

STORMWATER-WISE WINDSOR FOREST:
CREATING A FLOOD-RESILIENT HOUSEHOLD & NEIGHBORHOOD
WATERSHED STRATEGY

1. Exact legal name of the requesting organization:

Ogeechee-Canoochee Riverkeeper, Inc.

2. Organization's primary contact person for the application process; include their email address and phone number:

Simona L. Perry, simona@ogeecheeriverkeeper.org, 912.346.0959

3. Organization mailing address, physical address, phone number and website:

Mailing Address: Ogeechee Riverkeeper, PO Box 16206, Savannah, Georgia 31416

Physical Address: Ogeechee Riverkeeper, 785 King George Blvd, Suite 102, Savannah, Georgia 31419

Main Phone Line: 866.942.6222

Website: www.ogeecheeriverkeeper.org

4. Organization's primary contact person for the implementation and management of the project; include their email address and phone number:

Simona L. Perry, simona@ogeecheeriverkeeper.org, 866.942.6222x1 or 912.346.0959

5. Organization's Tax Identification Number:

58-2636669

6. Is the requesting organization classified by the IRS as a Section 170(b)(1)(a) organization or Section 501(c)(3) "public charity" that is not a Section 509(a)(3) "supporting organization" or "private foundation"? Please attach 501(c)(3) letter or other supporting documentation.

YES

NO

7. Organization's Mission Statement:

To protect, preserve, and improve the water quality of the Ogeechee River watershed by building bridges between people and their local waterways.

8. Organization's fiscal year beginning and end:

January 1 - December 31

9. Organizations' total budgeted revenues and expenses for current fiscal year:

Estimated 2018 Budgeted Revenue \$273,000

Estimated 2018 Budgeted Expenses \$219,000

10. Organization's top three (3) sources of revenue and amount from each source:

2018 Budgeted sources of revenue:

1. Grants \$117,500
2. Events \$51,275
3. Sponsors/Members \$19,405

2017 Actual sources of revenue:

1. Grants \$32,300
2. Events \$30,211
3. Sponsors/Members \$13,796

11. Please attach a list of your current officers and directors.

12. In which of these six areas of focus does the proposed project relate?

- Peace and Conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and Sanitation**
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development**

13. Please submit a narrative of the project(s) to be funded by Metropolitan Savannah Rotary. Please include how this program will make Savannah a stronger, more livable community, and what will be the tangible lasting impacts (approximately 500 words or less).

This community-based project will work with the Windsor Forest neighborhood association and local neighborhood residents to provide information, skills, and hands-on demonstration projects to local residents in order that they become more knowledgeable, resilient, and self-reliant when it comes to localized flooding, stormwater runoff, drainage problems, and watershed management.

The City of Savannah's location on a low coastal plain surrounded by the Savannah River, Ogeechee River, tidal salt marsh, and barrier islands means that many parts of the City, such as the Windsor Forest neighborhood, are subject to increased periodic flooding due to low elevation, flat terrain, close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, and 6 to 9 foot average high tides. In addition, a large (and increasing) amount of developed land has limited the natural ground absorption capacity and increased surface water runoff. A series of canals and levees have been built throughout the City over the years to convey stormwater, filter out trash, and drain these low-lying areas. Unfortunately increasing sea level rise, increasing frequency of coastal storms and rainfall severity, and land development pressure has reduced the effectiveness of this existing infrastructure leading to increases in the risk of localized flooding, nonpoint source water pollution, and endangerment of property and life. In the City's 2014 Flood Mitigation Plan the Windsor Forest neighborhood was identified as having more locations of stormwater and localized flooding than any other neighborhood in the City.

This project will directly serve the approximately 13,555 residents and 4,959 homeowners of Windsor Forest¹. The project has an educational and a demonstration component. The educational component will facilitate a more holistic, nature-based, and adaptive approach to water and flood management by providing free workshops to local residents on blue-green infrastructure (BGI) and responsible stormwater management techniques that are directly applicable to their homes and neighborhoods. BGI recognizes the connectivity between the physical properties of water, urban hydrological functions, vegetation systems, and built urban landscapes. It looks at urban water management as urban hydrology that can be used to complement or mitigate "grey" infrastructure. These BGI workshop trainings will be led by expert stormwater engineers from UGA Marine Extension and designed in collaboration with local neighborhood residents. The demonstration component will involve developing household and

¹ Estimates from 2016 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, also include the surrounding neighborhoods of Coffee Bluff and Windsor Marsh.

neighborhood BGI demonstration sites that will provide both hands-on skills training in construction of nature-based BGI and participation in short- and long-term monitoring of the costs and benefits of these sites related to flooding and nonpoint source pollution. This project will assist the residents of the City in achieving several of the stated goals in the City's flood mitigation plan, and more importantly reconnect residents in positive ways with land, water, and each other, provide tangible ways for homeowners and renters to protect their property, educate the next generation of water managers and engineers, and demonstrate that sustainable solutions to stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution in urban landscapes can have short and long-term benefits for people and nature at minimal public cost.

14. Please submit a proposed project schedule.

July 2018 -Meeting with Windsor Forest residents & neighborhood association and UGA MAREX stormwater trainers to develop series of neighborhood-specific BGI DIY workshops and how to select demonstration sites

September 2018- Workshop with neighborhood to identify first Household and/or Neighborhood Demonstration Site

Mid-September 2018- Plans completed for first demonstration site and monitoring plans developed; Begin site development/construction on first demonstration site and begin pre-development monitoring

October 2018- Continued demonstration site #1 development and monitoring

November 2018- Finish development of demonstration site #1 and report out

January 2019- First BGI Household Workshop and demonstration site identification

February 2019- Second BGI Household Workshop and demonstration site identification

March 2019- Third BGI Household Workshop and demonstration site identification

mid-March 2019- Plans completed for first demonstration site and monitoring plans developed

April 2019- Begin site development/construction on first demonstration site and begin pre-development monitoring

May-June 2019- Continued demonstration site developments and monitoring, finalize sites, report out

Late June 2019- Neighborhood meeting to tour sites, share results, and develop next steps

15. Please submit a narrative detailing hands-on volunteer opportunities for Metropolitan Savannah Rotary members. It is important that MSR is able to participate as a club in large-scale, quarterly volunteer opportunities with the selected service partner. Please provide details of any volunteer opportunities to include the approximate number of volunteers needed at each event, age restrictions, relevant physical requirements, etc. What factors could limit participation by our members, friends and family?

There will be quarterly opportunities for Metropolitan Savannah Rotary members and their families and friends to participate in this project as volunteers.

The first type of volunteer activities involve assisting Ogeechee Riverkeeper and the neighborhood in the physical labor of constructing the demonstration sites in the fall and spring (mid-September and April). Each site will be selected by the neighborhood through a collaborative process and so the exact nature of the work is not known until that time. However, volunteers who contribute to these demonstration sites must be physically fit and expect to get dirty. There are no age restrictions, although we do need volunteers who can focus on a task with minimal supervision. Aspects of this work could involve site clean-up, removing vegetation, planting vegetation, earth-moving, and some hard-scaping.

The second type of volunteer activities involve assisting both Ogeechee Riverkeeper and the neighborhood in three hands-on BGI skill development workshops (January, February, March). Volunteers will be needed to set up the workshop space, check residents into the workshop, assist as needed in hands-on activities led by UGA MAREX facilitators, set up refreshments, provide babysitting services to workshop attendees as needed, and clean up of the workshop space. This volunteer activity is restricted to those ages 15 and over. There is minimal physical activity required.

The final type of volunteer activity will involve assisting in a demonstration site tour and wrap-up neighborhood meeting in the summer (late June). This will involve being outdoors at each site to assist Ogeechee Riverkeeper staff and neighborhood residents with answering questions about the site and its purpose/significance/connection to the larger BGI project. Ideally these volunteers

would be the same who volunteered to help develop the sites in the first place, but it is not necessary. There are no age restrictions.

16. Exact dollar amount requested: \$10,000

17. What is the budget for the project? Please provide general budget, does not have to be very detailed.

Three BGI Workshops (for free attendance): \$3,150
\$100/person for 10 people per workshop
\$50 refreshments/workshop

Three Demonstration Sites (for materials, plants, supplies): \$6,850
2 sites 100-200 square foot at \$1,500 each
1 site 400 square foot at \$3,000
Chemical, bacteriological, and biological water quality monitoring
equipment/materials for two sites at \$425 per site

18. Will the project have financial support in addition to the funds provided by the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary? If so, from what sources?

If funded by MSR, this project will serve as seed money to help leverage community participation in larger BGI demonstration projects within Windsor Forest and surrounding South Side neighborhoods. We are seeking funding for these larger projects from Surdna Foundation and with the City of Savannah. If successful, those funds will not be available until November 2018 or January 2019.

19. Will the organization accept partial funding of the project budget?

Yes.

20. What is the plan to promote MSR as a partner if selected?

MSR will be recognized as a funder and partner on reports and outreach related to workshops and demonstration sites. Ogeechee Riverkeeper will also recognize the important role MSR has played in this work on both social media and our website. In addition, a sign recognizing the contribution of MSR to improving water quality and neighborhood resilience and quality of life will be posted at each public demonstration site.