



PARKS AND RECREATION

City of Boise

Open Space and Clean Water Partnership Program

2025 Application Packet



OPEN SPACE AND CLEAN WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

2025 Application Packet Information

What is the Open Space and Clean Water Program?

In 2015, Boise voters passed the Boise Open Space and Clean Water levy. This initiative raised \$10 million over the course of two years to achieve the City of Boise's conservation goals - implementing improvement projects and protecting open space in critical areas including, but not limited to, the Boise River and the Boise Foothills. Specifically, levy fund dollars can be used to enhance improvement projects seeking to protect clean water and drinking water, safeguard critical wildlife habitat, protect critical open space, preserve native plant species and enhance trails, pathways, and recreational opportunities.

Conservation goals associated with this program are also integrated within many aligned community planning efforts. For more information, please consult the following guiding documents and initiatives:

- [Open Space Matters: City of Boise Open Space Reserves Management Plan](#)
- [Around the Next Turn: A 10-year Management Plan for the Ridge to Rivers Trail Network](#)
- [City of Boise Climate Action Roadmap](#)
- [Interagency Foothills Management Plan](#)
- [Boise Pathways Plan](#)
- [Water Renewal Utility Plan](#)
- [America the Beautiful Initiative](#)

Is my proposed project eligible for Open Space and Clean Water funds?

If your project proposal addresses the conservation goals above and can bring together community partners to achieve those goals, your project may be eligible. To learn more, review the following materials provided in this packet:

1. Conservation criteria
2. Application form for improvement projects
3. Frequently asked questions

Who decides if my project proposal is approved?

The Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee, a seven-to-9-member citizen committee, will review and recommend approval to the Boise City Mayor and Boise City Council. The mayor and council must approve the project before levy funds can be accessed. 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.

This guidance is specifically addressing improvement project proposals associated only with the use of levy funds. If you are seeking information on property acquisitions related to the protection of critical open space, or if you have questions related to this application, please contact Lisa Duplessie, Foothills and Open Space Superintendent, at (208) 493-2533 or lduplessie@cityofboise.org.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. SUBMIT PROJECT APPLICATION

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

- Complete the application packet in its entirety
- A letter of support from all project partners is also required
- Submit applications to Lisa Duplessie:
lduplessie@cityofboise.org

2. CITY OF BOISE STAFF REVIEW

City of Boise staff will review the project scope and feasibility in collaboration with applicant, as needed.

3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee will review all submitted applications and provide a funding recommendation to Boise City Mayor and Boise City Council.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL VOTE

The Boise City Mayor and council will review the committee recommendations and determine which projects will be funded.

5. APPROVED PROJECTS

Approved improvement projects will be announced. City staff and approved project applicant will create a project agreement that includes expectations regarding project management, timeline and accountability measures.



OPEN SPACE AND CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Conservation Criteria

Category 1: Critical Open Space

Criteria Statements:

- Improves wildlife habitat, promotes native plant or rare plant diversity
- Improves or contributes to open space and its role in climate resilience
- Enhances or protects clean water resources
- Provides various non-motorized outdoor recreational opportunities,
- Enhances culture, wellness, sense of place, and/or social connections
- Serves as a unique open space opportunity in areas outside the Boise Foothills to ensure the entire city has access to open spaces and parks
- Promotes habitat within the city to ensure wildlife viewing opportunities for future generations
- Supports best available science to inform land management decision making and quantify the benefits of open spaces

Category 2: Clean Water

Criteria Statements:

- Protects or enhances riparian and river habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife
- Supports best available science to guide management decisions that support clean water and habitat along and within the Boise River and its watershed
- Enhances or restores wetland areas along the Boise River and its tributaries
- Improves water quality with activities such as invasive species management programs, sediment removal, streambank stabilization, permeable pavement, and/or creation of wetlands to naturally improve water quality
- Promotes water conservation efforts to support clean drinking water from both ground and surface water resources
- Supports efforts to better understand clean water challenges (ex. emerging pollutants and climate change) to inform and improve restoration efforts.

Category 3: Native Habitat and Wildlife

Criteria Statements:

- Conserves/creates wildlife and/or pollinator habitat and promotes native plant species
- Supports native plant communities and habitat resilience based on changing climate conditions
- Creates, connects or preserves critical habitat to maintain wildlife corridors
- Improves our understanding of the function of native habitat in serving wildlife and human systems
- Improves/enhances water quality to support fisheries and aquatic wildlife
- Establishes more fire-resistant, native vegetation to help control wildfire
- Supports efforts and decision making to restore habitat on public lands following fire disturbance

Category 4: Trails or Pathways

Criteria Statements:

- Enhances or creates pathways, trails or other non-motorized connections outside of the Boise Foothills that improve proximity and access to open spaces and other parks resources for residents across the city
- Supports the Ridge to Rivers trail network and community access to the Boise Foothills
- Supports community way-finding efforts to ease connectivity from urban areas to open space/park amenities
- Supports efforts to enhance accessibility to open spaces for those that have mobility impairments
- Improves safety for non-motorized and/or recreational mobility

Category 5: Community Engagement/Partnerships

Criteria Statements:

- Promotes partnerships, shared responsibility, and a sense of community
- Enhances interpretive signage and increases education regarding native ecosystems
- Engages in restoration-focused volunteer projects
- Strengthens and defines ecological and economic benefits of open space
- Creates diverse partner approach to climate action, resilience and mitigation
- Brings diverse funding to the project to strengthen community action

OPEN SPACE AND CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Improvement Project Application

Section 1: Contact Information

Name of Organization	
Name of Project Contact	
Street Address	
City, State and Zip	
Phone	
E-Mail Address	

Section 2: Conservation Criteria

According to Boise City Code 2-11-06, the City seeks to achieve conservation goals through the implementation of improvement projects in areas such as the Boise River and the Boise Foothills. These conservation goals include protecting and conserving clean water and drinking water, safeguarding critical wildlife habitat, protecting critical open space, preserving native plant species and enhancing trails and recreational opportunities. Criteria categories have been defined by these goals as set forth by the Open Space and Clean Water levy fund and by City approved plans and initiatives for the enhancement of Boise's natural amenities.

Check each category that applies to the project proposal:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Open Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails or Pathways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Engagement/Partnerships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Habitat and Wildlife | |

Section 3: Project Description

Using the Conservation Criteria Guide, please provide a clear and concise overview of the proposed project.

Section 4: Meeting the City's Goals

Please explain how this project will meet each of the conservation goals highlighted on pgs. 5-6 or address the community plans and initiatives identified on pg. 1 of this packet.

Section 5: Project Readiness

Please answer the following three questions regarding project readiness:

- 1) Has any work been done to prepare this project for implementation?
- 2) How would you like the City to spend levy funds to enhance the proposed project?
- 3) Is the proposed project part of an ongoing or phased improvement to the Boise River or open spaces on existing owned or managed public lands?

Section 6: Budget

Please provide a budget overview for this project. Include levy funds requested, matching funds, and “in-kind” opportunities that have been identified for this project.

Section 7: Reporting Requirements

All levy funds spent are subject an annual audit. The Boise City Open Space and Clean Water Advisory Committee will prepare annual reports detailing the expenditures, projects and activities that support the city's conservation goals. Describe how your organization will provide updates and reports to the committee and how success and implementation efforts will be measured and recorded.

Section 8: Supporting Documents

Please provide the following documents to support this application:

- Location map** must identify the location of your project on a map
 - You may create a map using Google Earth Maps or other programs including the City of Boise GIS program at: <http://gis.cityofboise.org/boisemap/>.
- Contact information** for those authorized to submit receipts/invoices to the city
- Any other supporting documentation** important for your application (an example could include a more detailed budget)
- Letter(s) of support** from project partners

Section 9: Mayor & Council Approval

Proposed projects are subject to ultimate approval by the Boise City 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 on administrative costs.