

RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Action Grants

Financial assistance, resources and tools to help you take action for healthy water resources in your neighborhood, city, watershed, and beyond. Join a community of stewards who are changing norms and building the future of clean water.

Program summary

Action grants are small, simple grants for projects to protect clean water. Want to install a rain barrel? Plant some native flowers in your front yard? Hold a community cleanup? Get up to \$250 and tools to help you make your project a reality.

The catch? You can't do it alone! In order to get a grant, you have to find at least one other person to join your team. Want to buy a rain barrel? See if your neighbor wants one too. That native plant garden? Invite friends over to help you plant them.

The goal of Action Grant program is to use fun, easy projects as a way to grow awareness, and community in our watershed.

Who can apply?

- Residents
- Students
- Local businesses
- Groups and troops

Residents must live in the watershed district, and projects must take place in the district.

How much are the grants?

Up to \$250

What projects get funded?

The Action Grant program funds projects that seek to improve water quality, conserve water, improve habitat, reduce flooding, and grow community through stewardship.

Projects must be social in nature, involving a team. And they should be fun!

Some examples: three neighbors all getting rain barrels, a girl-scout troop hosting a leaf cleanup, a group of friends planting prairie plants, an individual hosting a garden party to show off a raingarden they previously installed, a business purchasing an ice chisel to decrease salt use, or purchasing materials to table at a neighborhood night out.

How are grants awarded?

Applications are reviewed by watershed district staff and approved by the district Administrator.

To receive funding, a project must at a minimum:

- Take place within the watershed district
- Demonstrate an improvement to water resources, or an increase in community awareness of water resource issues and solutions

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- Include a team of at least two people

The applicant:

- Must live/work/go to school in the watershed district
- May receive one grant per year

What are the deadlines?

There are no deadlines. Applications are accepted year-round on a rolling basis until funds are used up. Applicants will typically be notified within 7 business days of the review decision.

How are funds awarded?

The grant is a reimbursement, so you pay for things up front and then receive a check when you are done. You will be reimbursed for the materials and activities that were approved when you applied. Funds can be used to purchase supplies (plants, equipment, etc) and snacks for events/volunteers, but not for alcohol.

What is the process?

Before you apply

1. Visit the Action Grant Webpage for resources and ideas
2. Assemble your team.
3. Apply online (you'll need a project description, how much you think it will cost, and your team members names)

If your project is approved

1. Buy your materials and do your project.
2. Keep your receipts and take lots of photos.
3. Have fun!

After you've completed it

1. Submit the project reimbursement form online*
2. Send in copies of all your receipts
3. Financials are processed once a month at the watershed. Get your completed project report in by the 15th of the month in order to have a check issued the first Wednesday of the following month (example: submit report July 12th, financials processed July 15th, check issued August 7th and mailed out soon after)

Long-term

1. Want to do more? Check out our Watershed Stewardship Grant program. You can also apply for another Action Grant the next year.
2. Spread the word! Let others know about the grants.

*Project reports including photos may be used by the watershed district for promoting the program. If the photo includes minors, permissions will be specially requested prior to use.