

FACT SHEET: GRANTS



CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT PORTIONS OF THE HACKENSACK RIVER ARE CONSIDERED PART OF THE GRANT AREA? I'M CURRENTLY WORKING ON A WETLANDS/HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT IN A COUNTY PARK KNOWN AS TEANECK CREEK PARK. THIS IS PART OF OVERPECK COUNTY PARK. THE OVERPECK CREEK DRAINS INTO THE HACKENSACK RIVER.

IF MY PROJECT AREA IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY, DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS WHERE WE MIGHT PURSUE GRANT FUNDING FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION IN A COUNTY PARK? THIS IS A VOLUNTARY RESTORATION EFFORT; THE FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR THE COUNTY OF BERGEN.

Project eligibility on the Hackensack River will extent upstream to the Oradell Dam. Ecological restoration funding can come from any number of sources but we are unable to predict what funding sources will be available when. We suggest you continue to look for opportunities and apply accordingly.

I WAS WONDERING HOW WE (AS A CONTRACTOR/ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION CONSTRUCTION COMPANY) WOULD BE ABLE TO TRACK THOSE WHO WIN THESE CONTRACTS. WE WOULD HOPE (AS A WBE AND DBE) TO BE ABLE TO BID ON THE WORK IF IT IS WHAT WE DO. HOW DO WE TRACK THIS?

DEP plans on announcing projects that receive grant awards. Requests for proposals and associated contracts executed by the grant recipients for project design, construction, maintenance, etc. will need to be in accordance with the grant agreement requirements.

I AM WRITING TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE HACKENSACK RIVER ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING RELATED TO THE RECENT SETTLEMENT WITH OCCIDENTAL CHEMICAL CORPORATION. IN PARTICULAR, ARE AREAS NORTH OF THE CITY OF HACKENSACK BEING CONSIDERED?

WE ARE A COMMUNITY PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE FIRM REPRESENTING SEVERAL MUNICIPAL CLIENTS ALONG THE HACKENSACK RIVER. AS SUCH, PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GRANT, SEVERAL PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED ALONG THE RIVER CONCERNING RESTORATION, OPEN SPACE AND PUBLIC ACCESS.

WE'D BE VERY INTERESTED TO LEARN IF THESE AREAS OF THE HACKENSACK RIVER ARE ELIGIBLE AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER RECOGNIZING THE 60 DAY APPLICATION TIMEFRAME SUCH AS REQUIRED FORMS, INFORMATION, ETC.

Project eligibility on the Hackensack River will extent upstream to the Oradell Dam. Proposal requirements are addressed in the Notice of Grant Funding available at: www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/docs/onrr-nbc.pdf

GROUNDWORK ELIZABETH HAS BEEN WORKING ON BUILDING A TRAIL ALONG THE ELIZABETH RIVER SINCE 2007. WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS, COUNTY PARTNERS, THE CITY OF ELIZABETH AND WITH THE HELP OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, WE COMPLETED PHASE I OF A MULTI PHASED RIVER TRAIL PROJECT IN 2012. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON NEWER PHASES WHICH WILL TAKE THE TRAIL FROM THE CENTER OF ELIZABETH TO THE ARTHUR KILL.

WE ARE ASKING IF THIS PART OF OUR WORK QUALIFIES AS A TERRITORY FOR GRANT SUBMISSION FOR THE NEW \$60 IN GRANTS AVAILABLE NOW. I HAVE ATTACHED A MAP OF THE TRAIL PORTION THAT IS DONE, WHICH EMANATES FROM BROAD STREET IN ELIZABETH, AND THE ONE UNDERWAY, AND A FEW PHOTOS. WE ARE LOOKING TO BUILD THE TRAIL OUT TO THE ARTHUR KILL TO TIE IN THE COMMUNITY WITH ANOTHER TRAIL

NETWORK WHICH WILL TAKE RESIDENTS AND USERS UP RIVER TO THE BORDER WITH NEWARK. DOES THIS GEOGRAPHICAL PORTION QUALIFY FOR THE NEW GRANT?

IN 2014 WE WERE AWARDED AN URBAN WATERS SMALL GRANT FROM THE US EPA, AND THE GUIDELINES WERE ALSO THE PASSAIC RIVER BASIN, AND WE QUALIFIED, SO WE ARE HOPEFUL.

It is stated that newer phases will take the trail from the Center of Elizabeth to the Arthur Kill. However, the map submitted shows Phase 2 and 3 ending well before the Arthur Kill. Based on the map which was submitted, Phase 2 and 3 would not be eligible for this grant. If the trail were to reach the Arthur Kill, it would be eligible for the grant solicitation.

HOW DO WE GET COPIES OF THE GRANT PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM AND GRANT PROJECT BUDGET FORM FOR THE PASSAIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION GRANTS?

Copies of the Grant Application and Project Budget Form can be found on the project summary sheet. It is located at the bottom under "Submitting a Proposal."

For the Newark Bay Complex grant go to: www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/nhr_passaicrivernrr.html

For the Lower Passaic River and Tributaries grant go to: www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/nhr_passaictribs.html

I AM INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PASSAIC RIVER NEWARK BAY GRANTS; SPECIFICALLY WHEN THE GRANT APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AS WELL AS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT. THE COUNTY OF ESSEX HAS BEEN AWARDED MORE THAN \$130 MILLION THROUGH THE NJDEP GREEN ACRES PROGRAM AND WE HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR SUCCESS WITH THE PASSAIC RIVER NEWARK BAY GRANT.

Copies of the Grant Application can be found on the project summary sheet. It is located at the bottom under "Submitting a Proposal."

For the Newark Bay Complex grant go to: www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/nhr_passaicrivernrr.html

For the Lower Passaic River and Tributaries grant go to: www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/nhr_passaictribs.html

The filing deadline for the Newark Bay Complex grant is July 25, 2016 and the filing deadline for the Lower Passaic River and Tributaries grant is September 8, 2016.

CAN YOU DEFINE WHAT PORTION OF THE HACKENSACK RIVER ARE ELIGIBLE?

Projects located on the Hackensack River below the Oradell Dam are eligible.

WHAT ARE SOME ELIGIBLE EXPENSES OF THIS PROGRAM?

Eligible expenses for the Lower Passaic River and Tributaries grant and the Newark Bay Complex grant would include construction costs and future land acquisition.

WOULD INSTALLATION OF A BACKFLOW PREVENTER BE AN ELIGIBLE PROJECT?

Eligible projects for the Lower Passaic River and Tributaries grant include wetland enhancement and/or creation projects. Eligible projects for the Newark Bay Complex grant include projects which provide or enhance public access and enjoyment to waterfront resources. We don't believe that a backflow preventer would be an eligible project for either grant.

WOULD A PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE MARINA IN ELMWOOD PARK SOMEHOW QUALIFY FOR FUNDING AS PART OF THIS RESTORATION. CURRENTLY, ONLY PROJECTS BY MUNICIPALITIES BELOW THE DUNDEE FALLS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FUNDS. ELMWOOD PARK IS LOCATED JUST 4 BLOCKS NORTH OF THE DUNDEE FALLS (THEREBY MAKING THE TOWN INELIGIBLE UNDER THE PROGRAM) AND HAS A "VERY ACTIVE" MARINA WITH ACCESS TO THE RIVER THAT IS IN NEED OF SOME IMPROVEMENTS/EXPANSION. WHY IS DUNDEE FALLS SELECTED AS THE CUTOFF POINT?

Elmwood Park is outside of the eligible geographical scope. The reason the cutoff was at Dundee Dam is because the money

available is the result of litigation for environmental injuries below the Dundee Dam and therefore Elmwood Park is outside of the area for which we assessed injury.

HOW FIRM IS THE MINIMUM GRANT AWARD OF \$500,000? THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR SMALLER MUNICIPALITIES TO HAVE TO MATCH AND MAY ALSO BE MORE THAN NEEDED FOR THE RESTORATION, OPEN SPACE AND PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECTS BEING CONTEMPLATED. I ASK THIS AS THE PROJECTS BEING DISCUSSED WOULD MERIT SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HACKENSACK RIVER CORRIDOR AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM. WE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED TO LEARN WHETHER PROJECTS REQUIRING LESS FUNDING WILL BE CONSIDERED.

The Department will not fund projects requiring less funding. The grant minimum was established to benefit from economies of scale that larger projects tend to provide. In addition, it would be inappropriate to change the eligibility requirements at this time.

WOULD THIS MONEY QUALIFY FOR FUNDS TO BE USED TO DE-SNAG THE RIVER?

Grant money for the Lower Passaic River and Tributaries can only be used for projects which consist of wetland creation or wetland enhancement. Grant money for the Newark Bay Complex can only be used for projects which provide or enhance public access and enjoyment to waterfront resources. A proposal to de-snag a river would not qualify for either grant announcement.

COULD A MUNICIPALITY APPLY FOR FUNDS UNDER THIS GRANT FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION WHICH IS ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSTRAINED?

Property acquisition does qualify for grant money. If environmentally constrained were to mean contamination is present, the Newark Bay Complex grant states that remediation costs cannot exceed 20% of the construction budget. For both grant opportunities, projects may be determined to be ineligible based on the presence of known or suspected toxic substances. If environmentally constrained were to mean areas regulated by existing acts, rules or regulations, this may affect scoring of an application as these areas may be more difficult to purchase/develop and therefore impact the likelihood of success.

I AM REACHING OUT TO LEARN WHETHER ONRR WAS ANTICIPATING A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WITH POTENTIAL APPLICANTS FOR THE PASSAIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION (LOWER PASSAIC RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES) GRANT OPPORTUNITY. WE ARE A SUPPORTING A CITY WHO IS INTERESTED IN THE GRANT AND ASKED ABOUT A MEETING WITH ONRR.

The Department conducted a workshop on the Notice of Grant Availability for the two grants on June 29, 2016 in Newark. To maintain fairness in awarding these grants, no individual meetings with potential applicants will be held. All questions submitted in writing and questions raised at the workshop will be posted online with responses. All questions and responses can be viewed at: www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/docs/grants-factsheet.pdf

WHAT DOCUMENTATION/INFORMATION ARE YOU REQUESTING IN REGARD TO CAPACITY DEMONSTRATION? DOES THIS IMPLY RESUMES? PORTFOLIOS? IF SO, FOR WHOM SHOULD THE RESUMES/PORTFOLIOS REFLECT IF THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY HAS YET TO BE SECURED (I.E. STILL NEEDS TO GO THROUGH AN RFP PROCESS/BID)? OR IS THIS SECTION MEANT TO BE A NARRATIVE IN-AND-OF ITSELF?

Capacity demonstration could include resumes, portfolios, references, and anything that can help demonstrate experience and expertise that pertains to this process that includes grant compliance, project design and construction. This pertains to personnel currently involved in the project and would include contractors if they are under contract. DEP understands that personnel not yet under contract would not be part of the capacity demonstration.

CAN THE GRANT PERIOD AND GRANT AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE DATE BE SET TO START AS OF THE DATE OF APPLICATION, JULY 25, 2016?

The grant period and grant agreement effective date will be based on the signing of a grant agreement between the grantor and grantee. This will be done following the award of the grant which will be within 6 months of the application due date.

WHAT IS MEANT BY PROJECT PARTNER?

A project partner is an organization or individual that makes a commitment to join the applicant in the design and/or implementation of the proposed project by providing funds and/or services integral to it. For example, a project partner may be a party who will be involved in implementing proposed project, or the owner of property needed for implementation of the project.

WE HAVE A MARINA IN CARTERET THAT IS STARTING CONSTRUCTION THIS WEEK, WHERE THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT IS TO CONDUCT THE DREDGING ACTIVITIES. WHILE THE DREDGING IS NEEDED TO CREATE A SUFFICIENTLY DEEP BASIN, THE MATERIAL THAT WILL BE REMOVED IS CONTAMINATED. THE DREDGING OPERATION COSTS EXCEED 20% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT, BUT THE REMEDIAL WORK IS THE DREDGING. WILL THIS PROJECT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS?

Only costs incurred after the execution of the grant agreement would be eligible for reimbursement. If the proposed project includes remediation costs that exceed 20% of the total cost, the project would not meet the eligibility criteria. However, if you eliminated the dredging component from your project you could potentially meet the eligibility requirement. Please also note that if dredging is eliminated from your project, associated costs could not be used to meet matching requirements.

DURING THE WORKSHOP LAST WEEK YOU POSTED A FIGURE ON THE FRONT WALL THAT INDICATED THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS THAT APPLIED TO THE GRANTS. COULD YOU MAKE THAT FIGURE AVAILABLE VIA YOUR WEBSITE?

The map showing eligible municipalities has been added to the powerpoint presentation posted online at: www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/docs/onrr-passaic-20160629-meeting-pres.pdf

WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE TO PERFORM ONLY ACQUISITION THROUGH USE OF THESE GRANT FUNDS? ACQUISITIONS WOULD BE STRATEGIC AND IN PREPARATION FOR EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION.

Land acquisition is an acceptable project only under the Newark Bay Complex grant.

FOR ACQUISITION, DOES AN APPRAISAL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION OR CAN YOU ESTIMATE THIS COST? WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE REIMBURSEMENT WILL ONLY BE BASED ON FINAL PURCHASE PRICE.

An appraisal would be needed prior to execution of the grant agreement. Approved land purchases shall be in compliance with all applicable DEP Green Acres rules and procedures at: www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/appraisal.html

DOES THE APPLICANT NEED DOCUMENTATION REGARDING RIPARIAN RIGHTS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION?

Documentation regarding riparian rights will be required prior to the execution of the grant agreement. At this stage grant applications need only discuss riparian rights issues where appropriate.

THE AUTHORITY IS LIKELY TO BE THE APPLICANT BUT THEY PLAN TO USE BOND MONIES THAT NEWARK IS FUNDING AS THE MATCHING MONIES. IS THERE ANY PROBLEM WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT?

This arrangement does not appear to be problematic, however complete and accurate recordkeeping will be required for any matching funds used on these projects.

AN APPLICANT MAY WANT TO ENGAGE IN A SECOND PROJECT IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION. WOULD THE APPLICANT BE PRECLUDED FROM DOING SO?

There is no limitation on the number of applications submitted. Applications must be in accordance with all grant requirements.

CAN OPEN SPACE AND/OR GREEN ACRES FUNDS BE LEVERAGED TO BE USED AS THE MATCH FOR ACQUISITION COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GRANT?

State funding including Green Acres funds can be used as matching funds but only in order to qualify a project as eligible. When scoring the application, additional points will not be awarded for matching funding derived from State funding sources.

IF AN ENTITY IS SUBMITTING MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION (LET'S SAY TWO FOR EXAMPLE'S SAKE), DO THEY NEED TWO SEPARATE, UNIQUE RESOLUTIONS PASSED (I.E. ONE FOR EACH PROJECT), OR MAY THEY PASS ONE BROADER RESOLUTION TO ENCOMPASS BOTH PROJECTS? PLEASE ADVISE.

One resolution that addresses both proposed projects is satisfactory.

REGARDING RESOLUTIONS, IS DEP ABLE TO PRESENT AN EXAMPLE TEMPLATE/LANGUAGE NEEDED IN THE RESOLUTION? IF SO, PLEASE ADVISE HERE AND POST AN EXAMPLE ON THE WEBSITE. IF THE RESOLUTION TEMPLATE/LANGUAGE WOULD DIFFER BETWEEN THE TWO PROGRAMS (NEWARK BAY AND LOWER PASSAIC TRIBUTARIES) PLEASE UPLOAD BOTH RESOLUTION TEMPLATES SEPARATELY.

DEP does not have standard resolution language but a resolution should clearly authorize submittal of the grant application, project design and project construction.

HOW MUCH CONTAMINANT REMEDIATION COSTS WILL DEP REIMBURSE?

For the Newark Bay Complex grant, DEP will reimburse construction and future land acquisition costs for proposed projects where up to 20% of these costs are associated with remediation. For both grants the presence of contamination may impact grant proposal selection.

WILL DESIGN COSTS BE REIMBURSABLE?

Design costs are not reimbursable under this grant program.

IS DEP REQUESTING BUDGET INFORMATION BEYOND WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE BUDGET FORM?

Applicants must complete the Grant Project Budget Form for estimated construction costs in its entirety. In addition, applicants must provide a detailed narrative describing each budget item and clearly demonstrating how the grant funds will be spent, any other funds that will be used to implement the project, and how those funds will be used.

CAN DEP REIMBURSE FOR PROPERTY ACQUIRED PRIOR TO EXECUTION OF A GRANT AWARD?

DEP cannot reimburse for property acquisition or any other costs incurred prior to full execution of a grant agreement. All property to be acquired must be in accordance with current Green Acres procedures and requirements.

IN THE EVENT AN EXTENSION IS NEEDED WHO INITIATES THE REQUEST?

The applicant who has provided the detailed initial schedule will be responsible for requesting and justifying needed extensions. DEP will review and determine the acceptability of that request.

HOW WILL MATCHING FUNDS FACTOR INTO SCORING?

Since the Newark Bay Complex Grant requires a 50% match, additional points will be awarded based on the amount of matching funds provided beyond 50%. The Lower Passaic River and Tributaries Grant does not require matching funds so points will be awarded based on the amount of matching funds committed to the project. When scoring applications, additional points will be awarded to the extent the matching funds are derived from non-state sources.

IF A PROJECT HAS A CONSTRUCTION COST OF \$20 MILLION DOES THE 50% MATCH MEAN THAT THE APPLICANT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE \$10 MILLION FOR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION?

DEP will only reimburse construction and land acquisition costs incurred after the grant agreement is executed, and only up to 50%. For the example provided in the question above, the applicant would be required to provide \$10 million in matching funds for construction and land acquisition.

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS ON THE SOURCE OF MATCHING FUNDS?

State funding can be used as matching funds but only in order to qualify a project as eligible. When scoring the application, additional points will not be awarded for matching funding derived from State funding sources.

IN LOCATIONS WHERE THERE ARE ROADWAYS THAT ARE ADJACENT TO WATERFRONT RESOURCES WOULD DEP CONSIDER PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECTS ON THE LAND SIDE OF THE ROADWAY?

The aim of these grants is to allow citizens access and enjoyment to waterfront resources. Projects will need to have some portion of the access be adjacent to the waterfront.

WHY HASN'T DEP CONSTRUCTED THE RESTORATION CONCEPT PROJECT LIST PROVIDED BY THE CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)?

DEP has offered \$60 million under these grant solicitations for the purposes of selecting and funding restoration projects in the Newark Bay Complex. Applications that propose projects envisioned by the CAG will be reviewed and ranked accordingly.

CAN APPLICANTS APPLY FOR MULTIPLE PROJECTS?

For the Newark Bay Complex Grant solicitation applicants may apply for multiple projects. For the Lower Passaic River and Tributary Grant solicitation, applicants may only apply for one project.

CAN TWO TOWNS APPLY FOR THE SAME PROJECT AND DOES IT MATTER WHICH TOWN PROVIDES MATCHING FUNDS?

Two towns may partner on a single project in one application and it doesn't matter which town will be providing the matching funds.

CAN FUNDS EXPENDED ON LAND ACQUISITION OR CONSTRUCTION PRIOR TO GRANT AWARD BE ELIGIBLE TO COUNT TOWARDS THE REQUIRED 50% MATCHING FUNDS?

Any funds expended outside of the grant period are not eligible for reimbursement.

IF CHANGES ARE MADE TO THE GRANT SOLICITATION HOW WILL POTENTIAL APPLICANTS BE NOTIFIED?

DEP does not anticipate making changes to the grant solicitations. However, if changes need to be made the DEP would post the notice on its grants page and email all prospective qualifying municipalities.

DOES DEP HAVE ANY EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECTS THAT WOULD QUALIFY FOR THIS GRANT SOLICITATION?

DEP referenced both the Newark Waterfront Park and the public park in Bayonne as examples of projects that would qualify for funding. It should be noted that qualifying for funding does not necessarily result in an award. Awards will be made based on the project ranking and the availability of funding.

WHEN ARE PERMITS NEEDED?

Permits are a pre-disbursement condition. The need for permits, the types of permits and the overall permitability should be discussed in all applications.

WHAT DOES 50% DESIGN MEAN?

At the 50% design level, DEP expects to have detailed design drawings, design narrative (a chronological summary presentation of design decisions and associated reasoning), preliminary specifications, detailed cost estimate, necessary permits are identified and permitability determinations have been made, schedule for design completion, bidding and preliminary construction schedule.

HOW LONG BEFORE DEP ANNOUNCES THE GRANT AWARDS?

DEP will announce grant awards within 6 months of the application due date.

IF WE ARE UNABLE TO GET A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE (DUE TO SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULES), IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO PROVIDE A DRAFT RESOLUTION, ALONG WITH THE SIGNED APPLICATION FORM AND THE DATE THE RESOLUTION WILL BE CONSIDERED?

If the applicant is a governmental agency, three signed and sealed originals of the governing body resolution or other authorizing document must be submitted with the application.