

# MSD Project Clear Rainscaping Large Grants Program: Annual Call for Applications

## Introduction and Background Information

MSD's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) outlines a Rainscaping Program, sometimes called Green Infrastructure, as part of the selected, long-term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) controls. The overall goal of this rainscaping program is to identify and implement projects and programs that will significantly reduce the number and volume of CSOs into the Mississippi River and provide additional environmental benefit. Rainscaping projects will redirect stormwater from reaching the combined sewer system by capturing and diverting it to locations where it is detained, infiltrated into the ground, evaporated, taken up by plants, or reused.

MSD Project Clear, the initiative to plan, design, and build system-wide improvements to address water quality and alleviate many wastewater concerns in the St. Louis region, includes \$120 million in rainscaping investments. Specifically, MSD is making this investment within the Mississippi River CSO regions to reduce CSO runoff volume to the Mississippi River. MSD has developed a full implementation plan outlining how MSD will implement rainscaping with the focus of reducing CSO discharge volume to the Mississippi River. MSD finds that establishing partnerships and providing reimbursement for rainscaping is an effective way to meet CSO volume reduction goals.

MSD will continue to build partnerships with municipalities, schools, community development organizations, and private developers in order to identify joint opportunities to incorporate rainscaping into ongoing programs and future redevelopment projects.

## Potential Eligible Project Elements

The following list shows eligible project elements. Other elements related to the rainscaping program may be eligible if they are in accordance with the program objectives.

- Impervious area reduction
- Porous pavement
- Reinforced turf
- Amended soils
- Planter boxes
- Bioretention/Rain gardens
- Impervious area sheet flow to buffer
- Rooftop disconnection to rain barrel
- Rooftop disconnection to cistern: irrigation reuse
- Rooftop disconnection (splash to grade)
- Green roofs
- Blue roofs
- Green streets
- Curb extensions/Street bump-outs
- Educational signage for rainscaping
- Other techniques as approved by MSD

## Eligible Recipients

The following entities are eligible for financial partnering:

- Municipalities and local government agencies
- Schools
- Non-profit organizations
- Community development organizations
- Business owners
- Private developers

## Funding Considerations

This is a reimbursement program. Grantees must have adequate funding available to cover all aspects of their rainscaping project up front. MSD Construction Approval of the rainscaping feature, including stabilization of the tributary area upstream of the rainscaping feature, is required prior to reimbursement. MSD plans to spend approximately \$5 million per year on the rainscaping program. Allocations will be based on a priority ranking system. Projects that provide a funding match will receive a higher priority ranking. However, providing a match is not required.

Costs that may be eligible for reimbursement by MSD include the following: civil engineering design, landscape architecture, soils assessment and/or restoration, legal costs associated with deed restrictions and/or easements, demolition, construction of rainscaping features and public participation and education activities. Costs for maintenance of rainscaping features are not eligible. Projects that are completed or have already started construction are not eligible.

## Required Activities

Preference shall be given to projects that can manage at least 1.14 inches of stormwater rainfall from the contributing drainage area. A reduction of runoff volume must be demonstrated and supported with calculations. Applicants should reference the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) spreadsheet and calculation tool available at the MSD website: <https://www.stlmsd.com/what-we-do/stormwater-management/bmp-toolbox/calculation-and-report-preparation-tools> Upon approval, all projects chosen for financial assistance shall be submitted for review per the MSD's development review process.

For all work that is contracted and/or subcontracted, the Grantee shall ensure that Prevailing Rates of Pay are paid to all skilled and unskilled labor employees utilized in accordance with Chapter 290, Sections 290.210 through and including 290.340, Revised Statutes of Missouri. The Grantee shall provide an affidavit of compliance prior to final reimbursement. Failure to comply could result in non-payment or return of prior payments to MSD for work found to be in non-compliance.

# Evaluation Criteria and Process

## General

Evaluators from MSD will score projects based on the application information submitted by the applicants. Project ranking will be primarily based on their potential for anticipated reduction of CSO overflow volume.

Use the following link to determine if the project is within the eligible grant area:

<http://stlmsd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1dc144bdb9b2484b82cfe73cc8a3c8d>

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Only projects within the Mississippi CSO Region (dark green area) are eligible for the Annual Call Grant. Eligible projects must be located upstream of a CSO interceptor. Wherever opportunities exist for MSD to make informed choices between different properties available for stormwater retrofitting with rainscaping, MSD will prioritize these projects based on their expected CSO reductions from previous hydrologic modeling.

## Project Specific

Benefit points will be awarded for each 100 cubic feet of runoff volume reduced and each 100 square feet of impervious area removed or redirected to a BMP. Projects proposed by municipalities and local governmental agencies will receive more benefit points than non-profit entity projects, which will receive more benefit points than private entity projects. Additional benefit points may be awarded for proposed activities such as:

- public education
- information
- communication
- innovative rainscaping technologies
- stormwater monitoring and analysis program
- location of CSO
- project visibility
- feasibility of future expansion
- maintenance capability
- long term sustainability
- environmental justice considerations

The total benefit points will be divided by MSD's cost (in thousands of dollars) to calculate the priority ranking. This will yield the most benefit points per MSD dollar spent.

## Award of Funds

MSD will award funds through a Rainscaping Grant Program Agreement executed by MSD and the Grantee. The Agreement will describe the project, specify the funding amount and outline additional terms and conditions, and will serve as the legal commitment of both parties as to the scope and quality of work and the amount of funds committed. A BMP Expense Form, listing the amount of reimbursement for each BMP, will be attached to the Agreement. The BMP Expense Form must be completed prior to execution of the Agreement.

After receipt of final plan approval, there are additional steps required to secure final authorization of the project and its funding by MSD. The process typically takes two to three months. An ordinance authorizing the District to sign the Program Agreement and to fund the project will be presented for introduction to the Board of Trustees at its monthly meeting. The Ordinance is then presented to the Board for approval at the following meeting. Assuming approval by the Board, the District and the Grantee may then execute the Program Agreement fourteen days after approval by the Board.

## Disbursement of Funds

Funds will be disbursed on a cost-incurred basis and supported with original receipts verifying costs. MSD construction approval of the rainscaping elements, including stabilization of the tributary area upstream of the rainscaping elements, is required prior to reimbursement.

## Application and Submittal Process

### FY 2020 Applications

- The application period is from August 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019
- Applications are due to MSD by October 31, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
- MSD will notify the applicants of their decision no later than March 1, 2020
- Construction must begin prior to March 1, 2020.

Please direct all questions and submittals for this grant opportunity to Kaleena Menke of MSD's Program Planning Section. Interested applicants are encouraged to discuss possible proposals with MSD as soon as possible to facilitate good proposals and efficient reviews.

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