

2017 Building Better Communities Grant Application

Response ID:45 Data

1. Introduction

Projects sites must be located in American Water service areas, within the states of CA, IL, KY, PA or TN.

Peoria, IL

2. Applicant Information

1. Applicant Information (Organization):

Agency or Organization Name

City of Peoria

Street Address

3505 N Dries Lane

Apt/Suite/Office

N/A

City

Peoria

State

IL

Zip

61604

Phone Number

309-494-8800

Website

peoriagov.org

EIN/Tax ID number

37-6001761

[OLD VERSION] NRPA Member Number (if applicable)

NRPA Member Number (if applicable-membership does not affect funding eligibility)

N/A

2. Contact Information (You):

First Name

Scott

Last Name

Reeise

Title/role at organization

Public Works Director

Agency or Organization Name

City of Peoria

Email Address

sreeise@peoriagov.org

Phone Number

309-494-8818

3. Has your organization ever received funding (grants, donations, etc.) from the American Water Works Company, American Water Charitable Foundation, or an American Water state subsidiary?

Yes

3. Project Information

4. Project title

Peoria GreenSplash

5. Name and location of proposed project site:

Site/Park Name : Peoria GreenSplash

City : Peoria

State : IL

Zip : 61605

6. Is this project site an American Water customer?

Yes

7. Amount Requested:

150000

8. What is the total project budget?

240000

9. If the total project budget is greater than the requested grant amount, please list additional funding sources and amounts here.

Illinois American Water, Peoria Park District, the City of Peoria, and other partners will fund the additional \$90,000 project cost.

10. Please upload a completed Project Budget Template.

[Copy_of_Project_Budget_Template_for_applicants.pdf](#)

11. Please provide at least one (1) letters of support from community groups, government agencies, local non-profits, and/or other partners for this project.

[2017.06.01.letter_of_support.pdf](#)

4. Short Answers

12. Project Overview Narrative

The Peoria GreenSplash project will be a new public park with a splash pad that drains to a bioswale. The bioswale will be planted with native plants and include educational signage. The bioswale will act as a "mini-wetland," filtering pollutants out of the surface runoff and recharging groundwater. Peoria GreenSplash will be located in the 61605 zip code, an area of Peoria with high poverty and high unemployment. Peoria GreenSplash will give area residents an opportunity to play in clean water and learn about native plants and the natural water cycle.

The Illinois River and many of its tributaries in the Peoria area are listed on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Section 303(d) list of polluted waterways. Up to 70% of harmful pollutants are introduced by storm water runoff from local towns and municipalities. Peoria GreenSplash will be a place to educate the public about clean water and to have fun. Peoria is honored to submit this Project Brief to the 2017 Building Better Communities Grant Program.

13. In detail, please describe the proposed physical park improvement component of the project.

The park improvements consist of construction of a splash pad that drains to a bioswale. The bioswale will be planted with native plants. Education signage will be included to explain the benefits of native plants. Benches or flat-topped rocks will provide seating. Security lighting will be included. Art with a clean water theme will be incorporated into the park

14. In detail, please describe how the project will incorporate opportunities for watershed education and/or stewardship for both children and their families. Please include the learning objectives of the programming.

The park will have educational signage on the benefits of native plants and clean water. Children and their families will learn about native plants. The learning objective is to teach people the benefits of native plants and the natural water cycle. Children will learn about clean water while enjoying splashing in the water. Periodic plant maintenance and park cleanup will provide an opportunity for volunteer stewardship.

15. How will this project provide new opportunities for nature play and/or watershed recreation?

The splash park will incorporate water play. The public will see the water runoff filter through the bioswale. Children can see and hear birds and insects attracted to the native plants.

16. Describe the community served by this park.

The community is the 61605 zip code. This is an area of disinvestment, with a high poverty rate and a high unemployment rate.

17. Describe the community's need for this project.

This area is underserved in many areas, including recreation. This splash park will provide recreational and educational opportunities.

18. If applicable, explain how the proposed project ties in with any current or planned improvements to the park.

Peoria GreenSplash will be a new park.

19. Who will maintain the park to ensure it is well kept and/or provide necessary upkeep and maintenance?

Illinois American Water, the Peoria Park District and/or the City of Peoria will work with other partners to ensure maintenance, including opportunities for volunteer stewardship.

20. What other organizations will you partner with on this project and what are/will be their roles?

Possible partners include Illinois American Water Volunteers, Keep Peoria Beautiful, Peoria Park District, Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association, and local neighborhood associations. Partners can contribute in any role related to their strength and interest.

21. How will park visitors learn about American Water's contribution?

An education sign will be provided to teach park visitors about American Water's contribution. Press releases, a ground breaking ceremony, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will include information about American Water.

22. Please describe the volunteer opportunities that will be offered for American Water employees to participate in this project.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to help maintain the bioswale by weeding, planting, and removing debris.

23. Describe your plans for community engagement and/or press events to promote this project.

Community engagement could include press releases, a groundbreaking ceremony and a ribbon cutting ceremony. We plan to engage at least three of the following partnering organizations: City of Peoria Public Works Department, Peoria Park District, Peoria Garden Club, Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association, the local building trades, local nurseries, local neighborhood associations and Illinois American Water.

The partner organizations will be invited to collaborate in the design and/or construction of the Green Splash park and the development of education materials about the natural water cycle and native landscaping.

We plan to engage the community in this project by sending press releases to local media, making education materials available online and at public events, and presenting a report to the Peoria City Council.

24. Please provide a timeline for the project including community engagement, design, groundbreaking, construction, volunteer events, and ribbon cutting.

June, 2017: Initial press release and stakeholder invitations

July, 2017- September, 2017: Public Involvement and Site Selection

September, 2017 - February, 2018: Design and Bidding

March- May, 2018: Groundbreaking and Construction

May, 2018: Ribbon cutting

25. What makes this project unique? What is the "wow" factor that the visitors will experience?

This splash pad will be unique because it will drain to the bioswale. The wow factor will be that the bioswale planted with native plants. Public art will be included.

26. Photo upload 1

[concept_sketch-1.pdf](#)

27. Photo upload 2

[Bioswale_photo.pdf](#)

28. Photo upload 3

[splash_pad_example.pdf](#)

29. Photo upload 4

[splash_pad_example_2.pdf](#)

30. Photo upload 5

[splash_4.pdf](#)

5. Thank You!

Confirmation Email

Jun 02, 2017 08:50:34 Success: Email Sent to: sreeise@peoriagov.org