

## 2021 Re-Green the Green Riparian Revegetation Grants

### Small Grant Fund for Salmon Habitat and Restoration Projects

#### *Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed* Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9

#### Overview

The Re-Green the Green Riparian Revegetation Grant program supports projects designed to enhance riparian vegetation along the Green/Duwamish River and its tributaries within WRIA 9.

The [WRIA 9 Forum](#) is eager to assist private non-profit corporations (501(c)3 status), tribal governments, local governments (City, County), Conservation Districts, and schools in funding projects that help improve conditions for salmon and water quality in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound watershed.

This fund supports projects that enhance riparian shade to improve conditions for salmon and meet water quality standards. There is a need to restore trees and native vegetation on all land use types, urban and rural, along the entire length of the Green River and its tributaries. Riparian revegetation projects improve water quality, salmon habitat, and contribute to the urban tree canopy. WRIA 9's 2016 [Re-Green the Green: Riparian Revegetation Strategy for the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed](#) provides important background, scientific basis, and identifies priorities for revegetation projects, including the banks of the rivers and streams mapped as high shade priority based on their solar sun angle or aspect.

In response to a growing awareness that planting projects take time and dedicated stewardship to be successful, we are dedicating a portion of available funding to support maintenance and stewardship of previously funded projects (does not require being funded by WRIA 9).

Up to 50% of the available funding (up to \$250,000) may go towards maintenance and stewardship activities to ensure long-term success of previous planting projects.

Anticipated funding available is \$500,000 with a \$7,500 minimum grant award. Maximum award is \$90,000 for new planting projects and \$40,000 for maintenance projects.

PROJECT TYPE	MINIMUM REQUEST	MAXIMUM REQUEST
NEW revegetation project	\$7,500	\$90,000
Maintenance project		\$40,000

**Eligible Project types:** The following types of projects are encouraged:

- Revegetation project planning and development
- Site preparation, stewardship and maintenance of restoration sites, including invasive weed control and watering
- Planting native trees and shrubs, with an emphasis on growing/enhancing shade producing tree canopy and habitat

**Who Can Apply:** Applicants must be one of the following:

- Private non-profit corporations (501(c)3 status)
- Tribes
- Local governments (City, County)
- Conservation Districts
- Schools

**How to Apply:** If you are interested in applying for this grant, please submit your grant application and all supporting materials via this online form:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cf68176fc7274d0aaf08b917f78ce132> by close of business on **Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Proposals must be less than 30MB (megabytes).** If your materials are over the limit or cannot be uploaded, please get in touch with Suzanna Smith at 206-477-4641 or [susmith@kingcounty.gov](mailto:susmith@kingcounty.gov).

**Proposal Elements:** Project sponsors must complete the King County Flood Control District 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management [Grant Application](#) and provide all supporting documentation detailed below to complete their application. See “How to Apply” above on submitting your application. **Grant Applications are due by 5 pm on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

The following five elements are required to complete your application:

1. Brief (~1 - 2 page) cover letter describing:
  - a. An overview of the project (2 – 3 sentences).
  - b. How your project will contribute to improved water quality and salmon habitat. Is your proposed project a priority area for revegetation? Please refer to the Re-Green the Green Strategy (Figures 3-9).
  - c. Projects scalability (can this project be phased, scope reduced or expanded).
  - d. Project’s likelihood of success. Do you have landowner support? What is your plan for long-term stewardship of the site?
  - e. Description of community support and plans to engage with the community
2. Completed Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) [Grant application](#)

3. Project site map
4. [CWM Budget Table](#)
5. Documentation of landowner support (Required when working on property you do not own; not required if owned by project sponsor)

\*\*\*Project site photos are recommended, but not required.

**Prerequisites:** Riparian revegetation projects must show a direct benefit to salmon habitat or water quality indicators that support salmon habitat. The project should be located along the main stem of the Green/Duwamish River or its tributaries. Projects may include planning, installation, and/or maintenance of on-the-ground native riparian planting. Preferred projects will include a volunteer engagement or environmental education component, *but this is not required*. Additionally;

- Projects must have a high certainty of success within the stated funding limits
- Applicants must have identified parcels for planting on maps (provide with application) and should provide any available correspondence showing landowner support for the potential project.
- Projects must be fully completed with the grant award or in combination with other funds being sought or in hand.
- Projects must not be required as mitigation for other activities.
- Project must demonstrate consistency with the [WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan](#) and the [Re-Green the Green Riparian Revegetation Strategy](#).
- Projects must be completed within three years of award.
- The project budget is realistic and accurately represents the project's expenses and revenue.
- Project must fully meet all [CWM Policies](#).
- Sponsor must make project information available for upload to the [Revegetation Tracker](#).
- Sponsor must agree to report on accomplishments through the WRIA 9 revegetation data solicitation (annually in summer).
- If requested, sponsor agrees to present their project at a mutually convenient Implementation and Technical Committee or Watershed Ecosystem Forum meeting.

**Grant Round Timeline:**

- **March 15, 2021** - Applications due to WRIA 9 staff at [susmith@kingcounty.gov](mailto:susmith@kingcounty.gov).
- **March 16 - April 12, 2021** – Initial review and screening of projects by WRIA 9 staff. Review

team evaluates, scores and ranks projects.

- **April 21, 2021** – Final project review and decision to recommend for approval by the WRIA 9 Implementation & Technical Committee.
- **May 13, 2021** – Final project list decision for approval by the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum.
- **May 21, 2021** – Project sponsors will be notified of their status for funding.
- **July–November 2021 (meeting schedule tentative)** – Flood Control District makes a funding decision on the final project list.
- **Following FCD meeting** – Project sponsors will be contacted by King County for contracting. Funding is available after approval and following a signed contract agreement.

**Review Process:** Applications received on or before **Monday March 15, 2021** will be assessed for completeness and eligibility. Staff will follow up directly with applicants on incomplete or missing information. Project sponsors will have until Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 PM to complete applications in full.

A review team consisting of local technical experts and WRIA 9 staff will convene and independently evaluate and score proposals using the criteria outlined below. Scores will be summed, and projects ranked in order of score – highest to lowest.

The ranked list will be presented to the full WRIA 9 Implementation & Technical Committee (ITC) for review. The ITC will review the proposed list and either:

- Recommend the project list, as ranked, to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF).
- Or, recommend an alternative ranking to the WEF with justification for there-ranking.

The WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) will approve a final project list as part of their May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The list will then be presented to the Flood Control District for final approval. Following the approval from the Flood Control District, project sponsors will be notified, and contract agreements will be initiated.

**Evaluation Criteria and Scoring:**

The following criteria will be used to guide the decision about whether to fund your proposal.

**Total points available: 100 pts.**

<b>Project technical merit (55 pts; 35 point minimum required to be considered for funding):</b>	<b>Max points 55</b>
Proposal is within a priority reach based on Figure 3-9 in the <a href="#">Re-green the Green Plan</a> (Yes = 10, No = 0)	0 : 10
Proposal demonstrates how funding will support the success of the planting and contribute to water quality and salmon habitat improvements.	0 - 15
<p><b>For NEW projects:</b> Proposal demonstrates secondary benefits of riparian revegetation, including enhancing urban tree canopy, improving water quality, or stabilizing streambanks.</p> <p><b>For maintenance only projects:</b> Proposal is vital for the success of current or previous investments by the WRIA or partners.</p>	0 - 15
Table 2 in the <a href="#">Plan</a> provides priority tiers of all locations. Project is a: Tier 1 location = 15 points Tier 2 location = 10 points Tier 3 location = 5 points	0 - 15
<b>Certainty of Success (30 pts; 20 point minimum required):</b>	<b>MAX points 30</b>
Proposal identifies specific parcels for planting that already have landowner buy-in or high likelihood of buy-in. Proposal should include a map(s) of target revegetation sites.	0 – 15
Proposal describes your organization’s capacity and experience implementing and stewarding similar projects.	0 - 15
<b>Community Support (15 pts; 5 point minimum required):</b>	<b>MAX points 15</b>
Proposal incorporates stewardship, outreach and education, or other methods of community engagement (e.g. signage).	0 -5
Proposal provides secured matching funds. <i>NOTE:</i> Matching funds are not required.	0 - 5
Proposal demonstrates alignment with <a href="#">King County Equity and Social Justice pro-equity agenda</a> , with attention to underserved communities	0 - 5
	<b>TOTAL POINTS 100</b>

**Questions/Contact Information:** For any questions, please contact Suzanna Smith at [susmith@kingcounty.gov](mailto:susmith@kingcounty.gov) or by phone at 206-477-4641.