

2015 Building Better Communities Grant Application (Round 1)

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The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is pleased to continue its partnership with the American Water Charitable Foundation (AWCF) to expand the *Building Better Communities* program. [Building Better Communities](#) is a five-year initiative designed to enhance public parks by creating and improving nature-based playgrounds and natural play areas for children, while also providing water stewardship education about water resources and conservation. *Building Better Communities* projects are supported with funding from AWCF and implemented through annual grants administered by NRPA. **Grant applications are due December 5, 2014.**


Contact Jimmy O'Connor at joconnor@nrpa.org with questions.

Tip: You are able to save your progress beginning with the next page (*Save And Continue Application Later* button will appear at top).

Projects sites must be located in American Water service areas, within the states of CA, FL, HI, IA, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, MO, NJ, PA, TN, VA, or WV: *

Project sites must be located within a **30-mile radius** of at least one of the following cities.

Only projects within these geographic areas are eligible to apply. If your proposed project site is within a 30-mile radius of a listed city, please select the closest location.

A scrollable list of cities and states, presented in a light gray box with a vertical scrollbar on the right. The list contains 44 entries, each consisting of a city name followed by a two-letter state abbreviation. The cities are: Imperial Beach, CA; Newbury Park, CA; Pacific Grove, CA; Rosemead, CA; Sacramento, CA; Santa Rosa, CA; Coronado, CA; Pensacola, FL; Honolulu, HI; Clinton, IA; Davenport, IA; South Beloit, IL; Woodridge, IL; Alton, IL; Cairo, IL; Belleville, IL; East St. Louis, IL; Granite City, IL; Lincoln, IL; Pekin, IL; Peoria, IL; Champaign, IL; Pontiac, IL; Sterling, IL; Streator, IL; Urbana, IL; Crawfordsville, IN; Terre Haute, IN; West Lafayette, IN; Gary, IN; Kokomo, IN; Noblesville, IN; Wabash, IN; Warsaw, IN; Greenwood, IN; Mooresville, IN; Shelbyville, IN; Muncie, IN; Richmond, IN; Jeffersonville, IN; Newburgh, IN; and Sevmour, IN.

Imperial Beach, CA
Newbury Park, CA
Pacific Grove, CA
Rosemead, CA
Sacramento, CA
Santa Rosa, CA
Coronado, CA
Pensacola, FL
Honolulu, HI
Clinton, IA
Davenport, IA
South Beloit, IL
Woodridge, IL
Alton, IL
Cairo, IL
Belleville, IL
East St. Louis, IL
Granite City, IL
Lincoln, IL
Pekin, IL
Peoria, IL
Champaign, IL
Pontiac, IL
Sterling, IL
Streator, IL
Urbana, IL
Crawfordsville, IN
Terre Haute, IN
West Lafayette, IN
Gary, IN
Kokomo, IN
Noblesville, IN
Wabash, IN
Warsaw, IN
Greenwood, IN
Mooresville, IN
Shelbyville, IN
Muncie, IN
Richmond, IN
Jeffersonville, IN
Newburgh, IN
Sevmour, IN

Cynthiana, NY
Lexington, KY
Bel Air, MD
Calumet, MI
Chesterfield, MO
Jefferson City, MO
Joplin, MO
Branson, MO
Warrensburg, MO
St. Charles, MO
Mexico, MO
St. Joseph, MO
Brunswick, MO
St. Louis, MO
Parkville, MO
Cherry Hill, NJ
Mt. Laurel, NJ
Voorhees, NJ
Short Hills, NJ
Washington, NJ
Bridgewater, NJ
Hillsborough, NJ
Plainfield, NJ
Somerset, NJ
Lakewood, NJ
Shrewsbury, NJ
Colts Neck, NJ
Farmingdale, NJ
Neptune, NJ
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ
Delran, NJ
Mt. Holly, NJ
Lynbrook, NY
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Scranton, PA
Hershey, PA
McMurray, PA
Mechanicsburg, PA
Chattanooga, TN
Alexandria, VA
Hopewell, VA
Charleston, WV
Montgomery, WV
Racine, WV
Fayetteville, WV
Oak Hill, WV
Huntington, WV
Salt Rock, WV
Princeton, WV
Bluefield, WV
True, WV

Hinton, WV
Weston, WV
Gassaway, WV
Webster Springs, WV



PURPOSE

Building Better Communities grants of **\$50,000-to-\$150,000** will fund projects in public parks that:

- 1) Build and enhance nature-based playgrounds and natural play areas for children
- 2) Educate people on environmental stewardship practices related to water

ELIGIBILITY

The following requirements must **ALL** be met in order to apply:

- Project site must be located within an American Water service area
- Applicant must be a local, municipal, regional, or state governmental agency (e.g., park and recreation department) with full authority to implement proposed project
- Site location must be a public park or recreational area situated on publicly-owned property
- Site location must include an on-site tie-in with or enhancement of a water body (e.g., pond, lake, stream, wetland) or a functional water management area (e.g., watershed, rain garden or stormwater management facility)
- Project must create, expand or enhance new or existing nature-based or natural play areas for children (see below for details)
- Project must incorporate conservation stewardship principles/environmental education, including water stewardship messaging (see below for details)
- Project must be completed by December 31, 2015 (funds awarded April 2015)
- Applicant must commit any necessary project expenses beyond those anticipated to be awarded by this grant
- Project must include opportunities for American Water employee volunteerism

For the purpose of the Building Better Communities program, the following definitions apply:

Nature-based Play Area: Children's play components in a playground or play area that incorporate some or all manufactured nature-themed play equipment.

Natural Play Area: The intentional creation of children's play components in a play area using natural materials such as logs, boulders, and loose fill as opportunities for children's play.

Conservation Stewardship Principles/Environmental Education: Signage or other on-site messaging and/or demonstrations areas that provide information about ecology, conservation stewardship, and/or impacts of human choices on water resources, including messaging about water conservation, groundwater protections, clean water protection, and climate (e.g., hydrologic cycle, water conservation measures, uses of water, watershed protection).

TIMING

Applications are due by Midnight EDT December 5, 2014.

Finalists will be selected in early January and will be required to submit additional details for further consideration.

Confirm eligibility requirements: *

- ☐ Project site is located within an American Water service area
- ☐ Applicant is a local, municipal, regional, or state governmental agency (e.g., park and recreation department) with full authority to implement proposed project
- ☐ Site location is a public park or recreational area situated on publicly-owned property
- ☐ Site location includes an on-site tie-in with or enhancement of a water body (e.g., pond, lake, stream, wetland) or a functional water management area (e.g., watershed, rain garden or stormwater management facility)
- ☐ Project creates, expands or enhances new or existing nature-based or natural play areas for children
- ☐ Project incorporates conservation stewardship principles/environmental education, including water stewardship messaging
- ☐ Project will be completed by December 31, 2015 (funds awarded April 2015)
- ☐ Applicant commits any necessary project expenses beyond those anticipated to be awarded by this grant
- ☐ Project includes opportunities for American Water employee volunteerism

(untitled)

1. Applicant Information (Organization):

Organization Name *

Street Address

Apt/Suite/Office

City *

State *

Zip *

Phone Number

Fax Number

URL

NRPA Member Number (if applicable)

2. Contact Information (You): *

First Name

Last Name

Title

Organization Name

Email Address (A copy of your completed application will be sent to this address)

Phone Number

Fax Number

(untitled)

3. Has your organization ever received funding (grants, donations, etc.) from the American Water Works Company, American Water Charitable Foundation, or an American Water state subsidiary? *

(Previous funding does not affect eligibility)

Yes

No

4. Name and Address of proposed project site: *

Site/Park Name

Street Address

City

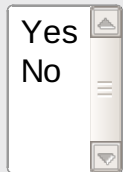
State

Zip

5. Is this project site an American Water customer?

(Being an American Water customer does not affect eligibility)

Yes
No



6. Amount Requested: *

Grants are anticipated to be between \$50,000 and \$150,000. Please indicate the amount you are requesting here. The next question will ask you to justify this amount. Use whole numbers only.

\$

(untitled)

8. Briefly, but concisely, tell how this project will incorporate nature play: *
(1,500 character max)

9. What type of nature play area will this project include: *

- ☐ Nature-based playground
- ☐ Natural play area
- ☐ Both nature-based manufactured play equipment and natural play components

10. Briefly, but concisely, tell how this project will incorporate conservation stewardship principles/environmental education, particularly water stewardship. If applicable, also describe any demonstration or management areas at the project site: *
(2,000 character max)

(untitled)

11. Who owns the project site property: *
(List the legally recognized name of property owner)

12. If you receive funds in April 2015, when will the grant-funded project **begin**: *

13. If you receive funds in April 2015, when will the grant-funded project be **completed**: *

14. Indicate opportunities for American Water employee volunteer engagement at this project site:
*

- ☐ Beautification of site
- ☐ Maintenance of site
- ☐ Skill-based technical expertise with grant-funded project (e.g., stormwater management engineering)
- ☐ Playground build event
- ☐ Staffing of community events at site
- ☐ Donated professional services (e.g., excavation)
- ☐ Formation of/participation in "Friends Group" for site
- ☐ Other

15. What other organizations are partnering on this project: *

(List organization names one per line)

16. If awarded, how will this grant be recognized and promoted: *

(1,000 character max)

17. Briefly, but concisely, tell why your proposal should be funded: *

(500 character max)

(untitled)

If you are ready to submit your application, please click *Submit*. Otherwise click *Back* to review your data or click *Save And Complete Application Later*.

Thank You!

Thank you for submitting a Building Better Communities grant application. You will be notified of your status by January 12, 2015. You may now close this window.