

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Surface Water Improvement Fund Grants**  
**Buckeye Lake Watershed ONLY**  
**Surface Water Improvement Grants**  
**Application Deadline 4/30/13**

Dear Buckeye Lake Watershed Water Resource Management Partner:

We are currently seeking grant applications for funding that will be awarded to communities, park districts and others in the **Buckeye Lake Watershed (only)** to design and install innovative nutrient reduction and stormwater management projects. This is supplemental funding to the Buckeye Lake Nutrient Reduction Project that has been ongoing for the past two years. Due to limited funds available we anticipate awarding grants for only two or three projects. Grants will be awarded for an 18-month term—as a result, it is anticipated that most awards will be made for single site-specific projects that are (or will be) nearly construction ready during the summer of 2013.

**Background:** The Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) was created in 2008 and authorizes the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to provide grant funding to applicants such as local governments, park districts, state agencies, and others listed below. SWIF funding is available to fund several small stormwater demonstration and innovative nutrient reduction projects (approximately \$30,000 per project) within the Buckeye Lake watershed area **ONLY**. *These grants do not require local match.*

**Eligible Applicants:** The following entities are eligible to receive grant funding from the Surface Water Improvement Fund:

- Local municipalities, counties and townships within the Buckeye Lake watershed
- Park Districts
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Conservation Groups with land management responsibilities

**Eligible Projects:** This supplemental Buckeye Lake Watershed SWIF Request for Proposals will result in the award of subgrants for locally implemented storm water management demonstration or innovative nutrient reduction projects. Some specific, detailed examples of “green” storm water BMPs and innovative nutrient management practice are listed on page 3 of this request.

**Priority Funding:** This watershed-specific supplemental round of Surface Water Improvement Fund grants are targeted to land and waters within the Buckeye Lake watershed where nonpoint source pollution from storm water runoff is a significant cause of aquatic life use impairments.

Grants will be awarded under the Surface Water Improvement Fund using a competitive process. Projects demonstrating the following at the time of application will receive more favorable consideration during the review process:

- A readiness to proceed.
- Site specific information or a specifically defined area of focus.
- Project will be completed in a highly visible and accessible public facility
- Evidence that successful completion will result in the reduction and/or passive treatment of storm water runoff.
- Allowable, appropriate and reasonable project costs.
- Sponsors with the appropriate authority to complete the proposed project.

**Grant Amounts:** Applicants may request up to \$50,000 Surface Water Improvement grant funding. There are **no local match requirements**. However, applicants providing local matching funds (**cash only**) will receive additional points during the grant review process.

**Grant Terms & Requirements:** Surface Water Improvement Fund grants are awarded for an 18-month period. Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement with Ohio EPA and projects must be completed within the 18-month grant period. **Projects that are “shovel-ready” will receive higher consideration.**

**Public Outreach Requirements:** All applications for SWIF grants must include project-specific public outreach activities such as public meetings, project tours, signs, newsletters, and fact sheets that are designed to describe the successes of the project to the community. Costs associated with project-specific public outreach activities are eligible as a cost component of a SWIF grant, but may not exceed 5 percent (5%) of total project costs. *General nonpoint source and/or environmental education and outreach activities are NOT eligible for SWIF funding.*

## Eligible Project Listing

### **Innovative Storm Water Demonstration Projects**

Uncontrolled runoff from storm events is a serious contributor of nonpoint source pollutants to many of Ohio's streams. Many urban areas in Ohio are required to regulate and/or manage storm water flow and do so under storm water permits issued by Ohio EPA. **(SWIF grants may not be used to implement any activities required under storm water permits, consent decrees, enforcement orders or as mitigation for other permits such as those issued under section 401 of the Clean Water Act).**

Recent trends in storm water management include innovative practices and techniques that are showing increased promise in the management of storm water. Ohio EPA is interested in promoting these practices by funding **HIGHLY VISIBLE** local projects that

demonstrate these innovative storm water management practices. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Retrofitting public commons or parking areas with permeable pavements.
- Installing small scale green roofs on public buildings
- Installing bio-filtration islands and/or vegetated retention structures such as large public rain gardens\* or large infiltration planting areas.
- Installing passive “treatment trains” combining multiple BMPs such as pocket wetlands, bio-filtration islands and others.
- Constructing storm water treatment wetlands.
- Constructing rainwater harvesting and reuse systems on public buildings or facilities.
- Other practices designed to demonstrate innovative storm water management.

**Projects that are completed at highly visible public facilities such as city halls, heavily visited public parks and other areas where projects may help to educate the public on alternatives to traditional storm water management are highly encouraged.**

*\*SWIF grants may not be used for projects such as rain gardens, rain barrels or others conducted on lands owned by private for-profit businesses and/or individual homeowners.*

### **Innovative Nutrient Reduction Projects:**

Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen that move off of land and into surface waters is a problem that affects many Ohio inland lakes, including Buckeye Lake. While efforts to control nutrient enrichment over the past 30 years has yielded some positive results, current evidence shows the need to develop newer solutions and hone the focus on strategies to effectively reduce nutrient loading to waterways. Eligible nutrient reduction projects include, but are not limited to the following:

- Innovative practices near waterways that facilitate treatment and/or hydraulic buffering of runoff and/or drainage waters. Examples include:
  - Diversions or level spreaders designed to disperse runoff waters through new, existing and/or improved edge-of-field grasses for treatment\*
  - Blind inlets that replace surface inlets with direct surface water runoff conveyance into subsurface drainage systems\*
  - Saturated Buffers and other systems to treat drainage water and reduce runoff volume and rate\*
  - Subsurface drainage control structures\*
  - Drainage water storage and wetlands\*
- Riparian wetland restoration or restoration of historical wetland areas that have been converted to farmland or other uses
- Invasive species management in riparian forested areas

\*For more technical information on innovative nutrient reduction practices like those listed above, please contact the Ohio EPA Nonpoint source program technical contact Rick Wilson at (614) 644-2032.

**Ineligible Projects:** The following activities are not eligible for SWIF grant funding:

1. Projects required under enforcement order or a supplemental environmental project required as part of a settlement agreement or required as mitigation under conditions of a regulatory permit.
2. Any stormwater demonstration project designed to mitigate for Combined Sewer Overflows under consent decree or settlement agreement.
3. Any project that is part of a nutrient trading program;
4. Projects that propose the construction of dikes or levees within a floodplain;
5. Projects that propose best management practices (BMPs) or “end-of-pipe treatments” which are either required or anticipated to be required under an NPDES permit or a Permit to Install;
6. Projects required under Phase 1 or Phase 2 NPDES storm water compliance;
7. Research or monitoring activities (monitoring will be conducted by OEPA)

## **Application Deadline & Review Procedures**

The deadline for submitting grant applications is April 30, 2013. Applications must be complete and postmarked by the above date to be considered for funding. Applications postmarked (or hand-delivered) after this date will be returned to the applicant without further consideration. Please submit three (3) copies of the complete application with original (blue ink) signatures and one (1) copy of the application in Microsoft Word format and any project site photos or design drawings on a CD. Completed applications may be mailed or delivered to:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Surface Water  
Attn: Russ Gibson, NPS Program Manager  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Upon receipt, all supplemental Buckeye Lake Watershed SWIF grant applications will be reviewed for completeness, technical merit and adherence to the RFP criteria listed herein. Applications found to be administratively complete will undergo a comprehensive review using criteria designed to evaluate and score the following:

- Environmental results likely to be achieved
- Overall effectiveness of the project

- Feasibility of completing the proposed project in a timely manner
- Applicant's capability to administer state grant funds
- Project's readiness to proceed
- The project includes a site specific location
- The long term benefits of the project
- The cost effectiveness of the project and
- Existing environmental quality and restorability of the watershed
- Project specific educational and outreach activities

In addition to the above general criteria that are applicable to all applicants, projects also will be evaluated using specific technical criteria developed for the specific type of proposed project.

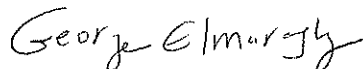
Upon completion of all reviews, applications will be ranked according to their review scores and recommendations for funding will be developed based upon this ranking. Funding decisions will be made by the Director of Ohio EPA. We anticipate that grant awards will be announced during May 2013. Successful applicants will be required to execute a formal grant agreement and adhere to all requirements of the SWIF grants program.

## **Application Materials and Technical Assistance**

Applications are available at the Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water (DSW) homepage located at [www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/index.aspx). Applications are also available by contacting us at the numbers listed below.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you to help communities and others within the Buckeye Lake watershed meet important water quality goals and to demonstrate innovative practices for reducing nutrient loading and managing storm water runoff. If after reviewing this information you require additional assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Martha Spurbeck at 614-644-2869 or Russ Gibson at 614-644-2020.

Sincerely,



George Elmaraghy, P.E., Chief  
Division of Surface Water

GAE/rg/jh  
Attachments