

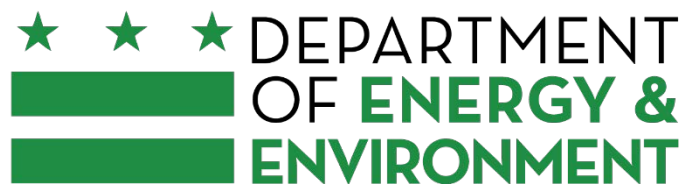
RiverSmart Schools: Education, Training, and Maintenance at Past School Sites

RFA Information Session

February 26, 2025 | 10:00 AM | Hybrid via WebEx or
DOEE HQ

P. Trinh Doan

RiverSmart Schools program
Watershed Protection Division



AGENDA

Introductions

Background on RiverSmart Schools program

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA:

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Purpose

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New Application Process!

Grants Management Database

Location information

Project Outcomes, Outputs, Deliverables, and Scoring
Criteria

Questions & Answers



Introductions



RiverSmart Schools: Education, Training, and Maintenance

The goal of this RFA is to reduce stormwater pollution to local waters.



Support hands-on outdoor learning



Education | training | light maintenance at past RSS sites

RiverSmart Schools: Education, Training, and Maintenance at Past School Sites RFA

Overview

- RFA found on DOEE's website:
 - <https://doee.dc.gov/release/request-applications-riversmart-schools-maintenance-education-and-training>
- **\$75k** available for a period of approx. 18 months from start date to Sept. 30, 2026
- Can be extended for more years; depends on performance, funds, and need
- Competitive selection process

Eligible to apply:

- Nonprofit organizations

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

Purpose

The purpose of this grant is to fund the design and implementation of the program. Seeking a grantee that will re-engage seven (7) past RiverSmart Schools (RSS) and develop a tailored plan to activate their RSS outdoor classroom spaces.

DOEE launched RSS in 2009 to help schools transform their bland outdoor schoolyards and blacktops into vibrant, green spaces to teach, learn, play, and manage stormwater runoff. To date, DOEE has worked with 66 schools throughout the District. (See Appendix 7: List of past RSS sites)

RFA p. XXXX

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RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

The RiverSmart Schools program has:

- (1) educated students and teachers about the impact of stormwater runoff on the District's waterways;
- (2) designed and created new outdoor classrooms;
- (3) trained teachers, garden coordinators, and maintenance staff as a school-specific "greening team" on how to maintain the new spaces; and
- (4) provided resources for past schools' outdoor classrooms, such as tools and plants. The program activities have included teacher trainings, classroom lessons, and a boat tour on the Anacostia River.

Over time, the schools' GIs have deteriorated. Each of the RSS locations featured a rain garden, with outdoor classroom usage. As the teachers and staff associated with the projects moved on, the maintenance and use of these outdoor classrooms decreased. Now, many of the sites need work; they present unique challenges and opportunities for upkeep.

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

Project Description: DOEE is seeking to partner with an entity to design and implement a program to re-engage with at least seven (7) past RiverSmart School sites during School Year 2025-26 (SY25-26), providing education/training and assistance in GI maintenance. There are 59 of these “Past Schools”, See Appendix 7 for the List. The grantee will also provide training and education for three (3) schools currently participating (with other funding) in the design-build process for new outdoor classrooms (“Current Schools”).

This grant will

- (1) train teachers at each school on how to educate students about stormwater runoff,
- (2) instruct greening teams on how to properly maintain the sites,
- (3) provide slight upgrades to some sites, as appropriate, and
- (4) conduct light maintenance. DOEE expects the grantee to design a program that involves the grantee being physically present at the school throughout the school year.

Re-activate at least seven (7) Past Schools. The grantee will provide upkeep & education.

Provide training and education to three (3) schools currently participating in the design-build process. (The design-build work is not funded by this grant.)

Assist other schools, out of the 52 remaining from the list of 59, “lightly”, with short-term help or low-cost materials and supplies.

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

Project Description (con't) The application should advise DOEE how the applicant would choose these participants – the process and the selection criteria. Here is some detail on the selection and the work of the grant:

- 1) Site Selection of Past Schools. Select seven (7) Past Schools from Appendix 7.
 - a. Sites in the MS4 sewershed or Targeted Subwatershed
 - b. Sites from the MWEE programs
- 2) Work with the three (3) pre-selected Current Schools
- 3) Intensive work with the 10 schools
- 4) Training teachers to actively use space with students
 - a. Following standards of District's 2023 Environmental Literacy Plan
- 5) Teacher compensation for extra time
- 6) Maintenance training
 - a. Stormwater Management Guidebook
- 7) Light Maintenance
- 8) The limits on education and training

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

Project Description (con't): The application should:

1. Address the split between activities in advance of the school year and those during the school year.
2. Describe how the applicant will select the seven (7) Past Schools it will work with during SY25-26.
3. Describe how the applicant will engage with the school community
4. Describe how the applicant will train teachers to actively use the space.
5. Describe how the applicant will determine what low-cost upgrades and maintenance activities it will offer.
6. Describe how the applicant will teach maintenance/operation/groundskeeping staff to maintain the GI site.
7. Present the applicant team's qualifications.
8. Demonstrate organizational capacity to accomplish grant activities.
9. Present a budget and narrative that justify each line item. Include time and wage formula for personnel. Break out (a) project planning/prep from (b) working the ten (10) sites.
10. Agree to run DCPS/Charter schools-required background checks for any staff who will enter school grounds or otherwise interact with students.
11. Budget for providing quarterly and annual reports that include: (a) for each year; (b) number of teachers; (c) number of students who participate; and (d) photos or other graphics.

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

New Application Process!

Compile all required documents listed in Section 3 of the RFA, including project description, work plan, and all forms/documents/certificates.

Each applicant must submit online to DOEE's new grants management database:

<https://doee.dc.gov/page/active-grants-application-portal>

Deadline: Friday, 03/28/2025, at 11:59 PM

No late submissions will be considered!

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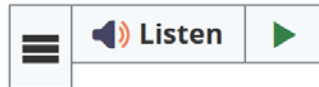
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Active Grants Application Portal

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Welcome to the DOEE Grants Management System applicant portal. Please note that an organization is only permitted one email address for this system:

- If your organization is already in the system, please click “Existing Applicant/Grantee” below. Sign in and proceed to the application for which you are applying.
- If your organization is new to the system, click “New User” below and complete the form. Please allow two business days for a response.
- If you do not know if your organization is registered in the system please contact doee.grants@dc.gov.
- If you encounter any problems with the system, please contact doee.grants@dc.gov.

To access an application already started, please proceed to the application for which you are applying.

[New User](#)

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Attachment(s):

[Applicant and Grantee User Guide](#) - 1.2 MB (pdf)

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

New Application Process!

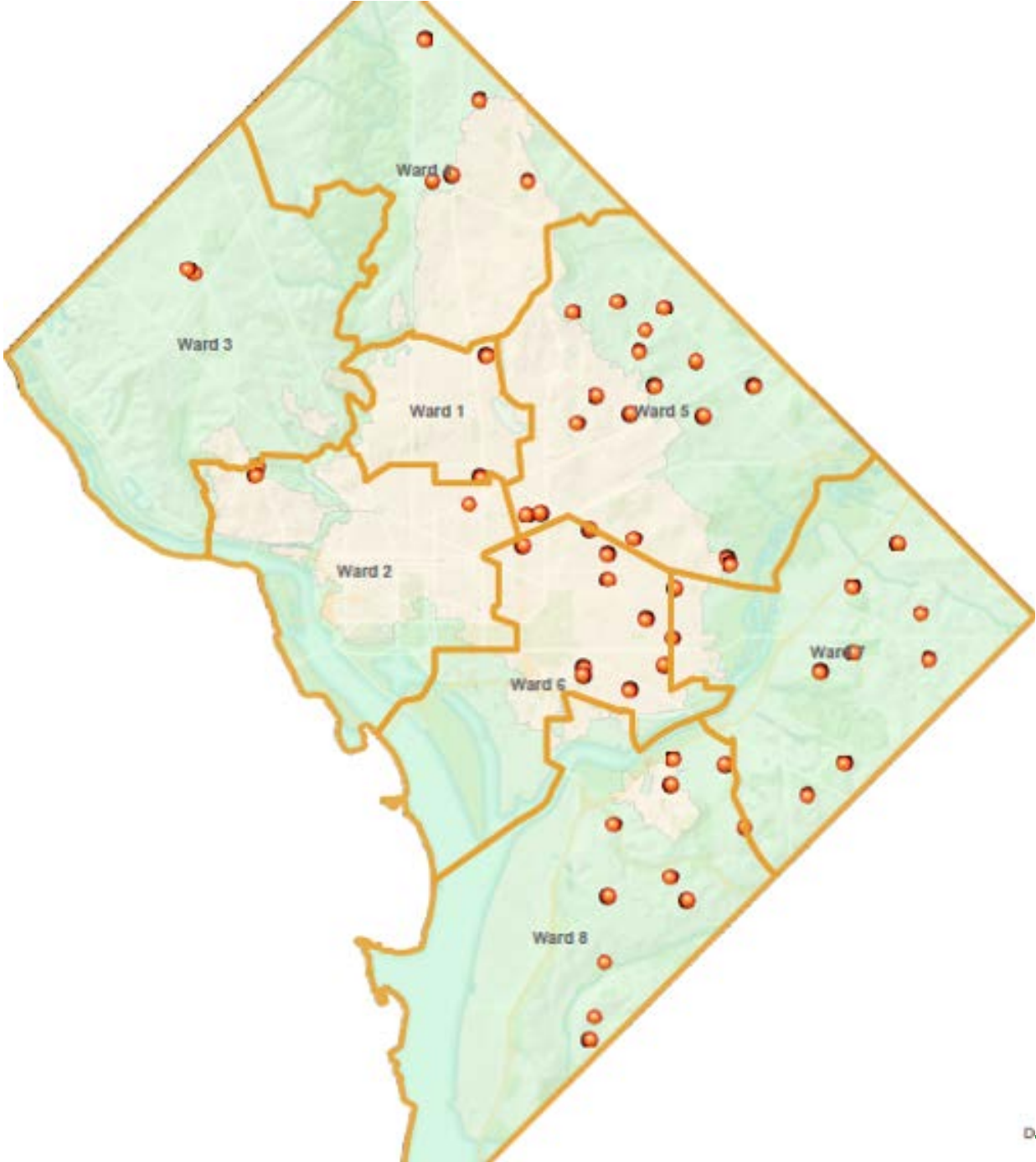
First, create a dedicated email address that members of your organization can utilize for this purpose, such as:

DOEEgrants@yourorganization.org or
DOEEgrants.yourorganization@gmail.com

Second, submit Request through Portal to gain Access

If technical issues arise, email: doee.grants@dc.gov
and cc: 2025RSSEducation.grants@dc.gov

RSS Site Locations Map – Appendix 7

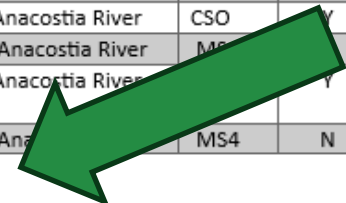


RSS Location Details

Name	Ward	Address	Watershed	Sewer System	Title 1* (Y/N)
Anacostia HS	8	1601 16th St. SE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Beers ES	7	3600 Alabama Ave SE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Brent ES	6	301 North Carolina Ave SE	Anacostia River	CSO	N
British School of Washington	2	2001 Wisconsin Ave, NW	Rock Creek	CSO	N
Bruce Monroe ES at Parkview	1	3560 Warder Street NW	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Burroughs ES	5	1820 Monroe St NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Bunker Hill ES	5	1401 Michigan Ave NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Capital City PCS	4	100 Peabody St NW	Rock Creek	CSO	Y
Center City PCS, Brightwood	4	6008 Georgia Ave NW	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Center City PCS, Capitol Hill	6	1503 East Capitol St SE	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Center City PCS, NoMa Campus	5	1217 W Virginia Ave NE	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Charles Hart Middle School	8	601 Mississippi Ave SE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Cleveland ES	1	1825 8 th Street NW	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Daniel A. Payne Elementary	6	1445 C Street SE	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Dupont Park Adventist School	7	3942 Alabama Ave SE	Anacostia River	MS4	N
E. W. Stokes Community PCS	5	3700 Oakview Terr NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Excel Academy Elementary	8	2501 MLK Jr Ave SE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Friendship PCS - Armstrong	5	1400 First St NW	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Friendship PCS - Collegiate	7	4095 Minnesota Ave NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Friendship PCS - Tech Prep	8	2705 MLK Jr Ave SE	Potomac River	MS4	Y
Friendship PCS - Woodridge	5	2959 Carlton Ave NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Hardy Middle	2	1819 35 th St NW	Rock Creek	CSO	N
Hendley ES	8	425 Chesapeake St SE	Potomac River	MS4	Y
IDEA Public Charter School	7	1027 45th St NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Inspired Teaching PCS	5	200 Douglas St NE	Anacostia River	CSO	N
J.O. Wilson Elementary	6	660 K Street NE	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Janney ES	3	4130 Albemarle St NW	Potomac River	CSO	N
John Phillips Sousa Middle	7	3650 Ely Place SE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y

Name	Ward	Address	Watershed	Sewer System	Title 1* (Y/N)
Johnson MS	8	1400 Bruce Pl. SE.	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Kelly Miller Middle	7	201 49 th St NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Ketcham ES	8	1919 15th St SE,	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Langdon Education Campus	5	1900 Evarts Street, NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Lee East End PCS	8	2345 R St SE	Anacostia River	MS4	N
Lee Montessori PCS	5	3025 4th St NE	Anacostia River	CSO	N
Ludlow Taylor Elementary	6	659 G Street NE	Anacostia River	CSO	N
Maury Elementary	6	1250 Constitution Ave NE	Anacostia River	CSO	N
Military Road Early Learning Center	4	1375 Missouri Ave, NW	Rock Creek	MS4	N
M. M. Bethune Day Academy PCS	5	1404 Jackson Street NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Miner ES	6	601 15 th St NE	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Mundo Verde PCS	5	30 P Street NW	Anacostia River	CSO	N
Mundo Verde PCS Calle Ocho	5	4401 8 th Street NE	Anacostia River	MS4	N
Nalle ES	7	219 50th Street SE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Noyes ES	5	2725 10th St NE,	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Phelps High School	5	704 26th Street, NE.	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Seaton ES	6	1503 10th Street NW	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Shepherd Park ES	4	7800 14 th ST NW	Rock Creek	MS4	N
Shining Stars Montessori	5	1240 Randolph St NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Shirley Chisholm ES	6	1001 G Street, SE	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
St. Columba's Nursery School	3	4201 Albemarle St NW	Potomac River	MS4	N
St. Peter's School	6	422 3 rd St SE	Anacostia River	CSO	N
St. Thomas More Catholic Academy	8	4265 4th St SE	Potomac River	MS4	Y
Stanton ES	8	2701 Naylor Rd SE	Potomac River	MS4	Y
Takoma ES	4	7010 Piney Branch Rd	Rock Creek	MS4	Y
The SEED PCS	7	4300 C Street SE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Turner ES	8	3264 Stanton Rd SE	Potomac River	MS4	Y
Two Rivers PCS	6	1227 Fourth Street NE	Anacostia River	CSO	Y
Two Rivers PCS Young	5	820 26th St NE	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Walker Jones EC	6	1125 New Jersey Ave NW	Anacostia River	MS4	Y
Washington Yu Ying PCS	5	220 Taylor Street, NE	Anacostia River	MS4	N

*Note: Per the RFA, at least 5 out of 7 schools must be Title 1 schools.



More details on RiverSmart Schools website:

<https://doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-schools>



RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

Project Outcomes

1

Better functioning green infrastructure installations at some schools;

2

Improved District water quality;

3

Increased student knowledge of their local environment, ecology, and sources of pollution;

4

Integration of RiverSmart program content into teachers' curricula long term; and

5

Increased opportunities for school stewardship of green infrastructure.



RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

Project Outputs

- 1 Seven (7) schools from the Past Schools past participant list receive DOEE-approved maintenance during the grant period;
- 2 Education of teachers at the seven (7) Past Schools and at the three (3) design-build schools;
- 3 Number of participating students;
- 4 Number of participating teachers; and
- 5 Monthly, or as needed, check-ins with DOEE.

RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

1

Quarterly and final reports

2

Documentation of each required grantee staffer's approved background checks, (as required by DCPS and Charter Schools)

3

Copies of lesson plans, and related materials

**Project
Deliverables**



RiverSmart Schools Education RFA

Scoring Criteria	Points
<u>Highly</u> qualified to undertake the project.	15
Demonstrates a cost-effective and timely implementation of the grant.	15
Will likely train green teams to deliver the grant's GI maintenance per the guidelines of DOEE's latest edition of the Stormwater Management Guidebook.	15
Will likely educate and train the teachers.	10
Offers a credible strategy for selecting the seven (7) schools.	10
<u>Likely</u> to learn from the school community the current site conditions and site potential.	10
Will likely determine what low-cost site upgrades and maintenance activities to offer each school.	10
Presents an optimal numeric budget and related narrative justifying requested funds.	10
Demonstrates an adequate split between activities to be conducted before and during the school year.	5
BONUS: Includes sites in the MS4/ District's targeted sub-watersheds	5
Total Points	105



Important Considerations

Design and implement a program that will re-engage with ten (10) past* RSSs and develop a tailored plan to activate their RSS outdoor classroom spaces.

Target Audience: DC teachers, students, & the school community

Knowledge about and ability to teach environmental education and gardening emphasizing wildlife habitat, native plants, green stormwater infrastructures, and conservation landscaping making clear connections on how teachers will be able to utilize the RiverSmart School site for educational purposes.

Photo from DOEE



Important Considerations

Additional Considerations:

The DOEE encourages organizational partnerships. With one lead applicant, parties would work together in accomplishing these goals for one award.

DOEE anticipates just one grant. But it is open to more than one award if we receive compelling proposals to fund portions of the work. The stated funding amount is presented as the maximum total funding for the stated period.

Thank You!

Questions?



2025RSSEducation.grants@dc.gov

Reminders!

Questions & Answers will continue to be posted to the RFA webpage.

March 17, 2025 is the last date for submitting questions.

March 28, 2025; 11:59pm is the application submission deadline.