



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MAYOR: David H. Bieter | DIRECTOR: Doug Holloway

Open Space and Clean Water Improvement Project Partnership Program Frequently Asked Questions

1) Who can apply?

Applicants can include non-profit land and water conservation organizations, municipalities, and other organizations that include in their mission the identification, acquisition, or management of open space and natural areas.

Projects must take place on publicly owned or managed open space properties. Projects that are located on private property are not applicable unless public access or conservation easements are in place with qualifying public agencies.

2) Does my improvement project proposal qualify?

Project eligibility and strength is determined primarily by the specific language of the levy and further detailed by a review of the community feedback provided during the creation of the following plans:

- Boise River Resource Management and Master Plan (2014)
- The Interagency Foothills Management Plan (2015)
- Open Space Matters: The Boise Reserves Open Space Management Plan (2015)
- Around the Next Turn: A 10-Year Management Plan for the Ridge to Rivers Trail Network (2016)

The guidance provided by the levy and these four large scale engagement and planning efforts identified six conservation criteria used to assess the eligibility and strength of an application (see Application Package – Conservation Criteria for more detail). Your project is eligible if the scope includes protection or enhancement of:

- Critical Open Space
- Connectivity
- Clean Water
- Habitat Restoration
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Community Engagement/Partnerships

No levy funds may be spent on administrative costs including but not limited to: printing of materials, staff salaries and benefits, and costs that may be incurred associated with normal day to day business transactions.

Proposed projects are subject to ultimate approval by the Mayor and Boise City Council. Any levy funds committed to a selected project must comply with the City's purchasing

and procurement requirements. Such requirements include, but are not limited to, those set forth in Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 28, Boise City Code, Chapter 1-11 and the City's Business Operations Manual. All levy funds must be spent solely on the benefits and goals listed above, and not administrative costs. All levy funds are subject to an annual audit.

3) What is the Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee (OSCWAC)?

The OSCWAC is a seven to nine member, volunteer committee tasked with recommending the use of Open Space and Clean Water levy funds to Boise City Mayor and Council. Improvement project applications and acquisition proposals are vetted by the OSCWAC. The committee then provides a recommendation to Boise City Mayor and Council. For more information, please refer to Boise City Code Chapter 2-23.

4) How much money will be available each year for improvement projects v. acquisition?

No specific standard has been set to predetermine annual expenditures for improvement projects or open space acquisitions. The OSCWAC is committed to being able to respond to the best and most appropriate projects and property opportunities as they arise. Any project or property that meets the outcomes of the levy and the conservation criteria defined above will be evaluated.

5) Is there a time line associated with project spending?

Once a project has been approved by City of Boise Mayor and Council, an agreement will be drafted between the City and the applicant detailing specific expectations and requirements associated with the expenditure of levy funds. Depending on the project scope, the agreement will address how the project will be managed, a mutually acceptable timeline, and other accountability measures.

6) How will the City allocate the funds?

Once a project has been approved for funding by Boise City Mayor and Council an agreement will be drafted between the parties (see the sample agreement provided.) A City staff member will be identified as the project manager. The project manager will lead the project through the necessary purchasing and procurement process, approve invoicing, assess reporting, manage the timeline, and reporting progress to the OSCWAC.

7) How will the City ensure accountability?

Project management and annual reporting requirements will be detailed in a standard agreement following approval of an improvement project. All levy funds are subject to an annual audit.

For more information or assistance, please contact Sara Arkle, Boise Parks and Recreation Foothills & Open Space Superintendent, at sarkle@cityofboise.org or (208) 493-2533.

