

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Urban Water Quality Program Cost-Share Purpose and Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (District) has created a cost-share program to assist landowners with the implementation of post-construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) aimed at improving the quality of surface waters within the District. In relatively small areas, installing Water Quality BMPs can effectively reduce stormwater runoff volume and velocity, allowing infiltration, soil storage, and available water for vegetative uptake. Practices such as bioretention, bioswales, infiltration planters and installing pervious pavers, are some of the practices they may be eligible for this program.

2. Application

Contact the following individual to begin the application process:

Kyle Hauschild, Stormwater/Floodplain Specialist, (402) 476-2729, khauschild@lpsnrd.org

A complete application package must be submitted for review to ensure the project is consistent with District water quality goals and objectives. Submittals required for consideration include:

- Completed Cost-Share Application / Contract (*signed*)
- BMP Description & Location Map (*with aerial photo background*)

3. Eligible Practices and Effective Life

Projects will be evaluated for potential eligibility by the District based on a project's proximity to (i.e. impact on) priority or impaired waterbodies and its potential for water quality improvement, surface water rate and volume control, erosion and sediment control, wildlife habitat improvement and public outreach. Achieving the minimum score does not guarantee cost-share assistance; the screening form is only used as a tool to evaluate potential projects. BMPs shall not utilize non-native plant material (grassed waterway, etc.) unless specifically approved by the District. Projects that are proposed as part of a District or State permit requirement or to correct a violation of District Rules are not eligible for funding.

The following is only a partial list of potentially eligible BMPs. For BMPs not listed below, the effective life will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the District. The District encourages landowners to maintain publicly funded BMPs in perpetuity. However, the "Effective Life" listed below in parenthesis is the minimum number of years that the District requires a landowner to maintain the BMP in exchange for public funding of the project.

Best Management Practices (BMP) (Others to be considered on case-by-case basis)

Bioretention / Rain Gardens (10)	Vegetated Bioswales (10)	Pervious Concrete (10)
Pervious Pavers (10)	Infiltration Basins (10)	Infiltration Planters (10)
Constructed Wetlands (10)		

Pervious hard surface projects are eligible for full funding only when it is demonstrated by the District that no lower-cost BMP can feasibly provide equivalent water quality improvement. Where alternative low-cost BMPs are feasible, cost-sharing for pervious hard surface projects will be limited to the eligible cost of the alternative BMP. Design standards and specifications for BMPs should follow the Minnesota Stormwater Design Manual.

4. Funding Rate

For approved projects, the District may fund up to 50% of eligible materials and contracted labor, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per project. The District Board of Directors reserves the right to consider funding requests exceeding the \$10,000 cap on a case-by-case basis.

5. Cost-Share Agreement & Amendments

Applications may be submitted year-round to the District Stormwater Specialist. This program's application form also serves as the Cost-Share Contract and Operation & Maintenance Agreement. It shall be completed and signed by the applicant upon submission to the LPSNRD for review. The Contract will be executed by the District upon approval. Amendment to any of the Contract terms shall be by mutual written agreement signed by all parties to the original contract.

6. Contract Bids & Cost Estimates

Applications must be accompanied by either a contractor's bid for the project or a cost estimate approved by LPSNRD Staff. Cost estimates submitted in lieu of contractor bid shall assume that project labor will be contracted out. Landowner labor may be credited to the total project cost estimate at \$10/hour for unskilled labor (site prep, planting, etc.) and \$20/hour for skilled labor (installing bio-logs, operating machinery, etc.) at the discretion of the District. Landowner labor will only serve as in-kind match funding and shall not be reimbursed. Reimbursement may not exceed the cost of eligible purchased supplies and materials and contracted labor. Aesthetic components of the project and maintenance costs are not eligible expenses.

7. Payment

Reimbursement will only be made after project completion. Applicants must submit project photos along with a District Voucher and Practice Certification Summary Form and copies of paid invoices. The District must inspect and certify that the project was completed according to the approved design standards, specifications and pollution reduction values. All claimed expenses will be reviewed and verified by the District as eligible, practical and reasonable. The District reserves the right to make adjustments to the costs submitted for reimbursement based on this review.

8. Schedule

Project installation must be started by the date agreed upon and identified in the Cost-Share Assistance Contract. If this date is not met, the contract is automatically terminated upon that date. An applicant will need to reapply for funding if they intend to move forward with the project in the future. The District reserves the right to withdraw project funding at its discretion if the project is not completed by the date agreed upon and identified in the Cost-Share Assistance Contract unless a written contract amendment to reschedule the work and funding is executed in accordance with Section 5 above.

9. Conformance to Guidelines

The District reserves the right to withdraw funding for any project not completed in accordance with these guidelines or the terms of its executed Cost-Share Contract. It is the applicant's sole responsibility to acquire any / all required permits and approvals prior to commencement of their project.

10. Submitted Information

Any submitted information, including but not limited to applications, conceptual designs, contractor bids, cost estimates, final designs and specifications, copies of permits and proof of expenditures becomes part of the public record.