



2026 Community Partner Grant Program

Overview

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District's (RWMWD) Stewardship Grant Program offers financial and technical assistance to properties within the boundaries of RWMWD to protect and improve water resources within our watershed. The goal of the Community Partner Grant is intended to inform and empower communities by supporting programs and projects led by public or non-profit (501(c)(3) & (4)) organizations that increase water knowledge and actions.

Purpose

The Community Partner Grant may be used by public or non-profit organizations to support programs and projects within the RWMWD that encourage residents to learn about and adopt behaviors that positively impact surface water resources (such as streams, lakes, or wetlands). The goals of this program are to:

- Minimize the gap between resident/community knowledge and physical best management practices
- Leverage existing relationships of community organizations to reach historically underserved populations
- Support actions that increase knowledge about management of water resources and native habitats
- Encourage behavior changes that positively impact water resources
- Promote climate resiliency pertaining to water resources and native habitats

Available Funds

RWMWD will accept applications until April 15, 2026. Applications submitted after April 15 may be considered as funds are available. Applications may be funded 50-100% and funding is available from \$1,000 - \$25,000. The application form will remain on our website until funds are expended.

Eligible Expenses

RWMWD may offer to fund all or a portion of your application. Community Partner Grants will cover costs for materials, contracted labor, and staff time (non-profit only). The application must be approved prior to starting any work. Activities started or completed before an application is approved are not eligible.

Selection Process

The applications received by April 15, 2026 will be prioritized for funds. Staff will review applications under \$5,000, and will review and recommend requests over \$5,000 to the Board of Managers at the May 6, 2026 Board meeting.

What is the program timeline for 2026?

See the below timeline for completed applications due by April 15, 2026. Applications may be submitted prior to April 15 for additional review and comments. Applications may be accepted after April 15, 2026 as funds are available. Contact ashlee.ricci@rwmwd.org for more information.

Date

Wednesday, April 15
Wednesday, May 6
Thursday, May 7

Action

Application due
Board Meeting
Award notice emailed

Reimbursement Process

Reimbursement requests with paid invoice(s) and/or receipts should be submitted electronically after project completion to: ashlee.ricci@rwmwd.org. When submitting more than one receipt or invoice, please fill out and submit the Community Partner Grant Reimbursement Request spreadsheet (table attached at the end or .xlsx file available). Reimbursement may be submitted throughout the extent of the grant, with a preference for no more than one request submitted quarterly.

Please note that reimbursement checks are typically only mailed out once per month after Board meetings, which are typically the first Wednesday of each month. Requests should be submitted 3 weeks prior to the desired Board meeting date.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Public and non-profit (501(c)(3) & (4)) organizations who are proposing programming or projects that serve people within the RWMWD.

Where do I get the application?

You can submit your application online at: <https://rwmwd.org/partner-grant/>. The application form will remain available until funds are expended.

What types of projects are considered for the program?

- Community outreach initiatives
- Educational programs
- Youth internships
- Performances, events

What percentage of cost-share is available?

The grants can reimburse 50-100% of eligible expenses, with a minimum grant award of \$1,000 and a maximum possible grant award of \$25,000. Please reach out to ashlee.ricci@rwmwd.org to discuss potential funding.

How long can I take to implement my project/program?

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

Do I have to do anything after approval?

The Community Partner Grant is reimbursement-based, with possible exceptions if requested. Applicants are responsible for tracking all eligible expenses and can request reimbursement at any time throughout the year.

Additionally, applicants will need to submit the following information at the end of the grant (as applicable):

- Number of people reached
- Examples of materials created during the project
- Photos of events or workshops
- Approximate volunteer hours
- Impact narrative

FAQs continued on next page.

What if I miss the priority deadline of April 15, 2026?

Applications may be submitted throughout the year but will be subject to available funds. Staff will review and approve applications under \$5,000. For applications over \$5,000, staff will review and make a recommendation to the Board. See the schedule below for additional Board meeting deadlines:

Board Meeting Deadlines for Applications Requesting over \$5,000

Application Submittal Deadline (4:00pm)

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, 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*

