

Request for Proposals
Green Partnership Grants Program
Proposals Due: November 10, 2017

Green Partnership Fund Overview:

The Green Partnership Fund was established in 2004 to further the goals of natural resource and sustainable agriculture conservation for the citizens of the District's partner jurisdictions. Today, the fund is helping the District achieve our long-term vision of engaging everyone in Pierce County in creating a healthy environment and thriving community. The heart of the District's mission is our collaborative efforts with organizational partners, voluntary local landowners, and citizen volunteers to improve water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, create thriving habitat, and build an equitable and healthy food system for all. The fund is one of the many ways we work collaboratively to achieve our goals.

In 2016, the District completed our 5-year Strategic Plan, which provides a comprehensive road map for how we intend to reach our goals by 2021. This plan has dozens of strategies to grow and improve our work across our five core program areas: Water Quality Improvement, Habitat Improvement, Urban Agriculture, Environmental Education, and Farm Assistance. Each of these core components have both strategies and 5-year targets and project proposals to the Green Partnership Fund should align with at least one of these strategies and/or targets. We encourage you to review our full 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan at www.piercecd.org/353/Strategic-Plan as you develop your project proposal.

The Green Partnership Fund strives to fund high-quality, impactful projects within each of four watersheds in Pierce County that align with our organizational goals, mission, values, and long-term vision for our community.

Available Funding:

For the 2018 grant round, approximately \$75,000 of total funding will be available in two funding pools:

- One (1) large project will be funded at up to \$25,000
- Five to Ten (5-10) small scale projects between \$5,000 - \$10,000

Proposals must be for a **minimum of \$5,000**. Large project proposals should make clear whether project sponsors are willing to accept partial funding, and how partial funding would be used, if they also want to be eligible for the small-scale projects pool of funding.

For all projects, we strongly encourage partnering with other organizations or groups. This may be particularly important for small groups or organizations who may struggle to achieve the \$5,000 minimum ask requirement.

Timeline:

- October 2, 2017 - 2018 Green Partnership Fund Request for Proposal released and posted online.
 - **November 10, 2017** - 2018 Green Partnership Fund Applications due to Pierce Conservation District by 4pm.
 - November 11 – December 15, 2017 – Ranking Committee evaluates and ranks proposals providing the Pierce Conservation District Board of Supervisors a funding recommendation.
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- January 11, 2018 – Pierce Conservation District Board of Supervisors approve final list of funded projects.
- **January 12, 2018** – Award notifications go out to project sponsors
- January 15 – February 9, 2018 – Contracts between Pierce Conservation District and awarded project sponsors are signed.
- **December 31, 2018** – All project deliverables must be completed and final grant report submitted.

Eligibility:

The fund was established through the cooperative efforts of the District's member city and town councils, the Pierce County Council, and the Pierce Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Green Partnership Fund money is drawn directly from Pierce Conservation District operating funds. Fund expenditures are governed by Chapter 89.08.220 RCW (Conservation District Spending), and by districts under the direct oversight of the Washington State Conservation Commission, a legislative commission. District mandates are established in state law and through ongoing guidance from the state legislature.

In accordance with these mandates, projects must take place in one of the following jurisdictions:

- City of Bonney Lake, City of Buckley, City of Dupont, City of Fircrest, City of Gig Harbor, City of Lakewood, City of Milton, City of Orting, City of Puyallup, Town of Steilacoom, City of Sumner, City of Tacoma, City of University Place, or unincorporated Pierce County

To qualify for a grant from the Green Partnership Fund, applicants must identify themselves as one of the following:

- A registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization, affiliated with a tax-exempt organization, or a community group/association with a demonstrated ability to complete a project of this scale
- A public or private school, college, or university
- A local government, Native American Tribe, or a Washington state agency
- Project must demonstrate community benefit; funds cannot be used to benefit an individual
- Farm projects eligible for PCD Cost Share and/or NRCS EQIP Funding are strongly encouraged to apply for funding via the dedicated funding sources for those programs found [here](#) and [here](#) respectively. Projects that are eligible for these other funding sources will need to make a compelling case for why Green Partnership Funds should be used to support their project.

Green Partnership Fund recipients must be willing to:

- Work with Pierce Conservation District staff when applicable
- Post a Pierce Conservation District cooperator sign near project
- Share GPF funded public involvement opportunities with PCD
- Present at a PCD Board of Supervisors Meeting (February – December 2018)
- Provide a table top display of the project at the PCD Annual Meeting (March 2018)

Funding Priorities:

The Pierce Conservation District works with the community to improve water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, create thriving habitat, and build a just and healthy food system for all, through education, community engagement, and financial and technical assistance. Project proposals should align with our mission and core program areas and reference at least one strategy and/or five year target from our 2016 -2020 Strategic Plan, found here:

www.piercecd.org/353/Strategic-Plan.

Example Strategies and Associated Targets*:

- **Strategy 3.5.A:** Promote and implement Green Stormwater Infrastructure (e.g.: rain gardens, pavement removal), which will increase water infiltration that will in turn reduce runoff.
 - Five Year Target: By 2021, new District projects will contribute to 750,000 gallons of stormwater infiltrated annually.
- **Strategy 3.13:** Implement Native Plantings, restore priority areas and increase native plantings, particularly in riparian areas.
 - Five Year Target: By 2021, District programs will plant 35,000 trees and shrubs, 50-acres, and 4-stream miles.
- **Strategy 1.5:** Sustaining the Community Based Food System – support people to develop leadership abilities and become competent in the skills necessary to successfully manage a community food project in collaboration with neighbors.
 - Five Year Target: By 2021, we will have 100 Community Food Projects throughout Pierce County.

Example Project(s)*:

- Rain Garden Installation: Rain Gardens are on-the-ground projects that protect water quality, but also included project-specific and ongoing education and outreach opportunities with the finished product.
- Stream Restoration and Plantings: Clean water and functioning native habitat are two of core ecosystem values and planting projects help achieve our goals in both of those categories.
- Community Garden Improvement: Projects that create greater food access by either improving or expanding an existing garden; doing an outreach campaign to historically underserved members of the community to join the garden; or a project that improves the environmental impacts of the garden such as stormwater catchment, reducing heat-island effect, or fruit tree plantings that help clean the air.
- Environmental Education Projects: These projects should engage school-age children with hands on learning opportunities tied to the District's Ecosystem Values and/or lead citizens to take action to directly conserve or protect the natural resources defined in Pierce Conservation District's strategic plan.

**This is by no means an exhaustive list, if you have a project idea that doesn't fit these examples and you're unsure of how it fits with our funding priorities, please reach out to the grant manager to discuss your idea.*

Project Criteria:

To qualify for a grant from the Green Partnership Fund, projects must address one of the above mentioned Funding Priorities and serve citizens in an above mentioned area.

In addition, projects will be evaluated on:

- **Alignment with Strategic Plan:** Project aligns with at least one strategy and/or 5-year target in the District's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.
- **Measurable Benefits:** Project will show measurable benefits in Pierce County within five years.
- **Project Partners:** Project involves multiple partner groups or agencies.
- **Community Involvement:** Project implements an effective strategy to involve the public.
- **Evaluation Strategy:** Project demonstrates the means to measure its effectiveness.
- **External Resources:** Project uses Green Partnership Funds to leverage additional resources (i.e. additional funding sources and/or quantified volunteer support).
- **Project Sustainability:** Project demonstrates ability to maintain the measurable benefits beyond the grant period.

To Apply:

Visit our Green Partnership Fund webpage at www.piercecd.org/417/How-Do-I-Apply, review the application checklist, and use the Apply Online link.

Please direct questions, comments, and all other inquiries to the grant administrator:

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