



Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance

Water Quality Implementation Project Request for Proposals 2021

The Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) is made up of Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie counties. LEWPA is soliciting proposals from municipalities, non-profit environmental organizations, or other entities/agencies to utilize funding through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Protection Fund to support priority water quality improvement or protection projects and water-related climate resiliency projects in the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed. This solicitation is primarily for projects within Erie County, but projects that have benefits in more than one of the three counties may be partially funded by more than one county. Approximately \$50,000 to \$70,000 is available for each of the counties in LEWPA.

This funding is designed to be utilized by projects that are unable to obtain funding through other sources or that need some initial seed money in order to become a competitive project for other funding sources. This money is considered New York State funds for match purposes.

Projects will be ranked based on their ability to leverage additional funding sources including local, state, federal, or private donations, as well as the development of partnerships between organizations. If funding is being provided as seed money, the project's likelihood of being funded by other competitive funding sources will be considered. In addition, projects must be able to demonstrate water quality benefits and will be required to meet NYS Department of Environmental Conservation funding requirements. Typical project funding will be up to \$15,000. Smaller projects are encouraged to apply. Admin costs should be below 20% of the total project cost.

Project proposals are due by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

Projects must work to improve or protect water quality in at least one of the following categories:

- Installation and Implementation of Best Management Practices
Examples include:
 - Stormwater management/treatment projects and green infrastructure
 - Stream bank stabilization and erosion control
 - Riparian buffer planting
- Public Education and Outreach
Examples include:
 - Boat stewards program
 - Workshops/training
 - Innovative engagement techniques

- Eradication of Invasive Species
Examples include:
 - Control of aquatic or terrestrial invasive species
 - Habitat restoration
- Geographic Information Services (GIS) or Other Technical Assistance
Examples include:
 - Feasibility studies
 - Project design
 - Development of tools for water quality improvement or protection
 - GIS Mapping assistance
- Specialized water-related programs to address local concerns and support state-wide priorities
 - Projects that advance the NYSDEC Great Lakes Action Agenda (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>)
 - Projects that advance the Regional Niagara River/ Lake Erie Watershed Management Plan – Phase 2 (www.erie.gov/wmp)

Requirements:

- Applicants must agree that any identifying signs will note that portions of the project were funded by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Protection Fund.
- Generally, projects will be expected to be completed within one fiscal year, ending in March 2023. 75% of project funds may be made available upfront with 25% reimbursement after successful completion of the project.
- 2 page maximum for application, plus attachments
- Applicants may be asked to present to/discuss their project proposals with the Erie County Water Quality Committee.

Please address questions and completed proposals to Joanna Panasiewicz at Joanna.Panasiewicz@erie.gov, (716) 858-8077, by 4:00 pm on October 27, 2021.

Please Note: Erie County projects will be recommended to LEWPA for funding by the Erie County Water Quality Committee. LEWPA will make the final selection for inclusion in the annual work plan. Annual LEWPA work plans require approval by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation before funding is released.

Project Proposal Template

Project Title:

Project Address and GPS Coordinates:

Be as specific as possible. You may attach a map.

Lead Organization:

Contact Person Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Total Amount Requested:

Project Description:

Describe how LEWPA funds will be used. Include any water quality or sustainability plans in which this project is listed or in which similar action is recommended.

Requested LEWPA Funds Budget Breakdown:

Include salaries, travel, supplies, and contractual breakdown.

Leveraged Funds Description:

What additional funds or in-kind will be leveraged or matched on this project and what will those funds be used for?

Project Timeframe:

Include approximate start and end dates.

Project Partners:

List project partners and briefly describe their roles.

Anticipated Water Quality Benefits:

Include project goals, desired outcomes, and performance metrics for tracking (acres of land treated, gallons of stormwater treated, pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus prevented from entering waterways, tons of sediment prevented from eroding, number of trees planted, number of people educated, etc.)