

Watershed Guardian Grant Guidelines

The Northeast Iowa Stormwater Education Program is excited to support youth organizations and schools in implementing stormwater management projects. Eligible groups may apply for a **Watershed Guardian Grant** of up to \$3,000.

Watershed Guardian Grant

Awards up to \$3,000 - Available to classes on completion of stormwater programming

Eligibility: Watershed Guardian grants are available to educational organizations in project area counties that visit the Northeast Iowa Urban Stormwater Demonstration Site in Postville, or participate in stormwater learning activities lead by the Northeast Iowa RC&D Environmental Education Coordinator. Multiple applications from the same school/district will be considered, as long as they are submitted by different classes with different teachers.

Project Area counties: Allamakee, Buchanan, Bremer, Black Hawk, Clayton, Chickasaw, Delaware, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, Mitchell, and Winneshiek.

Purpose: Watershed Guardian grants are intended to support classes in implementing stormwater best management practices at their schools and in their communities. Educators are encouraged to engage students in project selection and development, as well as implementation. The Education Coordinator will be available to help classes identify possible projects, and answer questions on applications and project implementation.

The Watershed Guardian Grant is intended to help classes hit the ground running, applying classroom learning to real-world stormwater management scenarios. Examples of possible projects include creating rain gardens on school property, developing school-to-home rain barrel programs, and starting a community tree planting project. Projects may be sited on school property, city property, or on private property within the urban community.

Project Size: The Watershed Guardian Grant awards of up to \$3,000 could be used as the sole source of funding for smaller projects, such as a school butterfly garden, or could fund a portion of a larger project alongside funding from other sources. Projects including vegetative plantings, must incorporate native species only. The project budget should also specify how Watershed Guardian funds will be spent, and identify other sources of support.

Application and Award Timeline: The Education Coordinator will regularly review Watershed Guardian Grant applications, and grants will be awarded within a month of submission. Watershed Guardian grants will be available for up to 20 projects, and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Application Requirements: Applicants need to submit a site plan, project description, budget, timeline, student involvement plan and project learning evaluation. Detailed instructions are included on the application form, which can be found on the website at www.northeastiowarcd.org/projects/stormwater. Applications should be submitted by email to stormwater@northeastiowarcd.org or mailed to Northeast Iowa RC&D Attn: Watershed Guardian Grant Program, PO Box 916, Postville, IA 52162.

Reporting: Grantees will be required to submit a final report at the completion of their Junior Watershed Guardian Project. The report should include pictures of the student's involvement in the implementation of the project. If the project is not completed within a year, grantees will be required to submit an annual report.

Questions? Contact Tori Nimrod, the Education Coordinator, at stormwater@northeastiowarcd.org or call 563-864-7112.