



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Water Quality Improvement Projects and Non-Ag Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant

February 20, 2024

# Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program



# WQIP Overview - 2023

- Competitive, statewide implementation grant
- Improves water quality or aquatic habitat
- Protects a drinking water source
- At least \$75 million available in 2023



# Funding Overview

- Dollar amounts available each year is based on NYS Budget
  - √ Clean Water Infrastructure Act
  - √ Environmental Protection Fund
- Maximum awards differ by project type
- Ranges from \$100,000 - \$15 million
- Match is based on award amount – not total project cost

# Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities (*ECL §56-0101*)
  - Includes municipal corporations and Indian Nations
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Not-for-profit corporations
  - Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection, Aquatic Connectivity Restoration, Marine District Habitat Restoration



# Eligible Activities - 2023

- Wastewater Treatment Improvement
- Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control
- Vacuum Trucks in Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Areas
- Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection
- Salt Storage
- Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation
- Aquatic Connectivity Restoration
- Marine District Habitat Restoration



# Wastewater Treatment Improvement

## Primary Priority (25% match)

- Wastewater Effluent Disinfection for Facilities Without Disinfection
- Watershed Plan Implementation of Phosphorus Reduction

## Secondary Priority (25% match)

- Combined Sewer Overflow/Sanitary Sewer Overflow (CSO/SSO)
- Watershed Plan Implementation

## Tertiary Priority (25% match)

- Municipal Systems to Serve Multiple Properties with Inadequate On-Site Septic Systems
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Nitrogen Abatement for Shellfishing Waters

## General Wastewater (25% match)

- Other wastewater infrastructure improvements



# Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source

## Eligible practices (25% match)

- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-Site Treatment Systems
- Green Infrastructure Practice
- Stormwater Retrofits
- Streambank/Shoreline Stabilization and Riparian Buffers
- In-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients
- Bathing Beach Restoration
- Stream Culvert Repair and Replacement
- Nonpoint Source Programs





# Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source (cont.)

## New eligible practices (25% match)

- Riparian Buffers
- Floodplain Creation/Restoration/Reconnection
- Berm Removal
- Wetland Creation/Restoration



# Vacuum Trucks in MS4 Areas

## Eligible projects (25% match)

- Projects to purchase one vacuum truck to be used in an MS4 area

## Other information

- Eligible applicants include:
  - Municipality Regulated by the MS4 General Permit
  - Soil and Water Conservation Districts



# Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection

## Eligible projects & programs (25% match)

- Protect surface public drinking water supplies
- Protect groundwater public drinking water supplies
- Must include land acquisition; either land purchase or easements

## Other information

- Municipalities, soil and water conservation districts and not-for-profits, such as land trusts, are eligible
- Apply under the category of “project” or “program”



# Salt Storage

## High Priority Projects (25% match)

- Construct a new structure to enclose an exposed salt or salt/sand mixture storage pile that is currently located near a public drinking water source or within a primary, sole source, or principal aquifer

## Low Priority Projects (50% match)

- Replacement structures
- Capacity expansion

\*All projects must comply with Office of General Services salt storage specifications



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# Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation

## Primary Priority (25% match)

- Repair of high hazard dams (Class C) assigned the condition rating of “unsafe” or “unsound”

## Secondary Priority (25% match)

- Repair of intermediate hazard dams (Class B) assigned the condition rating of “unsafe” or “unsound”

## General Projects (25% match)

- Other repair of high or intermediate hazard dams



# Aquatic Connectivity Restoration

## Eligible Projects (25% match)

- Improves aquatic habitat connectivity at road/stream crossings or dams
- Restores the natural movement of organisms
- Focus is on culverts, bridges or dams that are causing obstructions

## Other Information

- If total cost of project > \$250,000, must demonstrate that additional funding has been secured
- If your project is to repair or replace a culvert and the main concern is stream erosion, not aquatic connectivity, you should apply under the nonpoint source category.

# Marine District Habitat Restoration

## Eligible Projects (25% match)

- Projects within the marine district:
  - ❖ Ocean waters within three miles from the state's coastline, including the Atlantic Ocean, Long Island Sound and embayments
  - ❖ Tidal Hudson River waters running south of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge (formerly Tappan Zee Bridge)
- Must improve the ecological condition of waters of the state with intent to improve habitat for fish and wildlife



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**Non-Agricultural  
Nonpoint Source  
Planning & MS4  
Mapping Grant (NPG)**





# Overview - 2023

- Grants to help pay for:
  - ❖ Planning reports needed for nonpoint source projects
  - ❖ Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) mapping
- Up to \$3 Million Available in 2023
- 10% local match



# Nonpoint Source Planning Reports

- Eligible Applicants:
  - ❖ Municipalities (*ECL §56-0101*), including Indian Nations
  - ❖ Soil and water conservation districts
- Maximum awards:
  - ❖ Up to \$50,000 for planning reports
  - ❖ Up to \$75,000 for comprehensive stream corridor studies

# Nonpoint Source Planning Reports Cont'd

## Categories:

- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-Site Treatment Systems
- Green Infrastructure
- Stormwater Retrofits
- Streambank/Shoreline Stabilization
- Comprehensive Stream Corridor Assessment
- Stream Sediment and Debris Management Plans
- In-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients
- Bathing Beach Restoration
- Stream Culvert Repair & Replacement

## New Plans Added in 2023:

- Berm Removal
- Floodplain Creation/Restoration/Reconnection
- Wetland Creation/Restoration
- Coastal Storm and Erosion Risk Management
- Dam Safety



# MS4 Mapping

- Eligible applicants:
  - ❖ Municipalities regulated by the MS4 General Permit
  - ❖ Soil and Water Conservation Districts on behalf of regulated MS4 Operators
- Maximum awards:
  - ❖ If applying as a municipal collaborative: Up to \$60,000 per municipality, with up to \$400,000 per collaborative
  - ❖ If applying alone, maximum of \$75,000



# MS4 Mapping Cont'd

- Final deliverables:
  - ❖ Final map product
  - ❖ Final summary report
- Applicants encouraged to cooperate with other regulated municipal MS4 operators
- Mapping must meet MS4 permit requirements
- Must create, use, or expand on electronic/GIS mapping
- Basic mapping must be done before other mapping



# Thank You

Lauren Townley

Leila Mitchell

Julie Berlinski

Water Assessment and Implementation

Division of Water, NYS DEC

(518) 402-8179

[User.water@dec.ny.gov](mailto:User.water@dec.ny.gov)



On the web:

**WQIP:** <https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/wqip-program>

**NPG:** <https://dec.ny.gov/get-involved/grant-applications/non-agricultural-nonpoint-source-planning-ms4-mapping-grant>



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