



2026 Stewardship Grant Program Guide

Overview

The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) Stewardship Grant Program offers financial and technical assistance to protect and improve water resources within our watershed.

Purpose

The Stewardship Grant Program may be used by public or private landowners for projects that support one or more of the following:

- Promote actions that prevent flooding or reduce the effects of drought.
- Protect and restore clean water by capturing pollutants in rainwater runoff.
- Increase the watershed's ability to store water.
- Preserve and restore native plant and wildlife communities, especially near lakes, rivers and wetlands.
- Protect and preserve groundwater quality and quantity.
- Support actions that reduce the use of chloride containing deicing products and the introduction of chloride into lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands.

Available funds

RWMWD will accept applications year-round until funds are depleted. Applicants are encouraged to apply early in the year. Funded percentages are based on specific criteria including location in the watershed and type of project proposed. Please see the table on the following page or refer to our website for more information. To get started with the process, submit a Request a Site Consultation request on our website: rwmwd.org/get-involved/stewardship-grants

Eligible Expenses

RWMWD may offer to fund all of or a portion of your application. Stewardship Grants reimburse a portion of your costs for materials and labor. Your application must be approved by RWMWD prior to starting any work. Projects started or completed when submitted are not eligible for reimbursement. In-kind services will not be considered for matching contributions or reimbursable expenses. Submitted projects must be for items above and beyond all permit requirements.

Selection Process

Please reach out to RWMWD to start the technical assistance portion of your project prior to submitting an application. RWMWD staff will review and approve applications under \$5,000. Completed applications can be submitted anytime for review. We may request changes to your proposed plan to better suit the needs of the program. The Board of Managers will review and make the decision on all other applications based on the schedule below.

Reimbursement Process

Reimbursement requests with paid invoice(s) (or receipts) should be submitted electronically after project completion to: ashlee.ricci@rwmwd.org. If multiple receipts are to be submitted, please fill out and submit the Stewardship Grant Reimbursement Request spreadsheet.



Application Deadlines for Projects Requesting over \$5,000

Application Submittal Deadline (4:00pm)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025
Wednesday, January 14
Wednesday, February 11
Wednesday, March 11
Wednesday, April 15
Wednesday, May 13
Wednesday, June 10
Wednesday, July 15
Wednesday, August 12
Wednesday, September 16
Wednesday, October 14
Wednesday, November 11
Wednesday, December 16

Board Meeting Date

Wednesday, January 7
Wednesday, February 4
Wednesday, March 4
Wednesday, April 1
Wednesday, May 6
Wednesday, June 3
Wednesday, July 1
Wednesday, August 5
Wednesday, September 2
Wednesday, October 7
Wednesday, November 4
Wednesday, December 9*
Wednesday, January 6, 2027

**Board meeting one week later than normal due to conflicts with a holiday or other events*

Stewardship Grant Program Homeowner Coverage Amounts

	Type of Projects	Cost Share %*	Maximum \$
Homeowner	Habitat restoration or rain garden without hard surface drainage	50%	\$15,000
	Rain garden with hard surface drainage, pervious pavement	75%	\$15,000
	Shoreline restoration (below 100-year flood elevation with actively eroding banks)	100%	\$15,000

**Projects located within RWMWD priority subwatersheds, flood reduction, groundwater recharge, and certain demographic areas may be eligible for additional funding. Contact us with your project location to determine maximum coverage amount.*



Stewardship Grant Program Large-Scale Coverage Amounts

	Type of Projects	Cost Share %*	Maximum \$
Commercial, Church, School, Government, Associations, etc.	Habitat restoration	50%	\$15,000
	Shoreline restoration	100% below 100-year flood elev. with actively eroding banks	\$100,000
	Water quality BMPs	75% in non-priority drainage areas	\$50,000
		100% in priority drainage areas	\$100,000
	Chloride Reduction	75% in non-chloride impairment drainage areas	\$50,000
		100% in chloride impairment drainage areas	\$100,000

**Projects located within RWMWD priority subwatersheds, flood reduction, groundwater recharge, and certain demographic areas may be eligible for additional funding. Contact us with your project location to determine maximum coverage amount.*



Stewardship Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

All residents, not-for-profit and religious organizations, governmental agencies, businesses and corporations, homeowner associations, and public and private schools within the RWMWD. Visit our website to determine if you are within the boundaries: rwmwd.org/are-you-in-the-watershed

Where do I get an application?

Be sure to submit a Site Consultation Request on our website before applying. When plans and cost estimates are complete, you can apply online at: rwmwd.org/get-involved/stewardship-grants

What types of projects are considered for the program?

- Rain gardens with priority given to those that take hard surface runoff.
- Pervious asphalt, concrete and pavers.
- Volume reduction practices (infiltration basins and trenches, cisterns, filtration systems).
- Native habitat restoration with priority given to waterways, lakes, buffers, and ponds.
- Chloride reduction practices.

Do I have to plant native plants?

The planting plan must consist of 75 percent native plants, and the remaining can be native cultivars. Non-native plants are not recommended nor eligible for reimbursement.

What percentage of cost share is offered?

Cost share percentage ranges from 50-100%, depending on type of project and location. Additional funding may be available for specific areas and conditions.

What is a priority area?

Water quality priority areas are defined annually by our watershed management plan goals, along with federal and state regulations. Other priority areas have been identified based on flood control, groundwater recharge, and certain demographics, and may be eligible for additional funding. These do not pertain to residential projects except for hardship case consideration.

Is financial assistance available?

Financial assistance may be available for specific areas and conditions. Email ashlee.ricci@rwmwd.org for more details.

How long can I take to complete the project?

The funds must be used within one year from date of approval.

Do I have to do anything after approval?

Applicant is responsible for securing all permits necessary for the work, hiring a project contractor, notifying RWMWD staff when the project starts, paying the contractor upon project completion, and ongoing maintenance. Residential projects will enter into a 5-year maintenance



agreement and larger projects enter into a 20-year maintenance agreement. Maintenance grants are available for completed projects.

Where do I look for a contractor?

You can download a supplier list on our website at: rwmwd.org/get-involved/stewardship-grants. We recommend getting 2-3 bids.

What other types of grants does RWMWD offer?

RWMWD offers additional grant funding to focus areas within the Stewardship Grant program. These include chloride reduction, enhanced street sweeping & equipment purchasing, partner grants, and public art.