Gallia Soil &Water Conservation District

Conservation Mini-Grant Application Details

Gallia Soil and Water Conservation District is excited to offer the Conservation Mini-Grant program offering up to $1,000 to nonprofit organizations and schools. Applicants should demonstrate the need and ability to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects and conservation education. All local conservation projects within Gallia County, Ohio will be considered and encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

501(c) non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, municipalities, and community groups in Gallia County, Ohio may apply. This includes governing bodies and associations such as HOAs, condo associations, and civic associations. These types of organizations may also serve as a fiscal sponsor for another organization.
Gallia Soil and Water Conservation District will limit an organization/individual to only one funded project per year. Any organization may apply for multiple projects, however only one project from an organization will be awarded.

Ranking and Criteria

Applications are reviewed by the Gallia Soil & Water Mini-Grant Committee with final approval by the Gallia Soil & Water Board of Supervisors.

- Maximum grant request: $1,000
- Projects must be completed within one year of receiving funding

If funding, grant recipients are required to:

- Sign a Grant Agreement
- Provide progress and final reports
- Participate in a final site visit upon project completion

Each project application will be evaluated by the Gallia SWCD Mini-Grant Committee. Each project will be individually scored on how well it meets the criteria. The Gallia SWCD Mini-Grant Committee will then choose the awardees based on these scores and discretions.

The following criteria are considered when evaluating your project:

- *Environmental Impact*: Environmental improvement(s) and ecological benefit(s).
- *Connection to SWCD's Mission*: Demonstrates clear promotion of responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources.
- *Visibility*: Potential number of people reached/impacted by the project.
- *Cost Efficiency*: The impact of the project relative to the funds requested.

Project Examples

Projects may include but not limited to:

- Native tree and plant installations, pollinator habitats, or outdoor classrooms
- Landscaping and gardening with native trees and plants and or Invasive species removal
- Classroom equipment and supplies for soil and water conservation education
- Habitat improvement, such as litter collection, addition of wildlife shelter(s), bird houses, or pollinator sites
- Streambank or riparian zone stabilization using native vegetation

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- Stormwater management projects such as rain gardens, buffer zones, or green infrastructure
- Rainwater storage/harvesting with rain barrels/cisterns
- Soil improvement practices including compost, green manures, or cover crops
- Professional development such as conservation conferences or training

Eligible Expenses

Grant funds may be used for:

- Supplies and tools needed for project implementation
- Educational materials
- Conservation project materials
- Travel/Lodging Expenses for Conferences and/or training
- Signage or outreach materials may also be funded but may not exceed 20% of the total grant request.

Grant funds *cannot* be used for:

- Design or consulting fees
- Research
- Salary and Administrative costs
- Food or gifts
- Sales tax
- Peer to peer payment services (e.g., Zelle, Venmo, CashApp)
- Projects previously completed or in progress
- Subsidies or discounts
- Invasive/non-native plants
- Anything deemed inappropriate or unsuitable by Gallia SWCD Mini-Grant Committee

Award Details and Project Reporting

1. Funds are issued on a reimbursement basis, with documentation (receipts, photos, etc.) of work completed. Some exceptions may be made for organizations that are unable to provide up-front expenses. Funds must be used by the end of the year.
2. Grant recipients must review and sign our Grant Agreement, provide brief progress updates and final report. Recipients will also host a final site visit upon project completion. Updates may be simple phone calls and/or emails to ensure progress. The final report will consist of a few visual aids such as photos/video, and 1-page written summary.
3. Only one project per organization/individual may be awarded per year. Awardees will not be considered for funding two consecutive years in a row.
4. Primary expenses should include supplies and tools for permanent on-the-ground materials. Signage, outreach, and single-use items are limited to 20% of the total cost.
5. Grant proposals are reviewed by Gallia SWCD Mini-Grant Committee with final approval of the *Director and Board of Supervisors*.