other** Includes habitat improvement projects benefiting ecosystem processes and biodiversity. E.g. plant materials for reintroduction of natives, hand tools for volunteer use in a specific project with a plan for long-term use in maintenance or other projects, etc.



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Ineligible uses of funds:

- Consultant or speaker fees
- Food / refreshments
- Giveaways
- Power Equipment
- Printing costs

Terms:

1. Approved projects will result in or promote nature based or green stormwater infrastructure or source water protection land management.
 - a. This is a reimbursement grant – invoices must be submitted to the committee
 - b. Reporting requirements within 90 days of project completion:
 - i. Project Summary (description, partners, process, impact)
 - ii. Location (coordinates/address)
 - iii. Volunteer sign-in/hours
 - iv. Post project photos
 - v. Presentation to BCCD Board of Directors
2. Two application periods coincide with planning for the planting seasons. Final reporting and reimbursement requests must be submitted within one year of the award. Extensions may be requested and approved before the one-year expiration.
 - a. Round 1: Nov 1 – Feb 15 with late March award
 - b. Round 2: May 1 – June 15 with late July award
3. Project partners are strongly encouraged, and joint projects will be more competitive
 - a. Partner roles should be identified in project narrative

Match:

A 50:50 Match is required for the WQF funds award. Match may be cash or in-kind wages or volunteer time, in-kind match may include anticipated first year maintenance of plantings or SCMs. Final reimbursement will be issued when proof of 50% match has been received.

Application Submittal:

Send completed application materials to ReceptionInfo@BucksCCD.org with the Subject Line: WQF "Your Project Name"