

Surface Water Matching Planning Grants

- The Clean Water Advisory Council (now the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council) developed the Surface Water Matching Planning Grant Program to support the planning/preliminary engineering/ feasibility analysis of surface water improvement projects and activities that focus on the developed landscape to improve water quality in impaired watersheds in Delaware.
- Matching grants are intended for planning/preliminary engineering/feasibility analysis of
 - Stormwater retrofits (retrofit existing sediment and stormwater facilities that were constructed prior to regulations)
 - Green technology practices (green roofs, green streets, tree pits)
 - Stream and wetland restoration projects (Stream bank erosion or incised stream, floodplain reconnection)
 - Small watershed studies (tackle a drainage problem upstream)
 - Development of master surface water and drainage plans (just where does your stormwater go?)
 - Feasibility of stormwater utility (how will you pay for retrofits and drainage solutions)
 - Other point and non-point source water pollution control projects.

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- Only State agencies, counties and municipalities are eligible to apply for a Surface Water Matching Planning Grant. Cooperative agreements can be made.
 - \$500,000 was allocated for the program with a \$150,000 grant/year award cap.
 - Grant requests have ranged from \$3,000 to \$136,000.
 - There is a 1:1 cash match required for the grant.
 - Grant will be open February, May, August and November as allocated balances allow. The Department issues a press release. Town Managers / City Clerks are notified by email.
 - Proposals are scored and ranked by a review panel and presented to the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council for approval.
 - The length of the grant is 1 year. The year starts when a Purchase Order is issued not the day it is voted on by the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council. Work done prior to the issuance of a purchase order can not be reimbursed.
 - You may submit for reimbursement monthly, quarterly, or at the end of the grant.
 - Prior to the grant closing 2 copies (1 digital, 1 paper) of the final report including maps need to be submitted. There is not a standard form for the final report. If a consultant is doing the work, it is what they would present to the municipality as a final product.
 - If February's applicants are successful there will be \$127,452 available for May.
- Application packet for February is on the DNREC website.
- Next application date will be late May.

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- Grants were awarded in prior funding cycles to:
 - County-wide planning for Stormwater District in Kent County
 - Water Quality Improvement Project – Tar Ditch for the City of Dover
 - Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study for the City of Dover
 - Modeling of the South Wilmington Wetland Park for the City of Wilmington
 - Master Surface Water and Drainage Plan for the City of Newark
 - Stormwater retrofits of Avalon Woods for the Sussex Conservation District
 - Small Watershed Study of Munchy Branch for the Sussex Conservation District
 - Stormwater Infrastructure Study for the Town of Dagsboro
 - Stormwater Infrastructure Study for the Town of Frankford
 - Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory for the Town of Fenwick Island
 - Stormwater retrofits on West Dagsboro Street in the Town of Fenwick Island
 - Stormwater retrofits in the Town of Bethel
 - Stormwater Infrastructure Study for the Town of Dewey Beach
 - Stormwater retrofits for Oak Crest Farms subdivision to meet Inland Bays TMDL
 - Stormwater Infrastructure Study for the City of Lewes
 - Stormwater Infrastructure Study for the City of Rehoboth Beach
 - Master Plan for Retrofits on the Georgetown-Vaughn Tax Ditch in Georgetown