

Alaska Community Forestry Program

Green Infrastructure Grants

1. Introduction

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry Community Forestry Program (CFP) have grant monies available to local governments, non-profits, and other non-federal entities to upgrade existing infrastructure, or implement new green infrastructure projects which reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and increase community resilience from extreme weather events. The Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Projects are 100% reimbursable grants and will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applications must be received by February 28, 2022.

1.1. Background

When rainwater falls on impermeable surfaces in urban areas, it collects pollutants, contaminants, and debris. Traditional gray infrastructure (gutters, storm sewers, culverts) channels this surface runoff into nearby waterbodies, resulting in pollution and impacting ecosystem health. This ultimately leads to poor water quality, erosion, and decreased ecosystem services.

Conversely, when rainwater falls on natural areas, it is slowed and filtered by plant material, absorbed by root systems, and retained in the landscape. Green infrastructure seeks to mimic these natural processes, thereby reducing the impact of severe weather events, increasing water quality, and reducing pollution. These projects will mimic natural systems to improve water quality and community resilience.

The USFS and CFP will provide grant monies to local governments, non-profits, and other non-federal entities to implement green infrastructure projects in Alaska. Organizations may apply for up to \$15,000.00 to fund these projects. The CFP will distribute a total of approximately \$30,000.00 to organizations during the 2022-2023 field seasons.

Successful applicants will have knowledge and commitment to implementing green infrastructure projects in their communities. Project goals will include treatment of stormwater runoff, increased resilience to extreme weather events, and filtration/removal of pollutants that would otherwise enter natural water bodies.

2. Requirements

- Eligible groups include all **non-federal organizations, state agencies, local governments, cooperative weed management areas, soil and water conservation districts, registered non-profits, local communities, and Alaska Native organizations.**
- Trees must be planted on non-federal **public land** and have a three-year **maintenance plan.**
- Applicants may apply for up to **\$15,000.00**. Approximately **\$30,000.00** is available to fund projects.
- Grant funds **may not** be used to pay wages.
- Grants will be awarded for up to two years. Projects selected in 2022 must be completed, and completion reports submitted by **December 31, 2023.**
- Awardees will be responsible for submitting a mid-report and final report.

3. How can the Grant be used?

Grant funds must be used to implement green infrastructure installments and improvements in Alaska. The following outlines activities and costs for both grant expenditures and cost share contributions.

3.1. Eligible Cost Examples:

- Rainwater Harvesting Methods
 - Rain Barrels
 - Rain Storage Tanks
 - Flow-through Planters
- Tree Planting Methods
 - Tree planting, individual or groups
 - Tree trenches
 - Below-grade, silva cell type planter
- Bioretention & Infiltration Methods
 - Rain gardens and bioswales
 - Detention and retention ponds
 - Curb cuts
 - Dry wells
- Permeable Pavement Methods
 - Permeable pavers
 - Pervious pavements
 - Soil stabilizers
 - Infill paver (grass or gravel)
 - Grass reinforcing mesh
- Green Roof Methods
 - Extensive green roof (less than 6-inch depth growing media)
 - Intensive green roof (greater than 6-inch depth growing media)
 - Green walls

3.2. Ineligible costs:

- Activities not identified in the proposed grant expenditures or cost share application (exceptions can be granted during the field season with approval from the CFP).
- Educational and research organizations proposing projects that do not show tangible, on-the-ground benefit.
- Organizations seeking funding for litigation or advocacy.
- Organizations seeking general operating or programmatic support.
- Activities federal agencies are required to perform.
- Other items as determined by the grant review committee.

4. Grant Selection Criteria

Selection criteria will include things like project feasibility, demonstration of a well-organized plan and budget, location within an area of priority interest to the State, and anticipated benefits to ecosystem health.

Grant applications that include partnerships between local governments and local or regional non-profits are encouraged. Grant applications that leverage additional work through in-kind services, volunteer labor, and cash are also encouraged.

5. Application Process

Complete the 4-page application. Proposals are **due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022**. Management of the grants will be conducted by the CFP. All completed proposals will be reviewed by a grant committee. The state and grantee will sign a grant agreement and funds will be paid to the grantee upon receipt of the final report.

6. Target Dates

The following dates are targets for each step in the selection process. After the proposal submittal, these dates may require adjustment.

- Proposals due: **February 28, 2022**
- Grant review committee reviews proposals: **March 1 – 18, 2022**
- Projects selected: **April 4, 2022**
- Project timelines and grant agreement finalized: **May 6, 2022**

7. Resources

- Environmental Protection Agency – What is green infrastructure?
<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>
- Fairbanks Green Infrastructure Resource Guide
https://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/user-files/pdfs/GI_Manual_January2015.pdf
- Alaska Community Forestry Program
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/index>

8. Contact

Mail or deliver proposal to: Alaska Community Forestry Program
550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Email proposal to: communityforestry@alaska.gov

For additional information contact: Jim Renkert, Community Forestry Program Coordinator
jim.renkert@alaska.gov
907-269-8465

Alternate Contact:

Josh Hightower, Community Assistance Forester
josh.hightower@alaska.gov
907-269-8465

Mission of the Alaska Community Forestry Program:

Help communities build effective, self-sustaining community forestry programs with strong local support.

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