

Do you have a water project idea that will inspire people to keep our waterways clean?

LET US HELP!

The City of Sacramento Stormwater Quality Improvement Program (City Stormwater Program) provides grant funds for community action projects that improve the quality of local creeks, rivers and watersheds within the City of Sacramento. The grant will fund an eligible program, or programs, that prevent pollution from entering storm drains, creeks and the Sacramento and American Rivers.

Community Action Grants are part of the City Stormwater Program's effort to establish working partnerships with the local community and foster environmental stewardship to assist in meeting pollution prevention goals. Teachers, neighborhood groups, volunteer groups, environmental organizations and other nonprofit associations are encouraged to submit their ideas for **protecting, restoring or enhancing** creeks, riparian corridors, watersheds and rivers within the city.

The City Stormwater Program's mission is to prevent stormwater and urban runoff pollution, protect water quality and preserve the beneficial uses of local creeks and rivers. Stormwater and urban runoff pollution results when trash, motor oil, hazardous household products, garden chemicals and other toxic materials are spilled or washed by rain or excessive irrigation into the storm drain system where they flow directly into creeks and rivers, untreated. The success of community-based efforts, such as the Community Action Grant program, greatly assists the City Stormwater Program in meeting its pollution prevention goals and maintaining compliance with the regulatory requirements that govern operation of the City's storm drainage system!

Inside this packet, you'll find details about the Community Action Grant program, answers to commonly asked questions, and an initial grant application.

City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities
Stormwater Quality Improvement Program
1395 35th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95822



This program is operated and funded by the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities.

Projects Eligible for Funding

The following projects are examples to stimulate your ideas. Use your imagination! Have fun! Just remember: eligible projects must in some way benefit, protect, or enhance local creeks, rivers, or watersheds.

(1) Education Projects

- Create materials or outreach activities on ways that people can help prevent pollution in creeks, rivers, or watersheds
- Write a stream or watershed guidebook and conduct tours or field trips
- Create interpretive displays or signs relating to water quality
- Purchase and distribute used oil recycling containers

(2) School Projects

- Design and/or evaluate stormwater quality control measures (i.e., build a grassy swale in your school parking lot and monitor its effectiveness).
- Go on a field trip to learn about Sacramento's watershed, creeks, or the rivers
- Conduct an in-class activity which involves student participation in hands-on activities
- Purchase a watershed model for classroom use
- Create a creek, stormwater, or watershed club to adopt a creek, river, or watershed near your school



(3) Community Outreach Projects

- Coordinate clean-up days on local creeks or rivers
- Hold a creek, river, or watershed workshop for community members, or a symposium on your watershed

(4) Restoration Projects

- Organize a nonnative species plant removal and revegetation project for creeks or rivers
- Construct and revegetate stream side interpretive trails

(5) Monitoring Projects

- Conduct a citizen's monitoring program on a local creek, river, or watershed
- Evaluate the condition of the natural vegetation, native species, and habitat of a specific creek, river, or watershed

(6) Neighborhood Improvement Projects

- Start routine neighborhood cleanup events to prevent trash from entering waterways.
- Improve a vacant lot to prevent trash accumulation and illegal dumping
- Develop a community garden that provides education on use of integrated pest management
- Install and maintain trash and cigarette receptacles to prevent litter

We are open to new ideas and encourage innovation!

If you have any additional questions regarding this community action grant program, the application process, project eligibility, or if you need assistance with your application, please call:

*City of Sacramento
Department of Utilities
(916) 808-5921*

Project Requirements and Frequently Asked Questions

Who Can Apply?

- Schools and student groups
- Service clubs
- Youth organizations
- Homeowner's associations
- Community and Neighborhood groups
- Property Business Improvement Districts
- Not-for-profit groups
- Informal groups with innovative ideas!

(Individuals and for-profit groups are not eligible)

What Kinds of Projects are Eligible for Funding?

We want you to be creative! In general, projects which restore, protect, enhance, or prevent pollution of local rivers and creeks or which benefit the ecology of Sacramento watersheds are eligible for funding.

Projects will generally fall into one or more of the following categories contained within this brochure.

- *Education:* projects which inform or instruct about the aquatic ecosystem, watersheds, or stormwater pollution prevention
- *Schools:* projects which can be organized by teachers, classrooms, or school clubs
- *Community outreach:* projects which involve and inspire the community
- *Restoration:* projects which restore or enhance riparian habitats, wetlands, creeks, or rivers
- *Monitoring:* projects which measure water quality, species, or habitat
- *Prevention/Treatment:* projects that help prevent or treat water pollution, such as eliminating litter



Does it Matter Where the Project is Located?

YES! Eligible projects must be implemented within Sacramento city boundaries and/or directly affect the residents of the City of Sacramento.

How Long Does My Group Have to Complete Our Project?

Projects must be completed by **December 1, 2024**.

How Many Grants Will Be Awarded?

A maximum of \$15,000 is available to fund Community Action Grant projects; up to \$3,000 per project. The number of total grants awarded depends on the number of successful applicants and how much funding each successful applicant is awarded.

What Are Eligible Expenses?

Eligible uses of grant monies include purchase of materials and supplies, equipment rental, promotion of a volunteer event (i.e., printing or postage), volunteer recruitment, meals for volunteers, and purchase of native vegetation.

Grant money does not cover the following expenses: planning, research, wages or salaries for labor, travel (except bus rental), curriculum development, and administrative processing fees. Activities required for compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or other regulatory requirements will not be funded through the grant program.

How Do I Apply?

Fill out the attached initial application completely and return it by email or mail by **February 26, 2024** to:

Sacramento Stormwater Quality Improvement Program
1395 35th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95822
Attn: **Lauren Ledesma**
Email: LLedesma@cityofsacramento.org

When Are Initial Applications Due?

Initial applications are due no later than **February 26, 2024**. Applications received after February 26, 2024 cannot be accepted for any reason.

How Will Funds Be Disbursed?

The City Stormwater Program will reimburse grant recipients for eligible expenses. Payment will occur after receipt and approval of appropriate documentation (receipts).

Additional Requirement

At a minimum, awarded applicants must:

- Include a pollution message or help reduce pollutants to local waterways or the storm drain system.
- Obtain appropriate permissions and/or permits for the project where applicable.
- Demonstrate the ability to complete the project.
- Provide the City Stormwater Program with copies of any publications pertaining to the project
- Acknowledge the City Stormwater Program as a funding source in all project related promotional materials.
- Photograph/document project activities and provide copies to the City Stormwater Program.
- Provide the City Stormwater Program with a brief project report upon completion of the project.
- (For Teachers only), provide the City Stormwater Program with student work to demonstrate project completion.
- Use only native vegetation and species in restoration projects.



APPLICATION PROCESS

The Community Action Grant application is a two-step process with the initial application (enclosed) requesting a one page description of the project plus the amount of money requested. Project description will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

INITIAL APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA*

1. Is the project clearly described? Is the project message defined? (40 pts)
2. Does the project respond to a community need? (10 pts)
3. Will innovative approaches to improved water quality be used? (5 pts)
4. Does the project encourage stormwater pollution prevention? (10 pts)
5. Will the project message reach a large audience? (5 pts)
6. Does the project encourage community action in support of clean water? (15 pts)
7. Does the project directly reduce stormwater pollution from trash or pesticides? (15 pts)

Applicants whose projects receive the highest scores will be invited to complete the second and final application, a comprehensive form (6 pages.)

* The City Stormwater Program reserves the right to disqualify a project application.

2024 Community Action Grant

Initial Application

The City of Sacramento Department of Utilities is pleased that you are considering conducting a project to enhance water quality in Sacramento. This one-page application is the first in a two-part process. On the reverse side of this sheet, please provide a description of your project. If your project description is selected for funding, you will be asked to submit a more comprehensive application (6 pages). Please call 916-808-6924 if you have any questions concerning the Community Action Grant criteria or application process.

Project Title: _____

Project Director: _____

Name of Group: _____

Address: _____

Phone (day): _____ Fax: _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____ Project Period (start and end dates): _____

Check the box(es) that most appropriately describes your project:

- Education Project School Project Monitoring Project
 Restoration Project Community Involvement Project Neighborhood Improvement Project

A signature below indicates that the enclosed information is accurate and true.

Signature of Project Director

Date

Return your Community Action Grant Application to:



City of Sacramento Department of Utilities
Stormwater Management Program
1395 35th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95822
ATTN: **Lauren Ledesma**
Email: LLedesma@cityofsacramento.org

**The City of Sacramento reserves the right to disqualify a project application.*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Write a brief statement on the purpose and content of your project, including a description of the problem or issue your project will address and the grant amount requested.

2. Describe how your project will communicate your water quality message to the Sacramento community.
(Please be sure to define quality message and targeted audience.)