

2020 Green Infrastructure Training Opportunity

(untitled)

Training Opportunity

As part of its Great Urban Parks initiative, NRPA is offering training scholarships for park and recreational professionals to participate in a [National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#) (NGICP). The NGICP is a professional certification program developed by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) aimed at creating a pool of credentialed field workers that possess the foundational knowledge to properly build, inspect and maintain green stormwater infrastructure practices across the United States. Developed in partnership with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), this training is designed to meet international green infrastructure best practice standards along with a strategic focus on issues, challenges and opportunities of green infrastructure in municipal parks.

In May 2020 (May 11 - 14) NRPA will host a 3-day NGICP training for park and/or affiliated professionals in Atlanta, GA, in partnership with the City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation and their nonprofit community organization, Park Pride. The training opportunity will focus on green stormwater infrastructure construction, inspection and maintenance through a combination of online learning, classroom instruction, peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, and field visits with park experts. Participants will learn how to apply lessons learned to build and maintain successful green stormwater infrastructure projects in parks that provide multiple benefits to communities through community engagement and partnerships.

NRPA seeks to leverage this opportunity to build the skills and capacity of a diverse group of applicants representative of diverse backgrounds (e.g. race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, etc.) for the benefit of park and recreation agencies and the communities they serve. **NRPA will award 25 applicants with scholarships to attend the training and take the certification exam.**

Background

This training opportunity is an offering of NRPA's [Great Urban Parks Campaign](#) (GUPC). NRPA launched the GUPC in 2015 with the primary purpose of improving environmental and social outcomes in underserved communities through promoting and advancing green stormwater infrastructure projects within parks and developing resources and training for park, planning, and other professionals to improve equity through green infrastructure.

In May 2019, NRPA brought together 27 park and affiliated professionals in Philadelphia, PA for the first

ever NRPA NGICP training. They became the first cohort of park and recreation professionals and among the first 500 professional nationwide to be certified through the program. Read about the training experience including feedback from participants in this [article](#).

Training Information

- **Dates:** May 11-14, 2020 (May 11: evening reception, May 12-13: training, May 14: half day examination)
- **Location:** Atlanta, GA
- **Cost:** There is no cost to the selected participants for attending the training and taking the certification exam. NRPA will cover trainee's lodging and provide a \$350 stipend for airfare and other travel incidentals. Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the training.
- **Continuing Education Units (CEU):** Participants will receive 2.0 CEUs upon completion of the training.

Eligibility/Guidelines

- The applicant must be a current employee of a park and recreation agency, municipal agency or nonprofit responsible for the maintenance and management of public parks.
- The applicant must commit to participate in the virtual information session on **April 8, 2020 at 2:00 pm EST**, complete the 16 hours of online training by **April 24, 2020** and attend the 3 day in-person training (applicants will receive access to the training materials mid-March).
- The applicant must have a high school diploma, GED, or college degree (and be prepared to submit proof).
- The applicant must provide at least one letter of support from a direct supervisor and preferably an additional letter from their agency director or community partner.
- The applicant must have direct involvement with (either performing or supervising employees who perform) green stormwater management, natural resource management, park maintenance, or equivalent land management tasks.
- Municipalities, agencies and/or organizations that already received a NRPA-NGICP 2019 training grant are not eligible. To find out which municipalities were awarded last year, please visit our website.

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Park and recreation agency employees.
- Supervise and/or train other park employees, municipal staff or volunteers responsible for the maintenance and long-term care of parks and public green space.
- Are active in the development of green infrastructure programs/projects in parks, and/or those who demonstrate interest in taking on such tasks after receiving this training.
- Show a commitment to advancing equity and social justice goals on behalf of underrepresented communities (e.g. communities of color and/or low-income/vulnerable populations).

- Provide a compelling letter of support from their park agency director or community partner.
- Work in cities that have formally committed to the [10 Minute Walk Campaign](#).

Successful Applicants will:

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to working in parks.
- Clearly articulate their personal and professional interest in the green infrastructure training opportunity.
- Describe how the training will support current or future projects within their agency and community.
- Exhibit a commitment and interest in serving underrepresented communities.

Timeline and Important Dates

November 4, 2019 ----- Application opens

December 13, 2019 ----- Application closes

January 17, 2020 ----- Successful applicants selected and notified

March 11, 2020 ----- Trainees receive access to online materials

April 8, 2020 2:00-3:30 pm EST ----- Virtual information session

April 24, 2020----- Trainees complete the 16 hours of online modules

May 11-14, 2020 ----- In-person training and exam

Applications are due by 11:59 pm EST Friday, **December 13, 2019**. Applicants will be notified whether or not they were selected for a grant by **January 17, 2020**.

Review Process

NRPA staff will conduct a review of each candidate based on the application responses and the eligibility requirements above.

The ideal candidate is a park and recreation professional who works on or coordinates green stormwater infrastructure projects in public parks that serve underrepresented and/or marginalized communities.

Saving your Application

Please ensure responses are recorded accurately. You can save your progress and continue at a later time by clicking the "Save and continue later" link at the top of the page. Note: Only completed pages are saved - please enter a draft answer for each question on the page if you plan to save and return to your work later.

The application is available in PDF format to assist in the preparation of responses, but the application MUST be submitted through this online form. For a PDF copy, please click [HERE](#).

For questions, please email GUPC@nrpa.org.

1. Contact Information *

First Name

Last Name

Title

Agency/Organization Name

City

State

Email Address

Phone Number

Eligibility

2. Are you a current employee of a park and recreation agency, municipal agency or nonprofit responsible for the maintenance and management of parks? *

- ☐ Yes, a park and recreation agency
- ☐ Yes, a municipal agency
- ☐ Yes, a nonprofit
- ☐ No

3. Please specify which municipal agency you work for. (public works, water, etc.) *

4. Do you have a high school diploma or college degree? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. To take part in this training opportunity, you must commit to participating in the virtual information session, taking 3-4 days off from work to attend the in-person training in Atlanta and completing the online modules by the specified date. *

- ☐ Yes, I commit and I have approval from my supervisor to attend the training
- ☐ I cannot commit to this at this time

6. In your professional role, are you responsible for (or supervise employees who perform) green stormwater management, natural resource management, park maintenance, or equivalent land management tasks in public parks? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Applicant City/Agency Information

7. What population size does your agency serve? *

- ☐ Level 1: <20,000
- ☐ Level 2: 20,000-49,999
- ☐ Level 3: 50,000-99,999
- ☐ Level 4: 100,000-249,999
- ☐ Level 5: 250,000+

8. Do you serve a city or community that has committed to the 10 Minute Walk Campaign? (find your region [here](#)) *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Application Questions

9. Please tell us about how you identify, particularly in terms of your lived experiences, and how you relate to your community (e.g. race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, socio-economic, religion, disciplines, hardships). (100-word limit) *

10. Please describe your current job role, including your responsibilities and how many staff, interns and/or volunteers you oversee. (100-word limit) *

11. What is your green stormwater infrastructure experience? *

- ☐ Expert
- ☐ Intermediate
- ☐ Beginner/Novice
- ☐ None

12. As a public servant, why are you interested in attending this green infrastructure training? Describe how green stormwater infrastructure park projects would benefit the communities you serve? (300-word limit) *

13. What is your park agency's experience with construction, maintenance and/or inspection of green stormwater infrastructure projects? *

- ☐ Expert
- ☐ Intermediate
- ☐ Beginner
- ☐ None
- ☐ Explain (optional)

14. Please describe how this training will influence your agency's ability to enhance existing and implement future green stormwater infrastructure projects. (300-word limit) *

15. Please upload a letter of support from your direct supervisor approving your participation in this training program and describing how this certification will advance green infrastructure stormwater management within parks.
(required) *

Browse...

16. Please upload an additional letter of support from your agency director, community organization or other relevant leader. (optional)

Browse...

Thank You!

Thank you for applying for the 2020 green infrastructure training opportunity.

You will receive an email confirmation with your answers attached. If you do not see it within a few hours of completion, check your spam folder or email GUPC@nrpa.org.