

Questions and Answers for Request for Applications #RFA-FY26-WPD-880

FY26 Restoring the District's Natural Areas

*The terms Green Infrastructure (GI) and Best Management Practice (BMP) are interchangeable in this document.

Q1: Is it better for applicants to spread their work over large areas or to work intensely in a smaller area.

A1: Applicants should propose work areas of a size where they can expect to make a large impact over one year. This will vary based on the applicant's capacity and the pervasiveness of litter and invasive species on the site(s).

Q2: Can applicants proceed with their application without a formal letter of support from the property owner?

A2: Yes. Applicants may submit their application without a letter of support but if an award is made, they must provide landowner's written approval prior to starting work.

Q3: How are the areas for the priority sub-watershed map selected?

A3: DOEE identified targeted sub-watersheds in which additional stormwater best management practice (BMP) implementation would benefit local priorities. Targeting was based on sub-watersheds that included at least 2 of the following factors:

- Located in MS4 area and are tributaries to the Anacostia or Potomac Rivers or Rock Creek, so BMPs benefit local streams as well as rivers and the Bay;
- Have local TMDLs for pollutants that would respond to same BMPs as those reducing pollution in the Bay (local TMDLs included nitrogen, phosphorus, total suspended solids or TSS, biological oxygen demand or BOD, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs);
- Located in an area in which DOEE has completed or is planning stream restoration efforts ; and
- Located in priority areas within [Climate Ready DC](#) because of vulnerabilities to extreme climate events

Q4: Are incumbents barred from reapplying for the grant?

A4: No.

Q5: Does DOEE have a map showing the location of Green Infrastructure and the Targeted Sub Watersheds?

A5: Yes. See this map of [DC BMPs x Targeted Subwatersheds](#). A detailed version of the Targeted Subwatersheds layer can be found [here](#).

Q6: How should grantees dispose of invasive, seed-bearing plant material?

A6: To dispose of invasive, seed-bearing plant material grantees should bag plants in contractor-grade plastic (particularly seed pods) and dispose of in landfill.

Q7: How can applicants know if an existing BMP/GI is already being maintained?

A7: The applicant can seek confirmation from DOEE or the property owner.

Q8: Can DOEE guarantee that funding will be available for this grant in future years?

A8: No.

Q9: Does DOEE have a preferred waste disposal vendor?

A9: No.

Q10: Is there an approved target invasive species list?

A10: No. Applicants are free to target any non-native species that dominate the proposed park or natural area. The most common non-native invasive (NNI) plant species in DC are English Ivy, Bush Honeysuckle, Porcelain Berry and Wisteria.

Q11: Is there a template for the quarterly and final reports?

A11: Yes. DOEE provides reporting templates as part of the award package.

Q12: Are staff/volunteer training expenses reimbursable?

A12: Yes.

Q13: Is it possible for a grantee to receive funds in advance instead of invoicing?

A13: Yes, it is possible. While DOEE's policy is to reimburse supported, approved, and allowable expenses, if the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request such payment in its application and explain why advance payment is being requested. (See RFA Parts 1.8, and 6.2; Appendix 1, Section 10.g)

Q14: What are the attributes of a strong application?

A14: A strong application will be responsive to the RFA, its priorities and the scoring criteria.

Q15: When will awards be announced?

A15: The awards will be announced in late November/early December.

Q16: Our team has worked in Oxon Run Park and Hickery Run, and a partner has worked on Watts Branch. Does DOEE have a preferred area where they would like to see work done?

A16: See the scoring criteria for points awarded to applications located within DOEE's Targeted Subwatersheds.

Q17: Are the Fort Circle Parks such as Fort Slocum and Fort Totten eligible project areas for this grant cycle?

A17: The Fort Circle Parks are eligible project areas under the RFA, but because they are not located within the preferred and [targeted subwatersheds](#), projects in the Fort Circle parks will not receive the additional 5 points in the scoring criteria.