



Grant Program Information

Thanks to funding from the Turner Foundation, Georgia River Network is pleased to offer the 2011 round of grants for watershed work by grassroots river groups in Georgia. Funding will be awarded for clearly planned work to directly impact high priority problems causing water quality degradation, impaired instream flows and/or inefficient use of water.

Grant Size

Grants will range from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Up to \$40,000 will be awarded to watershed groups through the grant program.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit a proposal by July 1, 2011 (received, not postmark date)

Eligibility requirements

- The proposed work must take place in Georgia
- The organization must be a grassroots-based river protection group and utilize citizen advocates to achieve its goals
- The organization must have a strategic plan or plan of work developed by the board and staff (if the organization is staffed) that outlines the need for the proposed project
- The proposal must outline how the project meets the grant criteria, how the measurable objectives will be met, and a project budget
- Applicants that have received previous funding through this program must have completed all previously funded work and turned in required reports on time.

Criteria

- Projects must be completed by May 1, 2012. Phases of multi-year projects are acceptable as long as progress can be demonstrated in the first year.
- Projects must address documented problems that are most impacting or threatening the watershed, including water quality problems, inefficient use of water, or impaired instream flows.
- Project proposals should provide data, reference Georgia's 303d list of impaired waters, or provide other information to demonstrate the problem that will be addressed and why it is a priority.
- Projects should require a modest investment in order to potentially make a significant impact.
- Projects must identify and achieve measurable results.
- Projects must consist of a plan of work that leads to a demonstrable impact on the problem addressed.

- Projects that do the following will be prioritized for funding:
 - Include components that can be utilized by other organizations and duplicated in other watersheds.
 - Funding will fill a gap where other funding isn't available.
 - Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
 - Have statewide or regional implications.
 - Help the organization progress.

Examples of projects

- Implement a Get the Dirt Out campaign to engage and train citizens to monitor construction sites, report erosion and sedimentation and buffer violations, and improve enforcement.
- Implement a project to report NPDES violations and improve enforcement.
- Implement a project to improve instream flows.
- Opposing the construction of a new reservoir or water withdrawal/diversion.
- Implement a campaign to increase mandatory buffer widths, better development site design requirements, enhanced stormwater controls, wetland conservation, or land use planning in a city or county.
- Work with local, regional, or state government to improve a specific policy that is impacting or threatening water quality or quantity in your watershed.
- Implement a project to work with farmers or foresters to: utilize funding programs available to aid in voluntary installation and maintenance of stream buffers or water conservation practices on their agricultural fields/forestry operations; or promote sustainably produced local foods/forest products that protect the landscape, water quality and water supply.
- Implement a campaign to get your local government to pass ordinances that reduce water demand. Examples of ordinances include: require retro-fit on reconnect, prohibit water waste, require rainwater shut-off valves, prohibit HOA's from mandating high-water use landscapes, require efficient process equipment for new development for selected business, require self-closing faucets for new development, or require car washes to recycle water.
- Implement a campaign to get your local government to offer financial incentive programs to help reduce water demand in the residential sector through the replacement of old fixtures with new efficient fixtures including: a low-flow toilet rebate program, trigger shut off valves on hoses, and irrigation system hose timers and moisture sensors.
- Implement a campaign to get your local government to offer financial incentive programs to help reduce water demand in the institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors through the replacement of old fixtures with new efficient fixtures including: a low-flow toilet rebate program, replacement of water-cooled equipment with new air-cooled equipment, process water reclamation systems, air conditioning condensate capture and reuse, elimination of water intensive phases of industrial processes, cooling tower modifications, industrial laundry equipment upgrades, improvements in cleaning processes, restaurant low flow spray nozzles, large efficient commercial dishwashers, air cooled ice machines, or automatic meter reading systems.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated on the project criteria listed above and past results if the proposal is from a previous grantee. Priority is given to clearly planned, impactful proposals.

Award Distribution and Reporting

Funds will be disbursed to grantees in June upon receipt of signed grant contract. Projects (or funded phases of larger projects) must be completed and a final report submitted by May 15, 2012. A mid-year progress report is due in December.

Project and Proposal Assistance

GRN and American Rivers are offering assistance to watershed groups with developing a campaign or a project plan, writing an effective grant application, or guidance in the implementation of the project. Based on the amount of interest, GRN and American Rivers may not be able to provide immediate assistance to all groups.

If you have any questions about this assistance program or wish to request assistance in developing or implementing your project contact Jesslyn at jesslyn@garivers.org.

We encourage groups to send in proposal ideas or call Dana Skelton, grants program manager, to discuss possible projects to make sure you meet the grant criteria. Please request this assistance at least one week before grants are due.