



ABOUT THE INDIAN-CAHOKIA CREEK WATERSHED 319 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this program is to improve water quality in the Indian-Cahokia Creek watershed by helping in the voluntary implementation of highly effective Best Management Practices (BMPs). Property owners in the watershed can make a measureable positive impact on water quality and stormwater runoff, which will help reduce downstream water quality problems, flood damage, and other issues.

Heartlands Conservancy received a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), in partnership with the Madison County Planning and Development Department. The grant funds are dedicated to helping to construct high-quality BMP projects. Heartlands Conservancy is looking for landowners and local government entities to sign up. The BMPs installed should, to the extent possible, filter runoff to remove sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants as well as reduce runoff volume and velocity.

PROJECT TYPES FUNDED:

This financial assistance program will fund the following types of BMP projects:

- Grassed waterways
- Bioswales
- Ponds
- Wetland restoration
- Shoreline stabilization
- Stream channel stabilization
- Streambank stabilization
- Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs)
- Cover and/or green manure crops
- Sediment Basin

More information about these practices can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/jhwx5p9>.

GRANT DETAILS:

The funds distributed will be reimbursed rather than provided up-front. Approved projects will be eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of the total project cost, while the applicant will be responsible for at least 50%. You will need to enter into a 10-year landowner agreement with Heartlands Conservancy, secure approved designs* and permits, construct the project, and demonstrate completion, and then the reimbursement will be processed. Partial reimbursement following project milestones may be available on a case-by-case basis.

The maximum grant amount available for a single project will vary by the type of project. Costs will be reimbursed up to a standardized cost amount from the relevant county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Practice Component List. For example, cost estimates for grassed waterways are broken down into components such as: earthmoving, tile (by size), inlets etc. Each component has an average cost that is used to arrive at a final payment maximum. For ponds, engineers' estimates will be used. Applicants are encouraged to keep costs down by soliciting at least 3 bids from contractors. All else being equal, applications proposing to pay more than 50% will earn a higher ranking than those paying only 50%. This will allow more projects to be built, and for the grant funds to have a greater impact.

**EPA's funding is dedicated for construction, engineering approval, and materials costs. Technical assistance for the initial site assessment, project design, and the development of an Operations and Maintenance Plan for the project is available at no cost to the applicant for most projects.*

SIGNAGE:

This program aims to provide education about water quality, Nonpoint Source Pollution, and BMPs. For most projects, a sign must be posted at the project site during and after the construction period to show that it is associated with this financial assistance program. Appropriate signage will be provided by HeartLands Conservancy.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:

An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan must be developed for each BMP, covering the 10 years after project installation. The landowner must commit to the O&M Plan, which will identify appropriate inspection and management activities such as sediment and debris removal, to ensure the function of the BMP is occurring as designed and maintain the project in good condition for 10 years.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

If you are interested in participating in the program, please fill out an application form (attached).

You may apply for more than one type of BMP project on your property. If you own more than one property in the watershed, you may fill out an application for each property, with a limit of three applications per property owner.

HeartLands Conservancy anticipates high competition for grant funds. So don't wait!

Applications may be submitted online at tinyurl.com/IndianCreekBMP (preferred) or mailed to:

**HeartLands Conservancy, Attn: John O'Donnell
29 E. Main Street
Belleville, IL 62220**

REVIEW PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS:

At the end of the first sign-up period, on **October 30, 2022**, the program will be closed to new applications. On or before this date, applications received will be reviewed and project technicians will begin assessing potential project sites using aerial imagery and topographic maps. If a project looks promising, project technicians will contact the applicant by phone or email to set up a site visit. Following the site visits, HeartLands Conservancy and a small group of project partners will evaluate the projects using criteria such as cost, pollution reduction, and flood damage reduction.

Selected projects will be sent to Illinois EPA for approval. HeartLands Conservancy will notify applicants if projects are approved by Illinois EPA. At that time, final application materials – any final design work, a landowner agreement, etc. – will be processed. Construction will begin after the approval of the final designs. If you begin construction before approval and your final application is declined, we will not be able to reimburse you for your costs. *Please be patient with this process; do not start work without written authorization from HeartLands Conservancy.*

If funds remain after the first sign-up period, a second sign-up period may be announced. After the second sign-up period, there will be a rolling deadline for applications until all funds have been awarded or the grant period ends.

For office use only:

Municipality: _____

Received: _____

Indian-Cahokia Watershed 319 Financial Assistance Program Application

You may fill out this application form online at tinyurl.com/IndianCreekBMP

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____ Relationship to landowner:

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: (Home): _____ (Cell): _____ (Work): _____

Location of **Site** (required): Lat/Long: _____
Note: Latitude and longitude (lat/long) can be found by visiting www.maps.google.com, navigating to your site, right-clicking, and selecting "What's here?" on the dropdown menu. The coordinates will appear at the bottom of the screen. You may include a plat map of the site instead, with the site location clearly marked.

Landowner name (if different): _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: (Home): _____ (Cell): _____ (Work): _____

Is this project site entirely located on land owned by this landowner? Yes No

1. Practice(s) Applying For*:

- Stream Channel Restoration
- Grassed waterway(s)
- Bioswales
- Pond/Wetland
- Shoreline stabilization

- Streambank/stream channel stabilization
- Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs)

*Note: more information about these practices can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/jhwx5p9>.

- 2. **Financial assistance payment.** Upper limit of 50%, with a cap on funding per practice (cap depends on project type, based on cost estimates). Project construction costs must be paid in full by the landowner and will subsequently be reimbursed after the approved project design is implemented.
- 3. **Practice can be constructed in:** Spring Summer Fall
- 4. Has any **project design work** already been done at this site? Yes No
If Yes, by whom?: _____
- 5. HeartLands Conservancy encourages that the applicant acquires **at least three (3) estimates** for the proposed project (project component financial assistance amounts will be based on the Madison County or Bond County Soil and Water Conservation District Average Cost List, or NRCS cost list).
- 6. HeartLands Conservancy may require the applicant **not to exceed “T” (tolerable soil loss)** on the site or in the field where the practice is installed. For most fields, this will mean using, at least, a conservation tillage system or chisel disk system.
- 7. Landowner agrees to **allow free access to the property** where the project is to be constructed, installed, or implemented for the purpose of planning and ranking the project. Neither HeartLands Conservancy or its representatives, nor the landowner or operator will be liable for any damage to the other’s property in carrying out the provisions of this agreement, unless such damage is caused by negligence or misconduct. HeartLands Conservancy and its representatives will only enter the property after contacting the landowner. Acceptance of grant funds does not require public access to the property; access is only required for HeartLands Conservancy or their representatives.
- 8. Financial assistance dollars will not be used for partial payments for components or any other appurtenances of projects unless conservation practice is completed and meets NRCS Standards.

Signature: _____
Landowner or Decision Maker

Comments: _____

August 2022

For more information, contact John O'Donnell at 618-566-4451 ext. 14, John.ODonnell@heartlandsconservancy.org

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

HeartLands Conservancy, attn. John O'Donnell
29 E. Main Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Or submit the form online at tinyurl.com/IndianCreekBMP