

DuPage County Water Quality Improvement Program Grant Proposal Packet

This packet will serve as a request for proposals for DuPage County Stormwater Management’s Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grant. **The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5 P.M. CST on Friday, January 5, 2024.** DuPage County expects to award a total of \$300,000 from WQIP funds and anticipates notifying grantees following the DuPage County Stormwater Management Committee meeting in March.

The “Project Submittal Assistance and Funding Recommendations” section includes the prioritization criteria. DuPage staff will review all proposal submissions based on the project prioritization criteria and will make recommendations to the DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee prior to entering into agreements for funding. **All funded projects must be completed within 24 months from the agreement date.**

Highest consideration will be given to projects that provide a water quality benefit on a regional scale. Grant reimbursement is only allowable for construction costs. Projects that build resilience and offer strong multi-jurisdictional and multi-purpose benefits will also be highly considered.

Proposals may be submitted through DuPage County’s online application portal. For questions or issues, please email StormwaterMgmt@dupageco.org. **All questions must be submitted through email and will be posted on the FAQ page on our website.**

Project Submittal Assistance & Funding Recommendations

PROJECT COMPLIANCE CRITERIA

The following shall govern DuPage County decisions on WQIP funding recommendations.

1. Projects must provide a regional water quality benefit, as well as pollutant load reduction. Estimates of load reductions must be determined using an IEPA or DuPage County approved methodology.
2. Projects that are required to be implemented as part of a development permit are not eligible for funding assistance. However, if the applicant can demonstrate that a portion of the project exceeds permit requirements for water quality, then that portion of the project may be eligible for funding.
3. The completed DuPage County WQIP Funding Request Form with supporting documents shall be submitted to DuPage County Stormwater Management by the deadline established in the Request-for- Proposal Packet, in order to be considered for funding.
4. Funding requests are only being accepted for construction of water quality projects. Eligible construction costs will be reimbursed to grantees. **Projects required as part of a regulatory permit are not eligible for funding.**
5. Applicants shall cost-share at least 75%. Expenses incurred or activities occurring prior to approval of funding by DuPage County are not eligible for reimbursement or to meet cost-share requirements. Several entities may combine resources to meet the applicant cost share requirement, or individual applicants may propose Federal or State or other grant resources to meet the applicant cost share requirement. **DuPage County estimates providing a share of no more than \$100,000 per project, depending on program interest.**
6. The project shall comply with or be consistent with all applicable watershed plans and stormwater management ordinances, regulations, laws and statutes.

7. The requests are limited to available DuPage County WQIP funds.
8. "Land Rights" – For all properties where in-the-ground construction will or may occur, the Applicant shall provide Owner-authorized land access and/or land rights or evidence of possessory interest in the form of previously recorded documentation or written authorization, from all property owners affected. Documentation or authorization may include recorded permanent easements; land covenants, deed-restricted areas or prescriptive easement (with the Owner's authorization or evidence of possessory interest); or other Owner-approved and DuPage County accepted legal instruments (i.e.: Owner- executed License Agreement). Work within public road rights-of-way shall not be performed without appropriate permits or authorization.
9. DuPage County municipalities, townships, non-profits, businesses, organizations, HOA's, and individuals are eligible to receive funds under the WQIP grant. However, as noted above, the projects must provide a regional benefit. For that reason, individuals may consider collaborating with neighbors, homeowner's associations or others to maximize the project benefit.
10. Examples of eligible projects include:
 - Stream Restoration Projects such as bank stabilization involving bioengineering practices, channel rehabilitation (e.g., removal of concrete lining, daylighting a storm sewer or stream, re-meandering a previously channelized section of a stream, installing pool-riffle complexes).
 - Detention basin retrofit (e.g., convert an open water basin to a constructed wetland basin, planting native vegetation in place of turf grass).
 - Lake or pond shoreline stabilization.
 - Native planting projects such as added naturalized green space, riparian buffer rehabilitation, wetland or wetland buffer creation, restoration, or enhancement.
 - Green infrastructure practices that reduce/filter stormwater runoff, such as green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales, cisterns, infiltration practices, permeable pavement, dry wells, urban planter boxes and tree wells that provide additional storage and treatment of runoff.

The following are examples of projects or portions of projects that are **not** eligible for funding under this program:

- Projects that do not provide a reduction in pollutant loads from stormwater runoff.
- Projects required under the DuPage County Countywide Stormwater and Floodplain Ordinance, Clean Water Act, National Discharge Pollutant Elimination System or other Federal, State or Local permit requirements.
- Routine maintenance or repair of existing water quality project or on-site infrastructure systems.
- Projects to protect primarily wildlife habitat, control flooding or protect infrastructure.
- Activities completed prior to signing an agreement or contract for WQIP grant assistance.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

The following, listed below in priority order, shall be considered by DuPage County Stormwater Management staff in the development of the staff recommendation and by the DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee in the consideration of funding requests. Every project will be scored using the weighted rubric below, with each criterion given a rating between 0 and 5 based on how well the project meets that criterion. A 0 means “does not meet at all”, and a 5 means “meets to the maximum extent possible”.

Project Prioritization Criteria				
Rank	Criteria	Maximum Possible Weight	Rating (0 – 5)	Score (Weight x Rating)
1	Water Quality Benefit	30		
2	Readiness to Proceed	20		
3	Public Education	20		
4	Runoff Reduction	10		
5	Environmental Justice Areas	10		
6	Natural Resource Benefits	10		
7	Long term Maintenance	5		
8	Multiple Use Benefits	5		
9	Watershed Plan Implementation	5		
Weighted Score Total		115		
Total project cost				
Applicant cost share				
Applicant's DuPage County WQIP funding request				
Staff recommendation for DuPage County WQIP funding				

Definitions of criteria are as follows:

1. **Water Quality Benefit** – Reduces pollutant loads to DuPage County waterways. Provide load reductions and note model used.
2. **Readiness to Proceed** – Project is shovel ready, has completed design, permitting, and land acquisition aspects. Construction must proceed within one year of award announcement.
3. **Public Education** – Educates the public about the water quality benefits of the project by providing signage, presentations, community outreach opportunities, etc. that highlight the project and the benefits provided.

4. **Runoff Reduction** – Restores pre-development hydrology and/or reduces stormwater runoff from the site.
5. **Environmental Justice Areas** – Project is located in an Environmental Justice Area as defined by IEPA and which can be found at: <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/> under Socioeconomic Indicators / Demographic Index greater than 70th percentile
6. **Natural Resource Benefits** – Benefit the environment with an emphasis on non-structural natural resource protection strategies to improve environmental resilience. If utilizing native plants, please provide applicable establishment and long-term maintenance plans.
7. **Long Term Maintenance** – Project has a designated plan for long-term maintenance to ensure continued functionality and assurance regarding the permanence of the project.
8. **Multiple Use Benefits** – Provide multiple-use benefits to communities such as recreation, research, accessibility, or other co-benefits.
9. **Watershed Plan Implementation** – Project identified in EPA approved watershed-based plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Recommendations for DuPage County WQIP funding will be made by the DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee during its regularly scheduled meetings. All recipients will enter into agreements voted on by both the Stormwater Committee and DuPage County Board, as well as applicable municipal governing bodies.

Following the agreement, DuPage County may audit any project for: completeness of WQIP funded work products or deliverables; adherence to agreed schedules or extensions; and appropriateness of WQIP fund expenditures. Incomplete work products or deliverables, delays beyond agreed deadlines and expenditures of funds that do not achieve agreed deliverables may result in forfeiture of grant funding pursuant to the executed project agreement or a determination of ineligibility for the applicant, project manager or project consultant to apply for future grants.

DUPAGE COUNTY WQIP FUNDING REQUEST PROCESS

1. The applicant shall complete the “Water Quality Improvement Program Grant Application” and provide the required attachments.
2. All requests shall be submitted to DuPage County Stormwater Management by the deadline of 5 P.M. CST on Friday, January 5, 2024.
3. Staff will review the application considering WQIP fund availability and the compliance and prioritization criteria listed above. If necessary, DuPage County staff will consult with the applicant for any additional information before developing a written staff recommendation.
4. DuPage County staff will present the request, recommendation and rationale to the DuPage County Stormwater Management Planning Committee who will then discuss and vote on it.
5. DuPage County Stormwater Management staff shall prepare agreements with the applicants for the disposition of approved allocated funds. All agreements must be signed by both DuPage County and the applicant.