

## **WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COST SHARE PROGRAM SUMMARY**

In order to improve water quality and prevent degradation of surface waters, the City of Apple Valley administers a voluntary cost share program for property owners of residential, multiple-family, commercial, or institutional zoned lots within the City subject to available funding. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to property owners for a portion of expenses incurred to voluntarily install projects that reduce and treat stormwater runoff.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The Water Quality Cost Share Program focuses on providing cost share for raingarden, buffer, and shoreline stabilization projects. However, the City may consider funding other types of projects depending on the strength of the application. Projects must function by using one of the following treatment mechanisms: infiltration, bio-filtration, bio-retention, rainwater/runoff harvest/reuse, and other runoff reduction mechanisms.

The following limitations apply to potential grant funded projects.

1. The proposed project must score at least one third of the total points possible as averaged across all reviewers during the ranking process to be eligible for funding.
2. Projects resulting from enforcement action due to violation of any agency's rule, statute, law, or ordinance are not eligible to receive grant money under this program.
3. Projects required as part of an Apple Valley permit to meet minimum water quality/quantity/resources standards are not eligible. However, projects that go beyond minimum requirements may be eligible for the grant.
4. Projects deemed as having a high risk of causing groundwater pollution are ineligible to receive funds.
5. Projects found to be inconsistent with other City Ordinances or policies are not eligible to receive grant money under this program.

## GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All projects must submit a grant application form and all other materials necessary for City of Apple Valley staff to evaluate the project. Grant applications must be received at the Apple Valley Municipal Center **no later than May 1** each year. Additional applications may be accepted after the May 1 deadline if funding remains available. Preference will be given to complete applications from first-time applicants.

Apple Valley staff may require a pre-installation consultation with the property owner prior to grant approval. Projects must receive all required permits and approvals from all agencies prior to starting work. The City may elect to waive the application fee for a Natural Resources Management Permit and/or Right-of-Way Permit for approved projects. Waiver of permit fees is not guaranteed.

## REIMBURSEMENT

Projects are eligible to receive up to one-half the total cost of the water quality improvement component of the project with a maximum of \$500 per lot or project. Projects will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis. The following conditions apply to the grant reimbursement process.

1. Projects must be approved by the City of Apple Valley prior to the start of construction to be eligible for reimbursement.
2. All work must be completed in the year of grant approval.
3. If the project is receiving assistance from any other organizations, the sum of all monies received from all organizations must not exceed the total cost of the project or reimbursement under this program will be adjusted accordingly.
4. Property owners may not reimburse themselves or volunteers for labor costs or land value.
5. Prior to reimbursement, City staff must perform a final inspection that confirms all conditions of the grant agreement have been met and receive a copy of all paid receipts to verify expenses. Paid receipts must be itemized and received by December 1 in the year of grant approval.
6. Projects must be completed and installed no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> in the year approved.
7. The City will not reimburse the following materials: decorative rock, stepping stones, hard armoring of shorelines, decorative fencing, boulders.
8. The City may institute a maximum per unit material cost cap for any materials used in a project. The following cost caps are in effect as of January 2016:

<b>Material</b>	<b>Price Cap</b>
Edging	\$3.00 per lineal foot
Trees	\$100.00 per tree
Shrubs	\$40.00 per shrub

<b>Material</b>	<b>Price Cap</b>
Dry Riverbeds	\$10.00 per lineal foot
Splash Block	\$20.00 per water source
Retaining Walls	\$15.00 per square foot
Downspout Redirection	\$200.00 per downspout

### **GENERAL PROJECT STANDARDS**

1. Property owners accepting grant funding must execute a Maintenance Agreement and Grant Agreement. The Maintenance Agreement shall apply for a term of seven years to help ensure that public funds are being used for long-term water quality improvement projects.
2. By accepting grant funding, the property owner agrees to periodic inspection of the project by City staff, with notice provided to the owner prior to entering private property.
3. Projects must not cause increased erosion, have a negative impact on water quality, damage adjoining property, or create a public nuisance.
4. The City will use guidelines contained within the Minnesota Stormwater Manual and other guidance materials in addition to the standards listed elsewhere in this document to assist in evaluating proposed project designs.
5. Property owners shall locate all easements, rights-of-way, and utilities on their property prior to submitting a grant application and proposed project design.
6. Projects shall be design in such a manner that avoids potential disruption of utilities or obstructions to access of easements. Devices sited within an easement, right-of-way, or in close proximity to a utility may be removed without compensation by the City or public utility provider in order to perform maintenance, replace facilities, construct improvements, or expand facilities.
7. Projects shall be designed in such a way that water quality treatment or protection is achieved.

### **GRANT SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAINGARDENS**

1. Raingardens consisting of native of ecotype plants will be given preference over those using non-natives and cultivars.
2. Raingardens shall be free of linings that prevent infiltration into underlying soils unless a filtration practice is deemed necessary by the City due to the potential for surface water or groundwater contamination or structural damage.

3. The raingarden base shall be covered with 3-4 inches shredded hardwood mulch.
4. Side slopes within raingardens shall not exceed 3(horizontal):1(vertical) or shall provide an adequate slope retaining system as approved by the City of Apple Valley.
5. The property owner shall avoid compaction and sedimentation in the raingarden area prior to, during, and after installation.
6. Raingardens must be installed no closer than 15 feet from basement foundations or other underground structures. Raingardens must be installed no closer than 5 feet from slab on grade foundations.
7. Raingardens must be installed a minimum of 3 feet from the curb and gutter or street edge if there is no curb and gutter. Proposed raingarden locations in street right-of-way shall be evaluated on a case by case basis, subject to additional requirements, and subject to additional maintenance requirements if approved.
8. The City may require adjustments to raingarden locations to accommodate existing utilities, easements, and other public services.
9. Raingardens must provide a stabilized outlet.
10. Raingarden base must be at least 3 feet higher than seasonally high water table elevation.
11. Raingardens must be kept free of invasive plants.
12. Grant preference will be given to properties with higher soil infiltration rates without a history of soil contamination.
13. Depending on the location of the raingarden and the source of stormwater entering the garden, raingardens may be required to demonstrate that adequate pretreatment has been provided to reduce clogging.
14. Other standards may be required depending on the location of the raingarden and circumstances occurring on the lot or adjacent to the lot on which it is situated.
15. Fertilizers and pre-emergent pesticides shall not be used in either the construction or maintenance of raingardens. Pesticide use shall be limited to spot spraying or stump treatments for the control of invasive plants; or, initial project location clearing.
16. Fill shall not be installed in raingardens without prior written approval.

### **GRANT SPECIFICATIONS FOR BUFFERS AND SHORELINE STABILIZATIONS**

1. Any project proposing work occurring below the Ordinary High Water Elevation (OHW) of a Minnesota Public Water must contact the Minnesota

- Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine if permits are required for the project.
2. All plants will be native of ecotype non-cultivars.
  3. Projects receiving grant funding are limited to buffers outside of any area required to be buffered as established through City ordinance, previous or existing permit, state or federal wetland law, agency required mitigation, restoration order, or other agency rule, statute, permit, or penalty.
  4. Buffers must extend on average at least 16.5 feet landward.
  5. Hard armoring practices are not eligible for grant funding. Examples include riprap, gabions, concrete block, and retaining walls.
  6. Buffers must be kept free of invasive plants.
  7. Adequate erosion and sediment control must be installed throughout the life of the project.
  8. Preference will be given to applicants whose buffer widths at minimum meet standards based on their wetland management class as established by the Apple Valley Surface Water Management Plan.
  9. Preference will be given to those applicants installing wider and longer buffers.
  10. Preference will be given to projects that plant below the OHW or the normal water level established by the City.
  11. Buffers shall be free of linings that prevent infiltration into underlying soils.
  12. Fertilizers and pre-emergent pesticides shall not be used in either the construction or maintenance of buffers/shoreline stabilizations. Pesticide use shall be limited to spot spraying or stump treatments for the control of invasive plants; or, initial project location clearing.
  13. Fill shall not be installed in buffers without prior written approval.

### **GRANT SPECIFICATIONS FOR NATIVE GARDENS**

1. All plants will be native, of ecotype, non-cultivars.
2. Native gardens must be kept free of invasive plants.
3. Funding priority will be given to raingardens and buffers/shoreline stabilizations (as they provide a greater level of water quality improvement) with the exception of properties where their installation is infeasible.
4. Native gardens must be at least 100 square feet in size or attached to a raingarden to be considered for funding.
5. Preference will be given to those applicants installing larger gardens.
6. Native gardens must be situated such that they treat stormwater.

7. Native gardens must be installed a minimum of 3 feet from the curb and gutter or street edge if there is no curb and gutter. Proposed native gardens locations in street right-of-way shall be evaluated on a case by case basis, subject to additional requirements, and subject to additional maintenance requirements if approved.
8. The property owner shall avoid compaction and sedimentation in the native garden area prior to, during, and after installation.
9. Native gardens shall be free of linings that prevent infiltration into underlying soils.
10. Native gardens shall be covered with 3-4 inches shredded hardwood mulch.
11. Fertilizers and pre-emergent pesticides shall not be used in either the construction or maintenance of native gardens. Pesticide use shall be limited to spot spraying or stump treatments for the control of invasive plants; or, initial project location clearing.
12. Fill shall not be installed in native gardens without prior written approval.

#### **GRANT SPECIFICATIONS FOR RAINWATER HARVESTING AND REUSE**

1. Systems must not be easily portable to be considered for funding.
2. Cisterns/rainbarrels must hold at least 200 gallons to be considered for funding.
3. Systems integrated into household plumbing must provide adequate backflow protection and comply with state plumbing code.
4. Systems must be installed or maintained such that adequate protection from winter climate is provided; systems must be winterized.
5. Systems must be installed and maintained in such a manner that they do not interfere with the aesthetic enjoyment of other residents; screening may be required in some situations.
6. The system must provide a safe emergency overflow.
7. The system must be operated and maintained in such a way as to prevent mosquito breeding within the system.
8. The system must be installed, operated, and maintained in such a manner as to reasonably prevent injury to people, animals, and structures. The system must be able to reasonably withstand the forces exerted on it, not be prone to tipping, and adequately provide for protections from drowning (provide reasonable safety measures to prevent living things from crawling or falling inside).
9. The system must provide adequate filtration and sanitation to protect health if the water can reasonably be expected to come in contact with humans and animals.

10. Rainwater harvesting and reuse is not appropriate for source areas that have a high potential to leach pollutants that adversely affect human and animal health. Examples include but are not limited to the following: treated cedar shakes, asbestos shingle roofs, tar and gravel roofs.