

# WRIA 9 STEWARDSHIP, ENGAGEMENT & LEARNING GRANT PROGRAM (SEaL grants)

2024-2026 Request for Proposals

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

## OVERVIEW

Partners in the Green/Duwamish Watershed want to know...

Does your organization support:

- Programs that integrate watershed science and salmon into problem-based learning?
- Diverse outreach programs that promote awareness of salmon recovery and encourage environmental stewardship?
- Skill-building, empowerment or community-building around the environment related to salmon or watershed health?

**If so, we invite you to apply to the SEaL grant program through WRIA 9!**

Long-term ecosystem recovery succeeds with community support. Environmental engagement and learning that raises awareness, builds support, and encourages stewardship are fundamental to protecting and restoring the habitats that salmon depend on. These efforts can also provide an important entry point for careers in the environmental field.

We want to fund existing or new programs that support watershed conservation and restoration efforts in the Green Duwamish and Central Puget Sound watersheds with meaningful, focused outreach, learning opportunities, and/or environmental stewardship that aims to instill a sense of place, encourage appreciation of natural resources, and promote environmental literacy with an emphasis on salmon recovery. We strongly encourage proposals that reach new underserved or vulnerable populations or communities not traditionally participating in and benefiting from environmental restoration efforts. Programs should clearly identify methods and tools to be employed, describe specific metrics used to gauge success, outline evaluative and assessment approaches, and prioritize focus areas of shoreline stewardship, riparian revegetation, water quality, and/or stormwater management.

## ABOUT THIS GRANT PROGRAM

Each year, the [WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum](#) grants a portion (up to 5%) of King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding to programs that inform, engage, and foster stewardship of the environment in communities along the Green/Duwamish River. Proposals must meet the \$10,000 minimum grant award, and there is no maximum award. We anticipate

approximately \$200,000 available annually to this small grant program to support several programs. Past grant rounds have supported 5-7 proposals.

The goal is to support new or expand existing engagement and stewardship programs that will serve the communities within the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound watershed in the long term. Once awarded funding, **recipients will be awarded funding to support program growth and development for up to three agreement periods (signed contracts)**, to better direct their capacity toward program deliverables rather than annual fundraising. Instead of an annual competition, this block grant style of competition means applicants awarded funding in 2024 will work with WRIA staff to renew their application by updating the task list and program budget yearly (via the online application portal) and negotiate and sign annual agreements in 2024-2026 (the grant will reopen in 2027 for competition). To maintain in the noncompete category, grant recipients must stay in good standing and provide annual reporting requirements and achieve stated deliverables.

## ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

**\*NEW THIS YEAR\*** Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for funding through this grant program. All applicants that submit an NOI **by the deadline of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, are invited to submit a full application. Annually, recipients will be required to complete a short report (this can be a presentation PPT or narrative form) in addition to standard reporting for Cooperative Watershed Management grant funding. A template for reporting will be provided for both reporting options.

## WHO CAN APPLY

- Private non-profit corporations (501(c)3 status)
- Tribes
- Local governments (City, County)
- Special Purpose Districts
- Schools and academic institutions

If you, the applicant, are not housed in an organization that can receive funding through this grant, please get in touch with Suzanna (contact information below) to explore options for fiscal sponsorship through one of our partners. Fiscal sponsorship refers to the practice of non-profit organizations offering their legal and tax-exempt status to groups—typically for projects—engaged in activities related to the sponsoring organization's mission.

## HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying for this grant, please submit your Notice of Intent (NOI) by **January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024** via this online portal:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=kingcountywaterland>

Submit final grant applications and all supporting materials via this online portal:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=kingcountywaterland> by 5 pm PST on **Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

For an overview of the CWM Grant Program, please see [Grant Program Overview](#).

## PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Applicants must complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) as well as the King County Flood Control District 2024 Cooperative Watershed Management **Grant Application** and all supporting documentation detailed below to complete their application.

The following **five elements** are **required** as part of your CWM Grant Application process:

1. Completed Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) [online grant application](#)
2. Proposed Scope of Work (link available within the online grant application)
3. CWM Detailed Budget Table (link available within the online grant application)
4. Map of site(s) using the [King County Revegetation tracker tool](#) (if applicable)
5. Project/program photos and/or videos (at least two representative photos required)

Proposals should describe the full arc of the program/project over the 3-year timeframe of funding. The description should fully represent the program from 2024 through the end of the latest agreement end date, as those application elements will be duplicated to complete subsequent years' funding applications. Only the task/deliverables list and budget should capture work exclusively for the 2024 agreement (which can extend up to three years if needed). You will not be able to duplicate tasks from year to year without showing deliverables for each agreement period.

Each proposal must include:

- Anticipated outcomes that protect salmon and promote a healthy watershed
- A specific plan of action including program activities, locations (parcel numbers when applicable), and participants (K-12 applicants should include grade levels)
- Program evaluation methods and metrics, to include demographic information of both participants and program audience (those affected by the program in some way)
- Plans to sustain the program over the long term and share results with WRIA 9

## PREREQUISITES

- Any proposed signage must align with the WRIA 9 Interpretive Signage Plan.
- Proposal must demonstrate a high certainty of success within the stated funding limits.
- Project/program deliverables must be fully completed with the grant award or in combination with other funds being sought or in hand.
- No elements supported by this award can be required as mitigation (e.g. permit requirements)
- Project must be within WRIA 9 and demonstrate consistency with the [WRIA 9](#) Salmon Habitat Plan and/or the [Re-Green the Green Riparian Revegetation Strategy](#).
- Agreement deliverables must be completed within three years of award (agreements will be signed each year, and each agreement is active for up to 3 years (e.g., the 2024 agreement will close in 2027, the 2025 agreement will close in 2028, etc.)).
- The project budget is realistic and accurately represents program expenses.

Project must fully meet all [CWM policies](#).

## BUDGET ITEMS AND RESTRICTIONS

Up to \$200,000 is available for funding in 2024. It is anticipated that no less than \$200,000 will be available annually for the 3-year program funding. Budgets submitted for 2024 agreements should include just the amount requested for the 2024 agreement period and not beyond. Subsequent budgets for year 2 and 3, along with updated task and deliverable tables, will be requested by the applicant via the online portal in early 2025 and 2026 respectively.

Budget items may include but are not limited to:

- supplies and materials,
- equipment specifically related to the proposal,
- staff training,
- translation services,
- program specific administration costs

Grant funding will NOT cover:

- Capital and/or land acquisition
- Long-term (beyond 3-year) research projects
- General operating grants

## REVIEW PROCESS

Applications received on or before 5:00 pm PST **Wednesday February 28, 2024**, will be assessed for completeness and eligibility. Staff will follow up directly with applicants on incomplete or missing information. Project applicants will have until noon on Wednesday March 6, 2024, at 5 pm PST to complete applications in full.

A review team consisting of outreach experts and WRIA 9 staff and partners 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 the re-ranking.

The WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) will approve a final project list as part of their May 9<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 applicants will be notified, and agreements will be initiated.

## GRANT ROUND TIMELINE

- **January 12, 2024** – Notice of Intent due via online portal here:  
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=kingcountywaterland>
- **February 28, 2024** - Applications due via online portal here:  
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=kingcountywaterland>
- **March 6 - April 5, 2024** – Initial review and screening of projects by WRIA 9 staff. Review team evaluates, scores, and ranks projects.
- **April 8 – 10, 2024** – Reviewer workshops to finalize scores and ranking
- **April 17, 2024** – Project list review and decision to recommend for approval by the WRIA 9 ITC.
- **May 9, 2024** – Final project list decision for approval by the WRIA 9 Forum.
- **May 15, 2024** – Project applicants notified of their status for funding.
- **July – November 2024 (meeting schedule tentative)** – Flood Control District makes a funding decision on the final project list.
- **Following FCD meeting** – Project applicants contacted by King County for contracting. Funding is available after approval and following a signed contract agreement.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

The following criteria will be used to guide the scoring for your proposal. Total points available: 100 pts.

<b>Program technical merit (60 pts; 35 point minimum required to be considered for funding):</b>	<b>Max points 60</b>
States specific, short- and long-term objectives to improve the environment with meaningful, focused outreach, learning opportunities, and/or environmental stewardship Represents innovative and promising ideas to meet proposal's stated objectives Includes plans to evaluate and share results on effectiveness of the program Leads to positive impacts to salmon habitat and/or water quality	0 - 60
<b>Certainty of Success (20 pts; 10 point minimum required):</b>	<b>MAX points 20</b>
Demonstrates careful planning and strong likelihood of success, including plans to sustain the program over time	0 - 15
Describes organizational capacity and experience implementing similar projects.	0 - 5
<b>Community Support (20 pts; 5 point minimum required):</b>	<b>MAX points 20</b>
Structures proposal to include principles of equity, social justice and environmental justice and includes the organization's statement on ESJ.	0 – 10
Proposal draws focus to disadvantaged communities (as defined by the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map <a href="https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/">https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/</a> ). Proposals focused on equitable distribution of resources will score higher.	0 - 5
Proposal shows strong, documented community support.	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.

This information is available in alternative formats on request at 206-684-1280 (voice) or 711 (TTY).