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**Request for Proposals  
Green Partnership Grants Program  
Proposals Due: October 9, 2020**

**Green Partnership Fund Overview:**

The Green Partnership Fund was established in 2004 to further the goals of natural resource and sustainable agriculture conservation for the citizens of the District's partner jurisdictions. Today, the fund is helping the District achieve our long-term vision of engaging everyone in Pierce County in creating a healthy environment and thriving community. The heart of the District's mission is our collaborative efforts with organizational partners, voluntary local landowners, and citizen volunteers to improve water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, create thriving habitat, and build an equitable and healthy food system for all. The fund is one of the many ways we work collaboratively to achieve our goals.

In 2016, the District completed our 5-year Strategic Plan, which provides a comprehensive road map for how we intend to reach our goals by 2021. This plan has dozens of strategies to grow and improve our work across our five core program areas: Water Quality Improvement, Farm Assistance, Habitat Improvement, Urban Agriculture, and Environmental Education. Each of these core components have strategies and 5-year targets. Project proposals to the Green Partnership Fund should align with at least one of these strategies and/or targets. If a project proposal does not align with our strategies and/or targets, project sponsors can select the "Other" category. "Other" category projects must still align with the District's mission statement and will need to make a compelling case for how the project: a) provides significant ecosystem and/or community benefit; and b) supports Pierce Conservation District's mission by filling a service gap not identified in our Strategic Plan. We encourage you to review our 2016 – 2021 Strategic Plan at [www.piercecd.org/353/Strategic-Plan](http://www.piercecd.org/353/Strategic-Plan) as you develop your project proposal.

The Green Partnership Fund strives to fund high-quality projects within each of four watersheds in Pierce County align with our organizational goals, mission, values, and long-term vision for our community. To ensure organizational goals are met, at least one project in each of the five core program areas listed above will be awarded funding.

**Available Funding:**

For the 2020 grant round, approximately \$75,000 of total funding will be available in two funding pools:

- One (1) large project will be funded at up to \$25,000
- Five to Ten (5-10) small scale projects between \$5,000 - \$10,000

*Proposals must be for a minimum of \$5,000. Large project proposals should make clear whether project sponsors are willing to except partial funding, and how partial funding would be used, if they also want to be eligible for the small-scale projects pool of funding.*

For all projects, we strongly encourage partnering with other organizations or groups, but this may be particularly important for small groups or organizations who may struggle to achieve the \$5,000 minimum ask requirement.



**Timeline:**

- September 1, 2020 - Green Partnership Fund Request for Proposal released and posted online.
- **October 9, 2020** - Green Partnership Fund Applications due to Pierce Conservation District by 4pm.
- October 12 – October 30, 2020 – District program staff review of proposals and recommends 3 – 5 proposals per core program area to be ranked by volunteer ranking committee.
- November 2 – December 8, 2020 – Volunteer ranking committee ranks projects and makes a funding recommendation to District Board of Supervisors.
- December 9, 2020 – Pierce Conservation District Board of Supervisors approve final list of funded projects.
- **December 10, 2020** – Award notifications go out to project sponsors.
- December 12 – January 22, 2021 – Contracts between Pierce Conservation District and awarded project sponsors are signed.
- **December 31, 2021** – All project deliverables must be completed and final grant report submitted.

**Eligibility:**

The fund was established through the cooperative efforts of the District's member city and town councils, the Pierce County Council, and the Pierce Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Green Partnership Fund money is drawn directly from Pierce Conservation District operating funds. Fund expenditures are governed by Chapter 89.08.220 RCW (Conservation District Spending), and by districts under the direct oversight of the Washington State Conservation Commission, a legislative commission. District mandates are established in state law and through ongoing guidance from the state legislature.

In accordance with these mandates, projects must take place in one of the following jurisdictions:

- City of Bonney Lake, City of Buckley, City of Dupont, City of Fircrest, City of Gig Harbor, City of Lakewood, City of Milton, City of Orting, City of Puyallup, Town of Steilacoom, City of Sumner, City of Tacoma, City of University Place, or unincorporated Pierce County

To qualify for a grant from the Green Partnership Fund, applicants must identify themselves as one of the following:

- A registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization, affiliated with a tax-exempt organization, or a community group/association with a demonstrated ability to complete a project of this scale
- A public or private school, college, or university
- A local government or a Washington state agency
- Project must demonstrate community benefit; funds cannot be used to benefit an individual
- Farm projects eligible for PCD Cost Share and/or NRCS EQIP Funding are not eligible for GPF funding

Green Partnership Fund recipients must be willing to:



- Work with Pierce Conservation District staff when applicable
- Share GPF funded public involvement opportunities with PCD
- Present at a PCD Board of Supervisors Meeting (February – December 2021)
- Provide a table top display of the project at the PCD Annual Meeting (March 2021 – if COVID-19 protocols allow)
- If applicable, obtain any necessary permits, which are the sole responsibility of the applicant and must be obtained prior to the start of the project. All projects must follow Pierce County code requirements. It is the Project Sponsor's responsibility to hire and oversee any contractors that may be installing the project, and that the contractor specifications, any designs supplied by the District engineer, and any County permit requirements if applicable. The Pierce Conservation District will not reimburse any costs charged by the contractor for corrections to the project due to the contractor not following the specifications and designs.
- If applicable, upon completion of the project, it is the responsibility of the Project Sponsor to submit appropriate documentation of County approval of permitted projects. Any deviation from the permitted activity and any subsequent mitigation requirements are the sole responsibility of the landowner and may result in delay or denial of cost share reimbursement.

#### **Funding Priorities:**

The Pierce Conservation District works with the community to improve water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, create thriving habitat, and build a just and healthy food system for all, through education, community engagement, and financial and technical assistance. Project proposals should align with our mission and core program areas and reference at least one strategy and/or five-year target from our 2016 -2020 Strategic Plan, found here: [View the plan here: piercecd.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/564](http://View%20the%20plan%20here%3A%20piercecd.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/564). Please limit the listed strategies and/or five-year targets to no more than 3; it is not necessary to list every strategy and target your project aligns with, simply choose those that the project aligns with *best*.

Projects that do not directly align with strategies or five-year targets may select the "Other" category. If selecting the "Other" category, two additional questions will appear that must be answered pertaining to a) how the project provides significant ecosystem and/or community benefit; and b) how the project supports the District's mission by filling a service gap not identified in our Strategic Plan.

#### **Example Strategies and Associated Targets\*:**

- Strategy: Promote Green Stormwater Infrastructure, which will reduce pollutants from water as it infiltrates into the ground.
  - Five Year Target: By 2021, new District projects will contribute to 750,000 gallons of stormwater infiltrated annually.
- Strategy: Implement Native Plantings, restore priority areas and increase native plantings, particularly in riparian areas.
  - Five Year Target: By 2021, District programs will plant 35,000 trees and shrubs, 50-acres, and 4-stream miles.
- Strategy: Sustaining the Community Based Food System – support people to develop leadership abilities and become competent in the skills necessary to successfully manage a community food project in collaboration with neighbors.



- Five Year Target: By 2021, we will have 100 Community Food Projects throughout Pierce County.

**Example Project(s)\*:**

- **Rain Garden Installation:** Rain Gardens are on-the-ground projects that protect water quality, but also included project-specific and ongoing education and outreach opportunities with the finished product.
- **Stream Restoration and Plantings:** Clean water and functioning native habitat are two of core ecosystem values and planting projects help achieve our goals in both of those categories.
- **Planting Cover Crops:** A project that coordinates several crop farmers in a sub-basin to cooperatively purchase and use cover crops would help not only maintain clean water for healthy salmon runs, but by retaining our valuable soil helps ensure a sustainable agriculture economy.
- **Community Garden Improvement:** Projects that create greater food access by either improving or expanding an existing garden; doing an outreach campaign to historically underserved members of the community to join the garden; or a project that improves the environmental impacts of the garden such as stormwater catchment, reducing heat-island effect, or fruit tree plantings that help clean the air.
- **Environmental Education Projects:** These projects should engage school-age children with hands on learning opportunities tied to the District's Ecosystem Values and/or lead citizens to take action to directly conserve or protect the natural resources defined in Pierce Conservation District's strategic plan.

**Example "Other" Project(s)\*:**

- **Energy Conservation/Renewable Energy Projects:** Community energy projects; education and outreach projects that recruit landowners and/or rural businesses into energy conservation programs. Installation projects, such as solar, are not eligible due to availability of other resources.
- **Non-Prioritized Ecosystems:** The District's Strategic Plan covers priority habitats that we work in, however there are other important ecosystems that we do not work in, such as prairie-oak woodlands. If your project addresses an important ecosystem for fish or wildlife that we don't prioritize in our plan, it can still be eligible.

*\*These are not exhaustive lists, if you have a project idea that doesn't fit these examples and you're unsure of how it fits with our funding priorities, please reach out to the grant manager to discuss your idea.*

**Project Criteria:**

To qualify for a grant from the Green Partnership Fund, projects must address one of the above mentioned Funding Priorities and serve citizens in an above mentioned area.

In addition, projects will be evaluated on:

- **Alignment with Strategic Plan:** Project aligns with at least one strategy and/or 5-year target in the District's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan or qualify under the "Other" category as described above.
- **Measurable Benefits:** Project will show measurable benefits in Pierce County within five years.
- **Project Partners:** Project involves multiple partner groups or agencies.
- **Community Involvement:** Project implements an effective strategy to involve the public.
- **Evaluation Strategy:** Project demonstrates the means to measure its effectiveness.



**PIERCE  
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- **External Resources:** Project uses Green Partnership Funds to leverage additional resources (Although there is no requirement for matching funds, projects capable of leveraging private foundation and/or federal and state resources will receive additional credit during ranking.).
  - **Project Sustainability:** Project demonstrates ability to maintain the measurable benefits beyond the grant period.

**To Apply:**

Fill out our online Application Form at: <https://zfrmz.com/qgcS0plW87S9YKGitjzD> by **4:00pm on October 9, 2020.**

Download the Budget Template here: <https://piercecd.org/DocumentCenter/View/2414/Budget-Worksheet>.

Please direct questions, comments, and all other inquiries to the grant administrator:

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