Splash Grant Information and Application Guide

Overview

Want to make a *Splash*? Apply for our Splash Grant, which is a small grant program that supports events and projects that benefit the residents within the service area of the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. These grants are intended to help groups carry out projects and events that improve the environment or educate about environmental health, including air and water quality, wildlife habitats, and soil health. The focus is on short-term projects or specific funding needed to support your plans. See below for project examples.

Need more money and longer-term funding? Check out our Ripple Grant.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The project or event must be located in the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District service area or have a direct benefit to WMSWCD residents.
2. Must support the mission of the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation "To provide resources, information and expertise to inspire people to actively improve air and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and soil health."
3. Applicants may be:
   - Non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
   - Non-profit groups without 501(c)(3) status (for example, community groups, neighborhood groups work with a fiscal sponsor).
   - Educational institution
   - Government agency
   - Native American tribe or Indigenous community
4. Projects must plan to acknowledge the support from WMSWCD in some form, such as on their website, in printed materials, with signage, in event welcome, or other.
5. The project must be completed within 12 months of the grant agreement being signed.

6. Applicants must be in good standing and have completed requirements for previous grants before applying for another grant from WMSWCD. Current Ripple Grant recipients are not eligible to apply for Splash.

Grant Program Objectives:

The Splash Grant program supports objectives that match our goals in our "Strategic Directions." Here's a list of our strategic directions, and examples of how they could be represented in Splash Grant projects. These are just examples, get creative with your projects!

- **Equity & Inclusion:** Embed equity and inclusion in all that we are and all that we do.
  - *Examples: Outreach programs to engage marginalized groups in conservation activities or culturally relevant conservation education.*
- **Sharing Conservation Information:** Share conservation information so people have the knowledge and confidence to take action.
  - *Examples: Programs, websites, printed and online materials, workshops, signage, or events that support conservation education. Support for trainings, collaborations, or event speakers.*
- **Water And Soil:** Protect and improve water quality and soil health.
  - *Examples: Events to engage community members in water quality or soil testing, or reducing stormwater runoff like lawn replacement, building bioswales, or removing pavement and replacing with native plants.*
- **Habitats And Biodiversity:** Protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity, native landscapes, habitats, and ecological function.
  - *Examples: Activities such as native plant/tree planting, weed removal, and building pollinator gardens or compost systems. Events like trash cleanups, toxics/pesticide reduction workshops.*
- **Working Farms, Forests and Gardens:** Enhance the long-term health and productivity of farms, forests, woodlands, and gardens.
  - *Examples: Projects that involve creating or upgrading community gardens, composting, and water-saving irrigation systems.*
- **Climate Change:** Promote resilient environments and communities in the face of climate change.
  - *Examples: Presentations about the effects of climate change, education events about increased wildfire and flood risk. Projects that address urban heat island impacts. Workshops that help affected communities deal with climate resilience or grief.*

- **Relationships with the Land:** Enhance, support, and create opportunities for all people, especially those historically and presently displaced from and deprived of land, to foster mutually beneficial relationships with the land.
    - *Examples: Events to bring people to a natural area, especially those historically and presently displaced from and deprived of land.*

Read more about our Strategic Directions within our Long-Range Business Plan.

The examples given are just examples. Feel free to get creative!

Grant Schedule, Amounts, and Limits:

Remaining budget allocation available for new grant requests as follows:

- **Grant Request Range:** $100 to $3,500 per application, up to two applications per applicant organization per year.
- **Grant Funds Availability:** Grant funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis during the fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The amount of grants we're able to give are dependent on our annual budget. If all funds are committed before the fiscal year ends, additional grant requests may not be considered until the start of the next fiscal year.
- **Deadlines:** Grant applications will be reviewed and awarded approximately every 2 months. Please see the website for updated due dates for applications. We recommend making the application at least 60 days in advance of the anticipated need.
- **Funding Schedule:** Grants are paid upfront after going through the review process and grant agreement.
- **Grant Agreement:** If your grant proposal is funded, the decision will be confirmed with a funding agreement that will include WMSWCD and grantee responsibilities, procedures for requesting payments, etc. This will be signed by all parties, including the fiscal sponsor if one is used. A W9 tax form will also be required from grantees.
- **Tax Information:** For awards over $600, the income may be taxable. WMSWCD will need to receive a W9 before paying grant awards. Recipients are responsible for any tax consequences.

This grant cannot fund

- Private businesses or individual landowners
- Individual landowners' projects
- Buildings or structures (capital projects)
- Ongoing staff positions

- Political campaigns
- Required mitigation projects

Additional Splash Grant Conditions

Federal, State, and Local Compliance: All projects must comply with relevant laws and rules at the federal, state, and local levels.

Permits and Plans: If required, applicants must obtain and submit all necessary permits or landscape plans.

Contractor Recommendations: WMSWCD does not endorse any specific contractors, manufacturers, or products.

Grant Reporting

We are committed to making reporting straightforward and easy for grantees to complete. Here's what we expect in your final report:

1. **Summary of Activities:** Briefly describe what was done during the project, including key dates, locations, and any important activities completed.
2. **Financial Report:** Provide a simple summary of how the grant funds were spent. No need for itemized receipts—just an overview.
3. **Impact:** Share a few key outcomes, such as the number of trees planted, acres restored, or people in attendance. If possible, include any relevant numbers.
4. **Community Involvement:** Tell us about any community engagement, such as events, workshops, or local collaborations.
5. **Photos:** If you have any photos or visuals of the project in action, we'd love to see them. We also would appreciate being able to share some photos of your project in our outreach and communications materials, so please consider including a photo release waiver in your event registration.

We will provide a simple form to help guide you through these five items. We want the reporting to be easy and efficient so you can focus on completing your project. If you need assistance, please reach out to our staff.

What if we don't get funding?

You will hear back about the outcome of your application approximately 3 weeks after the grant deadline.

As noted above, grant funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the availability of funds, which are dependent on the yearly budget of WMSWCD. If your request is not within our current remaining budget for the program, we will let you know.

Applications may be declined if applicants do not satisfy the basic qualifications for funding:

1. The applicant is an eligible group (See "Eligibility Criteria")
2. The applicant serves people / works within our service area (See "Eligibility Criteria")
3. The proposal relates to the work (Strategic Directions) of our District (See "Grant Program Objectives")
4. The funding is appropriate for the project requested. (See "Grant Schedule, Amounts, and Limits")

If you do not satisfy those requirements, we will be in touch about how you may strengthen your application to reapply. We may alternatively provide resources for other funding sources that may be applicable.