

Great Urban Parks Campaign – Request for Application FAQ

How do you define a park?

We aim to fund public park and recreation agencies and their nonprofit partners doing projects in publicly-owned sites that are open to the general public and under the authority of a local, municipal, regional, or state government agency (e.g., park and recreation department) or federally recognized tribal community.

Is a project located on a public-school site eligible?

See the definition of a “park” above. If the site meets those criteria and is open and accessible to the public during hours typical of a public park (sun up to sun down), the project may be considered for funding. Be sure to include a description of the site’s accessibility to the public and management structure in your grant application.

How are you defining an “underserved community”?

For the purposes of this grant opportunity, underserved community refers to vulnerable populations, including minority, new Americans, low income, rural, tribal, and indigenous populations that may be disproportionately experiencing degraded environmental quality identified in the applicant’s proposal.

In the application we ask you to describe the community and its needs. We will also look at census data for income, race, and ethnicity for the area surrounding the park site. We consider a community to be low-income where a majority of the population earns less than 185% of the federal poverty line. To access census data, visit <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

How do you define green stormwater infrastructure?

Green Stormwater Infrastructure refers to using or mimicking natural processes to prevent, capture, and/or filter stormwater runoff. To learn more about green stormwater infrastructure practices in parks, please visit our resources page at www.nrpa.org/greeninfrastructure/.

How many grants will you award, and what is the total amount of funding available?

We expect to award 10-12 grants of \$150,000-\$300,000 for a total of \$2,000,000 in grant funding.

Is this the first time you are offering these grants? Will you offer this grant again next year?

In 2016, NRPA awarded \$1.75 million in grant funding to support green stormwater infrastructure projects in Atlanta GA, Pittsburgh PA, Baltimore MD, and Denver CO. Detailed information about these projects is available [here](#). While it is our priority to continue supporting this work, future grants of this type are dependent on funding. Therefore, at this time, this is the only round of grants of this type that we are able to offer.

What types of projects do you anticipate funding?

We are looking for innovative green stormwater infrastructure projects in parks that:

- Are part of a larger city/community plan to increase climate resiliency, improve the quality of the watershed by reducing the amount of stormwater runoff and/or increase equitable access to high quality parks
- Improve environmental quality within an underserved community
- Provide co-benefits to surrounding communities through increased access to park and green space, education, job and volunteer opportunities, etc.
- Meaningfully engage community members to ensure the project meets multiple needs

The current grant opportunity will expand upon the lessons learned from the 2016 projects, and seeks to fund projects that provide additional best practices, effective models and geographic representation of green stormwater infrastructure in parks.

What do you mean by “meaningfully engage community members”?

Green stormwater infrastructure in parks can reduce localized flooding, and infiltrate and clean water. They also can offer communities increased access to green space for recreation, and opportunities for education and employment. However, without meaningful and early community engagement, these green stormwater infrastructure projects are at risk of not being fully embraced or understood by residents or accurately serving the diverse needs of the community. NRPA promotes working with the community in the early stages of project design to identify how the project can not only meet stormwater and environmental goals, but also the needs of the community. Learn about the challenges and lessons learned from our past grantees [here](#). Learn about best practices for meaningfully engaging the community from project start to finish [here](#).

Can the grant be used for several projects around a municipality or does it have to be all concentrated into one park/public recreation space?

The grant can be used at multiple park sites as long as the collective projects meet grant objectives. All projects must be completed by October 2020.

Are matching funds required?

There is not a requirement to match grant funds. However, we expect that this grant will leverage new or existing funding needed to complete the project and that NRPA’s grant will not cover the entirety of the project budget.

Will projects rank higher in highly urbanized areas? Would a project in an area of less than 10,000 people be competitive, if it is an underserved community?

We will focus our review on the ability for funded projects to impact underserved communities and improve stormwater management through green stormwater infrastructure where it is needed most (areas impacted by flooding, combined sewer overflows, etc.). We are looking to fund innovative strategies to increase environmental quality as well as provide co-benefits in underserved communities that could be applicable to many other communities, so all areas will be equally assessed.

Are municipalities/organizations outside of the U.S. eligible to receive grants?

No. Grants will only be awarded to projects located within the U.S. including U.S. territories.

Can grant funds be used to pay for X, Y, or Z, and are there cost limits for such line items?

All expenses relating to the success of the project are eligible for funding, including but not limited to design, engineering, community engagement, construction, materials, staff time, etc. There are no cost limits or caps as long as the requested amount is within our grant amount parameters.

Who can I contact if my question was not addressed?

You may email GUPC@nrpa.org and write “GUPC RFA Question” in the subject line. You will receive a response within 24-48 hours.