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HABITAT RESTORATION GRANT REVIEW

Purpose

This document provides information on how funding decisions are made for habitat restoration grant applications (*not* stewardship grants).

Habitat Restoration Grant Review

This is a summary of the process of review and funding for Habitat Restoration grant applications.

- 1) Watershed district staff review applications that arrive on time and pass eligibility pre-screening.
 - a. There are two due dates per calendar year. The second application period will be opened if the annual budget for habitat restoration grants is not expended during the first application period. More information is available in the Habitat Restoration Grants Policy and at ninemilecreek.org/get-involved/grants/restoration-grants.
- 2) Watershed district staff will score applications according to the Habitat Restoration Grant Scoring Table and discuss other considerations for each application.
- 3) Watershed district staff will make funding recommendations according to scores and overall assessment of eligible grant applications.
 - a. Grants over \$5,000 are approved by the watershed district Board of Managers.
 - b. Grants \$5,000 and under are administratively approved.

Applications that do not comply with all cost share program requirements, including applications that are late or incomplete will not be considered for funding.

Habitat Restoration Grant Scoring

The following is how a habitat restoration grant application is scored. It is based on two sections: eligibility pre-screening and a project quality score. Instructions included on this form are for grant reviewers.

- **No action on this form is required by grant applicants.** It is for information purposes only.

Eligibility Pre-Screening

Is the project located within the NMCWD? Yes/No

Are all the application questions complete?.....Yes/No

Are all project forms included?.....Yes/No

Are all project forms completed?.....Yes/No

Project Quality: Habitat Restoration Grant Scoring Table

<i>Minimum Criteria</i>		
Is the applicant planning to plant the entire area of disturbance with native vegetation?	If no, grant cannot be awarded	Yes / No
Will the restoration establish at least 5 native plant species?	If no, grant cannot be awarded	Yes / No
Will there be regular watering of the restoration area after it is fully established? This means no regular watering from hose, or sprinkler system will be removed/disabled; watering with reclaimed water from a rain barrel or similar is not "regular watering"	If yes, grant cannot be awarded	Yes (regular watering)/ No (no regular watering)
If project passes above, continue below.		
<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Answer / Point value</i>	<i>Point Value Assigned</i>
What is the percent property area restored?	0-5% / 0 points 6-20% / 1 point 21-34% / 2 points 35+% / 3 points	
<u>Residential Projects:</u> What is the size of the restoration?	0-0.02 acres / 0 points >0.02-0.5 acres / 1 point 0.5-1 acres / 2 points 1+ acres / 3 points	score 1 type
<u>All Other Projects (association, nonprofit, business, city):</u> What is the size of the restoration?	0-0.1 acres / 0 points 0.11-1 acres / 1 point 1-3 acres / 2 points 3+ acres / 3 points	
Is the project's property adjacent to a water body (any type)?	No / 0 points Yes / 1 point	
Total score		

Other Considerations

Watershed District staff will consider other characteristics of an application, which include:

- How satisfactory is the level of detail in the project application?
- How well does the project align with cost share program goals?
- How satisfactory is the project's physical visibility to the public?
- How good is the applicant's plan to inform/educate others about the environmental benefits of the project?
- How reasonable is the timeline and budget for the proposed work?
- How satisfactory is the applicant's understanding of, and willingness to undertake, maintenance?
- Is it a unique project type?
- Is it an underrepresented or unique project type or in an underrepresented project location?
- Other factors at the discretion of District staff and Board of Managers