

Rainscaping Small Grants – An Education and Outreach Success Story

2019 5 Cities Plus
Susan McCrary, PE

Outline

- St. Louis MSD's Green Infrastructure (aka Rainscaping Program) Overview
- Rainscaping Small Grants Program
- Coming Soon...
- Other Grant Opportunities
- If there's time... Video!

*To meet the goals of the 2012 Consent Decree, MSD's
Project Clear Initiative*






Get the
Rain Out

-  Stormwater Disconnections**
-  Rainscaping*
-  CitySheds Program*
-  Combined Sewer Separations*

**Combined sewer area only activities*

***Separate sewer area only activities*

Repair &
Maintain

-  System Maintenance
-  System Inspection
-  System Rehabilitation and Replacement
-  Fats, Oil and Grease Control Program
-  Emergency Response

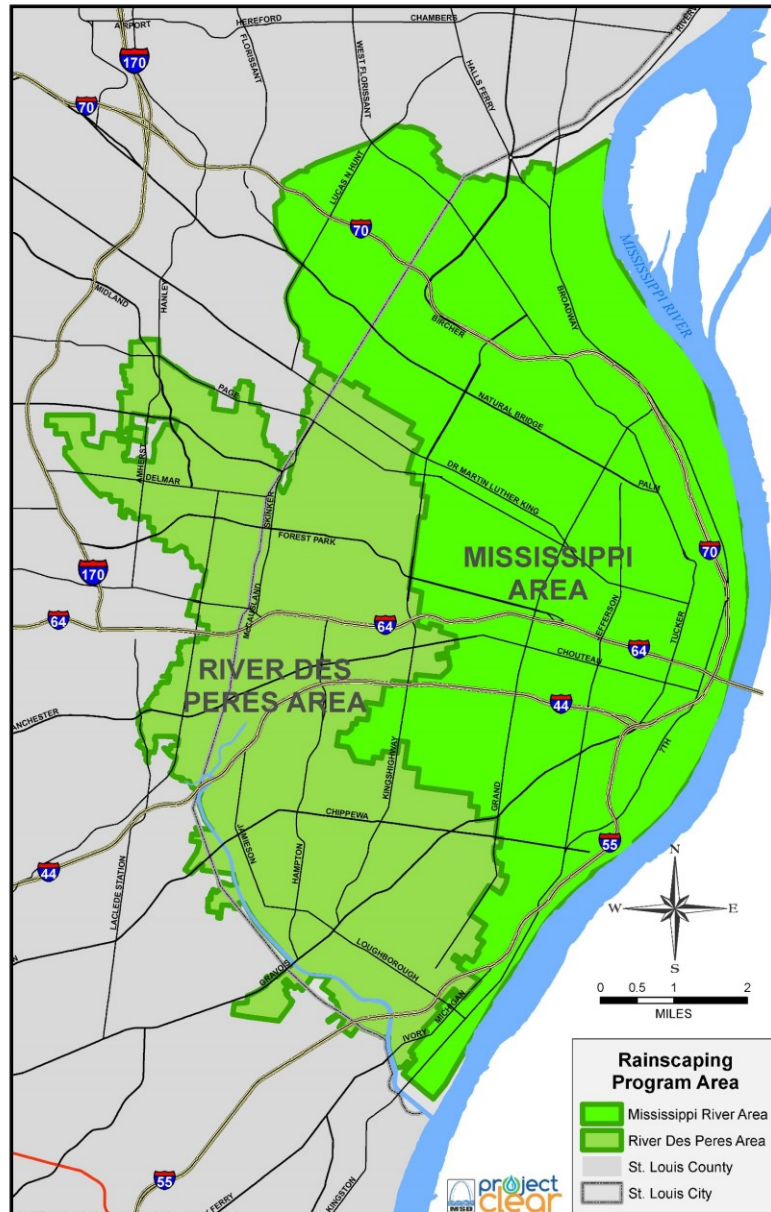
Build System
Improvements

-  Tunnels
-  Storage Tanks
-  Relief Sewers
-  High-Rate Treatment*

Rainscaping (Green Infrastructure)

Rainscaping is any combination of plantings, water features, catch basins, permeable pavement... that manage stormwater as close as possible to where it falls.





Rainscaping Program Area

- Combined Sewer portions of the Mississippi and River Des Peres Watershed
- Primarily covers the City of St. Louis
- Spend \$120M over 20 years

Rainscaping Program



Indirect Projects

-  Projects with Partners
-  Green Infrastructure Grants
 - Rolling Program \$180K/AC
 - Annual Competition
-  Targeted Partnerships
 - Schools
 - Parks and Rec Centers

Demolitions

-  LRA Partnership
-  \$13.5 Million (max)

Direct Projects

-  MSD Owned Neighborhood Rain Gardens
-  MSD's Facilities
 - Market
 - Pump Stations
 - Detention Basin Retrofits
-  Cityshed Mitigation Program Opportunities
 - Separate program to reduce chronic flooding and backups using buyouts and detention
 - Permanent green space
 - Rainscaping around basins

Small Grants

-  Education & Outreach
-  Small features
-  Individual landowners
-  \$4.8 Million (max)

Rainscaping Small Grants Program

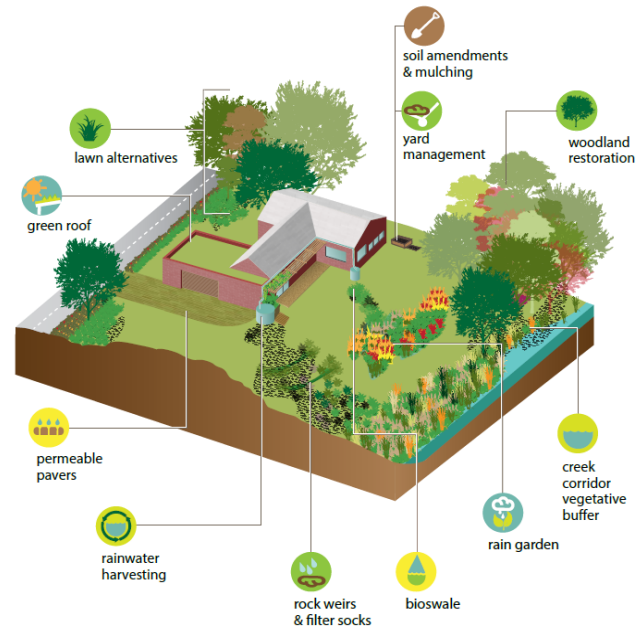
GOALS:

- Educate the public to understand how stormwater impacts the combined sewer system, water quality and other associated issues
- Encourage the use of simple rainscaping techniques by individual landowners
- Build community acceptance of GI

2016-17 ROUND

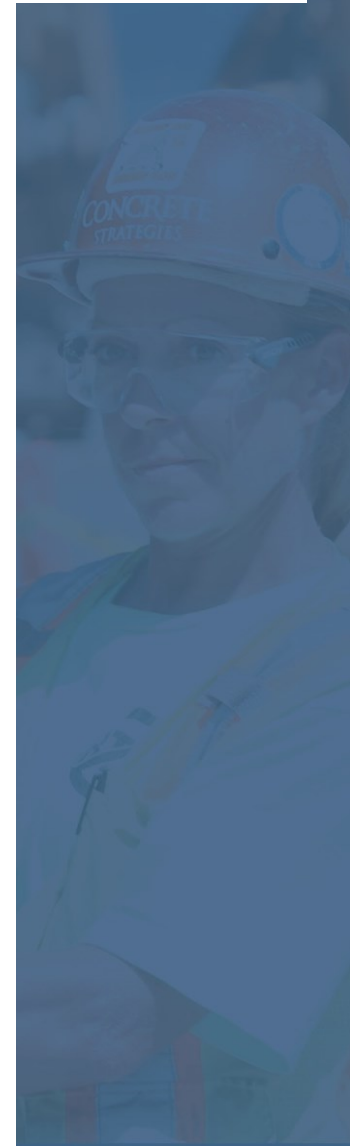
MSD Project Clear Rainscaping Small Grants Program

A program of Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, with technical assistance from Missouri Botanical Garden



Rainscaping Small Grants Parameters

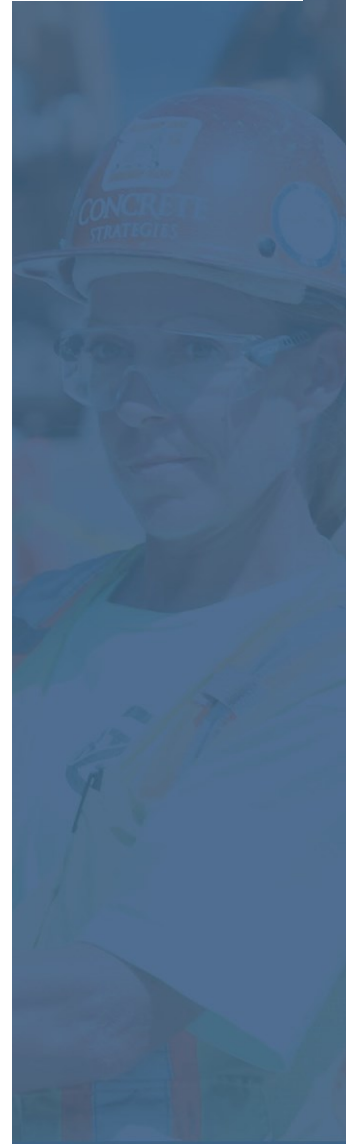
- \$4.8 Million Total Spend
 - \$4 Million in Mississippi Area
 - 0.8 Million in RiverDesPeres Area
- Partnered with Missouri Botanical Gardens EarthWays Center



Rainscaping Small Grants Parameters

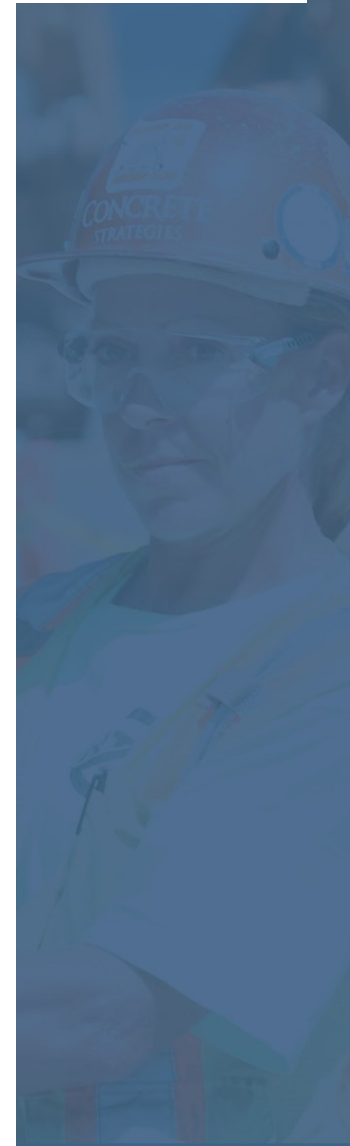
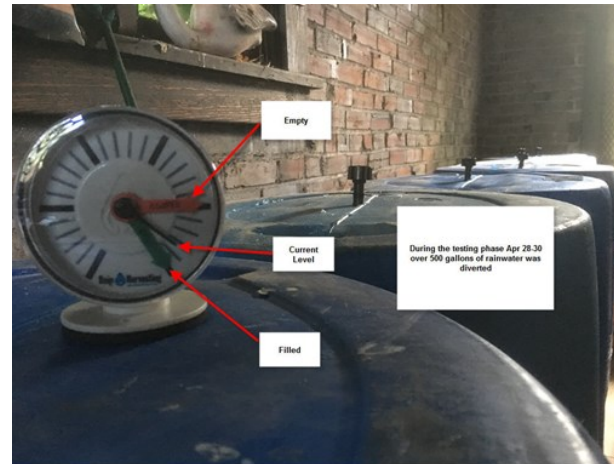


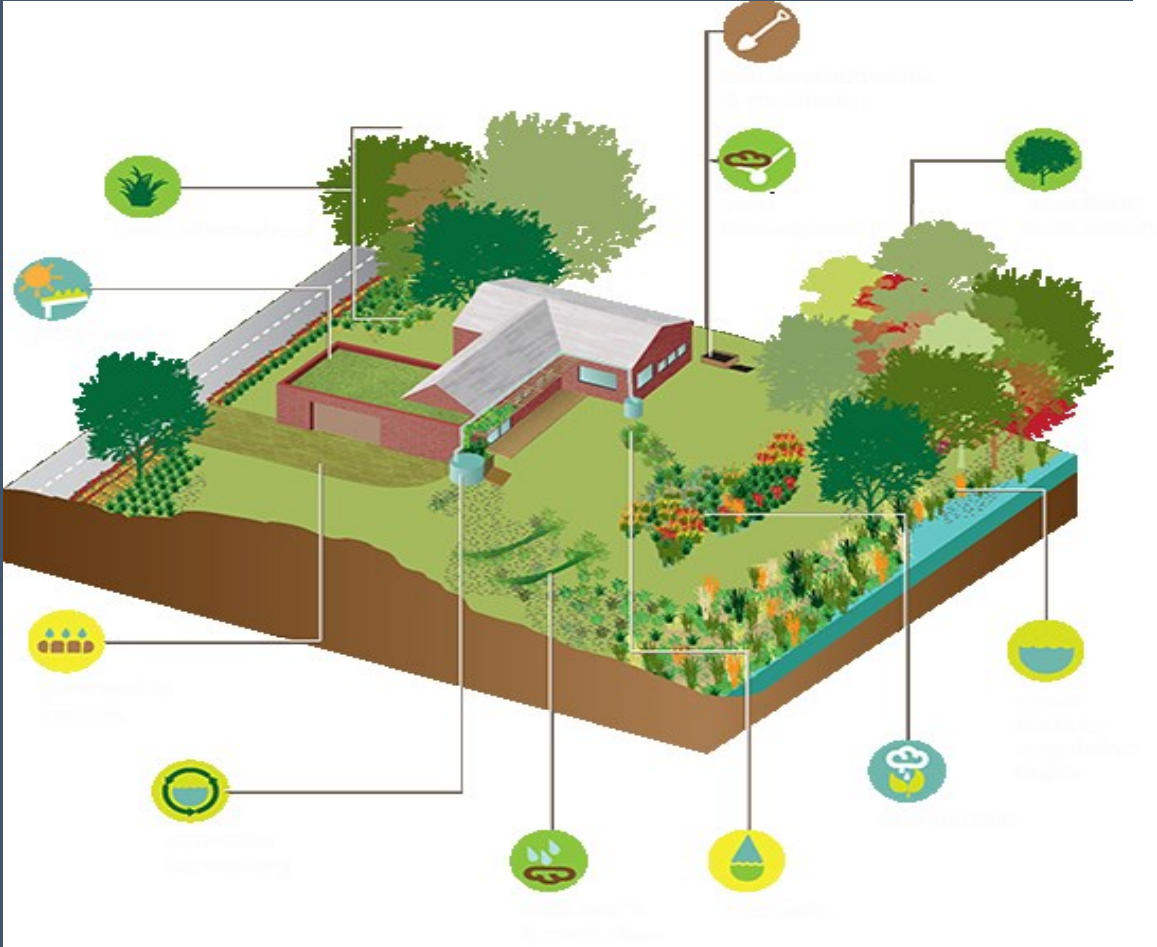
- Open to property owners within the GI Program Area
- Grants up to \$4000 for rainscaping features
- Schools and churches up to \$10,000



Rainscaping Small Grants Eligible Features

- Rain garden
- Lawn alternative
- Permeable pavers
- Rain barrel(s) or cisterns
- Bioswale
- Green roof

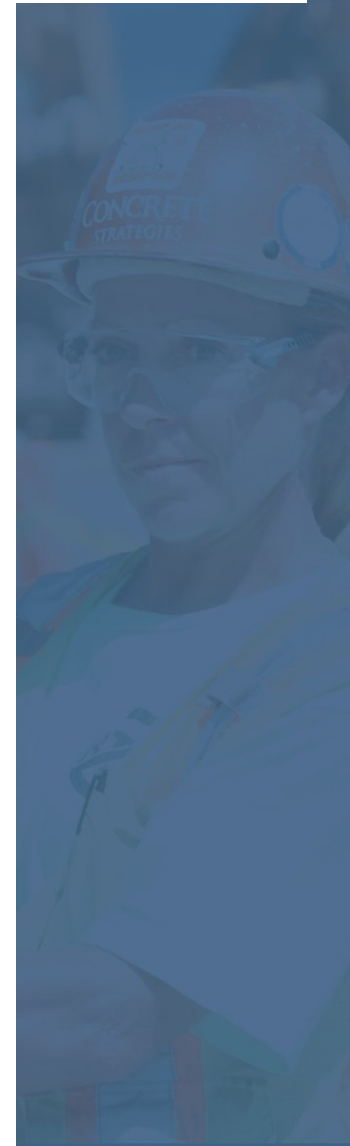




www.mobot.org/rainscaping

Application/Grant Process

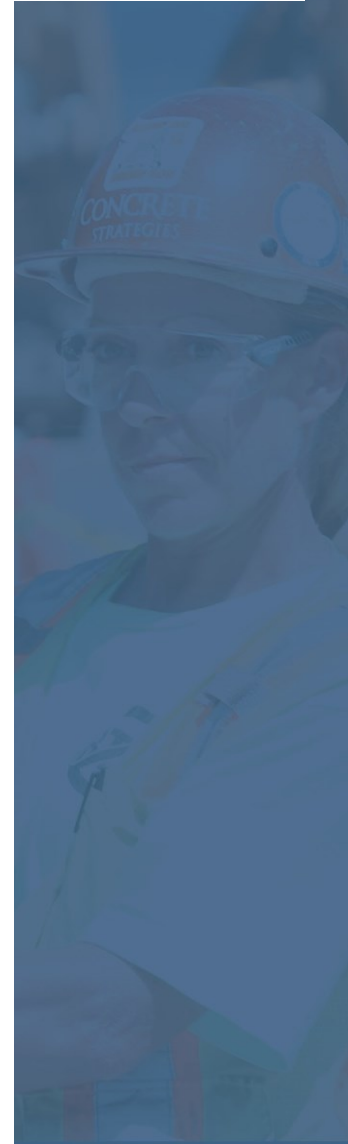
- Application and supporting material on website:
<http://www.projectclearstl.org/smallgrants>
- Email and phone hotline available
- To be eligible, must attend a 3-hour landowner orientation



Application/Grant Process

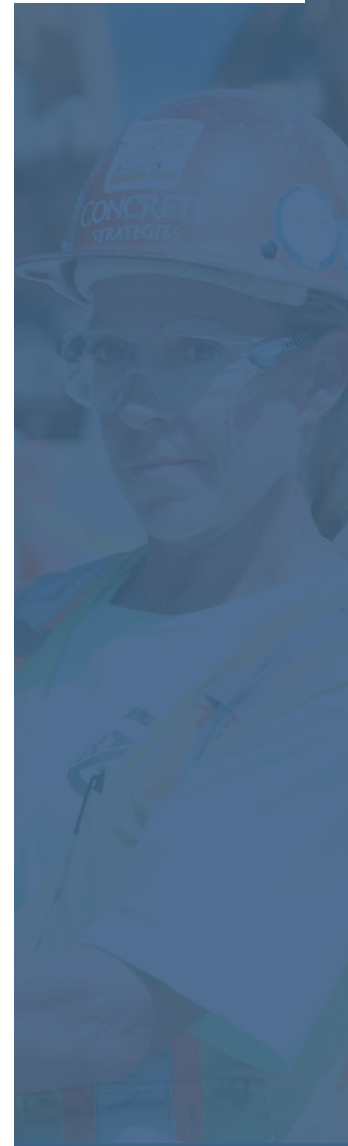


- Participating Contractors or DIY
- Prepare application
 - Plan view
 - Photos of area
 - Perc test for RG
 - Budget



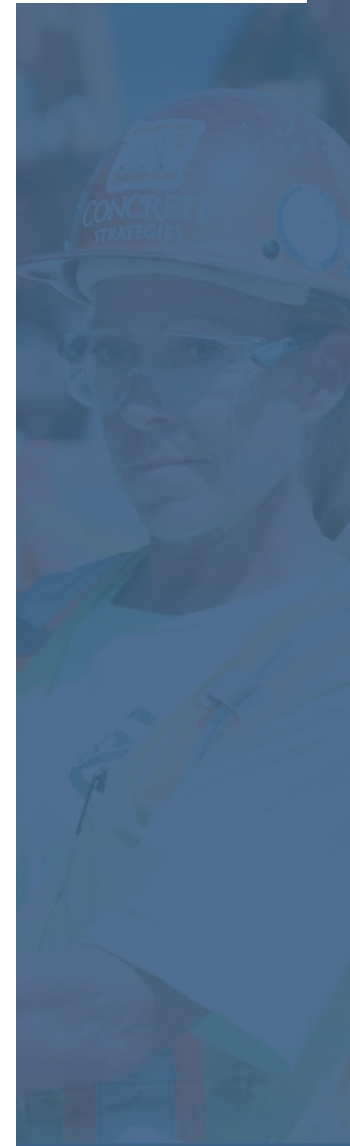
Application/Grant Process

- Selection panel – MSD, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Horticulturalist
- Advanced Payments up to 1/2 of grant evaluated on case-by-case basis
- Awardees given two planting periods to complete project (fall and spring)
- Submit Completion Packet – photos, detailed invoices/receipts



Application/Grant Process

- Ground truthing
- Process grant payments
- Hotline and other informational help for maintenance questions (limited site visits)



Small Grants Results

	Planting Dates	Orientation Attendance	# of Applications	# of Grants Awarded	Total Grant Requests Awarded
Model Round	Fall, 2014	10	8	8	\$ 19,764.99
Round 1	Spring/Fall, 2015	127	66	52	\$ 135,553.15
Round 2	Fall 2016/ Spring 2017	156	81	66	\$ 165,014.94
Round 3	Fall 2017/ Spring 2018	314	162	113	\$ 305,329.96
Round 4	Fall 2018/ Spring 2019	185	90	80	\$ 225,000.00
Round 5	Fall 2019/Spring 2020	Grant Budget: 80 in Mississippi CSO Area 30 in River Des Peres CSO Area			\$ 440,000.00?

Coming Soon...

- Stormwater Quality Rainscaping Small Grants Program
 - Separate sewer area
 - Tied to our MS4 permit
 - MCM I. Public Education and Outreach
 - MCM II. Public Involvement and Participation
 - First round in 2020, \$200,000
 - Additional rounds TBD

Large Grants

- <https://www.projectclearstl.org/largegrants/>
- Annual Call for Application
 - Now Open! Through 10/31/2019
- Development Review Grant
 - Year-round rolling application

Large Grants



Annual Call for Applications

- Competitive
- No set maximum reimbursement rate
 - Projects are reviewed for cost effectiveness
- Creativity Encouraged

Large Grants



Development Review Grants

- Streamlined Process
 - Application with information typically submitted to Development Review with plans and follows Development Review procedure and timing
 - Additional documents – Program Application, Itemized Cost Estimate, Program Agreement
 - Not competitive and ongoing
- Maximum Reimbursement Rate
 - Currently \$180,000/acre of total drainage area managed

Large Grants

Average Time from Plan
Submittal to
Reimbursement:

2 years



Large Grants Results

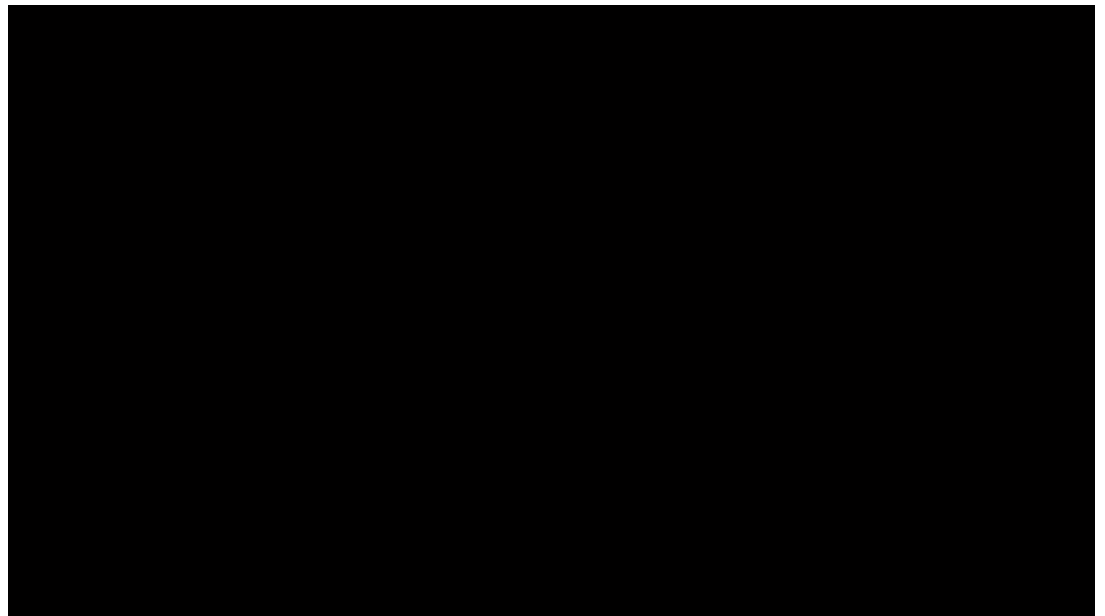
- Annual Call for Applications
 - 50 projects awarded grants
 - 22 of those 50 have been reimbursed
 - 82 Acres Treated
 - 17 MG CSO removed
 - \$12.6M paid out to date
- Development Review Grants
 - 52 projects awarded grants
 - 12 of those 52 have been reimbursed
 - 80 Acres Treated
 - 17 MG CSO removed
 - \$1.4M paid out to date

Small Grants

Promotional video



If there is time...



Thank You!

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