

Guidelines

The North Carolina Land and Water Fund was appropriated \$15 million in the FY 2021-22 State budget for projects that protect and restore floodplains and wetlands for the purpose of storing water, reducing flooding, improving water quality, providing wildlife and aquatic habitat, and providing recreational opportunities.

Program Purposes

The primary purpose of the program is to reduce flood risks through the design, implementation, and preservation of nature-based infrastructure. Additional consideration will be given to projects that also deliver other ecosystem services or public benefits, demonstrate readiness to begin implementation, and benefit economically distressed communities.

Eligible Applicants

Counties, municipalities, nonprofit corporations, and other State agencies are eligible to apply for funding through this program.

Eligible Practices

The following practices are eligible under this program:

- Acquiring land, or an interest in land, for purposes including:
 - Enhancing or restoring the flood attenuation capacity of floodplains, wetlands, and areas of the natural landscape that contribute to their function.
 - Storing flood waters through long-term land management agreements, such as water farming.
 - Participating in floodplain buyout programs as a first step in enhancing ecosystem services.
- Restoring, enhancing, constructing, or repairing floodplains, shorelines, or wetlands including:
 - Design and construction of nature-based infrastructure to retain and/or detain flood waters.
 - Design and construction of projects to reconnect streams to the full extent of their original floodplains.
 - Restoration of previously converted or developed land back to a natural land cover.
 - Redevelopment of developed floodplains into waterfront parks or open spaces that are compatible with flooding and flood water storage, and that provide opportunities for community engagement, recreation and/or river access.

Ineligible Practices

The following practices are ineligible under this program:

- Removing stream debris other than that which is incidental to other practices. Funding for such projects may be available from the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program through the NC Department of Agriculture and/or stream debris removal funds available through the NC Department of Environmental Quality.
- Repairing or improving transportation infrastructure as the primary project objective. Funding for such projects may be available from the Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Fund through the NC Division of Emergency Management.
- Constructing or repairing dams, levees or other structures designed to retain waters within a natural stream channel. Funding for such projects may be available from dam repair funds through NC Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program and the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Dam Safety.

Activities that are required as a condition of permit approval or requirement to address Notice of Violation or that satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements under 33 USC § 1344 or G.S. 143-214.11 are also ineligible for award from this program.

Application Rating System

Effectiveness/Measurable Outcomes (50%)

A. Effectiveness of project - amount of flood water stored. **(maximum 25 points)**

1. Enhancement of flood water storage.
Average depth of additional water retained (feet) x 4.0 = **calculated points up to 10**
2. Preservation and/or restoration of floodplains and/or wetlands.
Percent of project site as floodplain and/or wetland x 0.1 = **calculated points up to 10**
3. Project scale.
Floodwater storage area (acres) x 0.05 = **calculated points up to 5**

B. Project targets a known flooding hazard area. **(maximum 15 points)**

1. Project will reduce frequency and/or peak elevation of floods at a flood-prone area.
Only the highest of the following categories will receive points.
 - a. Provides documentation that the project will reduce the frequency and/or peak elevation of floods at a flood-prone location: **10 pts.**
 - b. Provides documentation that the project will contribute to the reduced frequency and/or peak elevation of floods at a flood-prone location: **5 pts.**
 - c. No documentation provided that the project will contribute to the reduced frequency and/or peak elevation of floods at a flood prone location: **0 pts.**
2. Project location has been selected to achieve flood risk reduction for a flood-prone area. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points.
 - a. Provides documentation that the project is located adjacent to or immediately upstream of a flood-prone area: **5 pts.**
 - b. Provides documentation that the project is located one mile or less upstream of a known flood-prone area: **2 pts.**
 - c. The project is not located within one mile of a known flood-prone area: **0 pts.**

C. Consistency with a flood risk reduction or flood resiliency plan of a federal, state, or local government agency. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points.

(maximum 5 points)

1. Proposed project is specifically mentioned in a comprehensive federal, state or local government flood risk reduction or flood resiliency plan: **5 pts.**
2. Proposed project targets a flood-prone or flood-damaged area specifically mentioned in a comprehensive federal, state or local government flood risk reduction or flood resiliency plan: **4 pts.**
3. Proposed project type is mentioned in a comprehensive federal, state or local government flood risk reduction or flood resiliency plan: **2 pts.**

4. Proposed project or type is not mentioned in a comprehensive federal, state or local government flood risk reduction or flood resiliency plan: **0 pts.**
- D. Project team's demonstrated ability to implement the project and document results. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points. **(maximum 5 points)**
1. Project team has completed numerous successful flood attenuation projects: **5 pts.**
 2. Project team has completed a limited number of successful flood attenuation projects or has some experience with similar project types: **3 pts.**
 3. Project team has little to no experience with successful projects to attenuate flooding: **0 pts.**

Resource Significance (15%) – Natural Resources

- A. Improvements to water quality, wildlife and/or aquatic habitat. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points. **(maximum 5 points)**
1. Project is located on a 303(d) listed stream, or a stream classified by DWQ as ORW, HQW, wild trout waters, Water Supply I, Water Supply II, or Water Supply Critical Area, and/or the project area is adjacent to unique or exceptional wetlands as described by the NC Division of Coastal Management or NC Division of Water Resources: **5 pts.**
 2. Project is located on a stream classified by DWQ as nutrient sensitive, Water Supply III, Water Supply IV, and/or Inland Primary Nursery Areas identified by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission: **3 pts.**
 3. Project area is within one mile upstream of any designated waters as described above: **1 pt.**
 4. Project area is greater one mile from of any designated waters as described above: **0 pts.**
- B. Contribution to protection of an NC Natural Heritage Program natural area. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points. **(maximum 5 points)**
1. Project enhances or protects a terrestrial natural area or aquatic habitat rated as Exceptional by the Natural Heritage Program: **5 pts.**
 2. Project enhances or protects a terrestrial natural area or aquatic habitat rated as Very High by the Natural Heritage Program: **4 pts.**
 3. Project enhances or protects a terrestrial natural area or aquatic habitat rated as High by the Natural Heritage Program: **3 pts.**
 4. Project enhances or protects a terrestrial natural area or aquatic habitat rated as Moderate by the Natural Heritage Program: **2 pts.**

5. Project enhances or protects at least a portion of a terrestrial or aquatic element occurrence: **1 pt.**
 6. Project does not enhance or protect an element occurrence: **0 pts.**
- C. Proximity to dedicated nature preserves or lands that have a permanent conservation agreement in place for the purpose of protecting natural communities on floodplains or on parcels that are primarily wetlands or, borders parcels associated with significant historic sites. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points. **(maximum 5 points)**
1. Project area is adjacent to a dedicated nature preserve or with lands that have a permanent conservation or historic preservation agreement in place: **5 pts.**
 2. Project area is within one mile of a dedicated nature preserve or lands that have a permanent conservation or historic preservation agreement in place: **2 pts.**
 3. Project area is greater than one mile from a dedicated nature preserve or lands that have a permanent conservation or historic preservation agreement in place: **0 pts.**

Other Public Benefits (10%)

- A. Recreational uses and public access. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points. **(maximum 6 points)**
1. Within five years, project area will be open to public use most days of the year and has amenities to facilitate use (e.g. regular hours, parking area, information kiosks, maintained trails, boat access, camping sites or platforms): **6 pts.**
 2. Project area will be accessible from public roads and open to public use on regular basis but without amenities to facilitate use: **4 pts.**
 3. Project area will be accessible on a limited basis: **2 pts.**
 4. No public access: **0 pts.**
- B. Public or scientific education. **(maximum 2 points)**
1. Part of an organized educational effort open to public or educational institutions that includes active promotional outreach (i.e. website, signage at site): **2 pts.**
 2. No educational component: **0 pts.**
- C. Community enhancement (sense of place, safety, shared common space, etc.). **(maximum 2 points)**
1. Provides clear community benefits such as unique cultural significance, increased tourism, economic promotion, job creation, and improved quality of life: **2 pts.**
 2. Provides limited community benefits such as unique cultural significance, increased tourism, economic promotion, job creation, and improved quality of life: **0 pts.**

Readiness (10%)

A. Project lands or landowner agreements are secured. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points. **(maximum 5 points)**

1. All project lands or landowner agreements are secured: **5 pts.**
2. Majority of project lands or landowner agreements are secured: **3 pts.**
3. Some project lands or landowner agreements are secured: **1 pt.**
4. No project lands or landowner agreements are secured: **0 pts.**

B. Matching resources are secured. **(maximum 5 points)**

1. Percent of match secured/committed x 0.05 = **calculated points up to 5**

Value (15%)

Only the highest of sections A or B below will be awarded points.

A. Matching Resources. **(maximum 10 points)**

Matching resources will be given a value based on the percentage and source of match. Any fraction in the final total will be rounded up. Calculated points based on the following multipliers:

- Cash, nonprofit & private funds, bargain sale and donated easements = % of total x 0.11
- Federal and local government funds = % of total x 0.09
- Other State funds = % of total x 0.07

Matching value example: In this example, the request is for \$1,000,000 from NCLWF with matching resources of \$750,000 cash from a land trust and \$750,000 from a federal flood abatement grant. As \$750,000 is 30% of the project total, the table below is used to illustrate calculation of a match score.

Match source	Match (%)	x Multiplier	Points
Cash / nonprofit / private funds/bargain sale / donated easements			
	30%	0.11	3.3
Federal / local government funds			
	30%	0.09	2.7
Other State funds			
	0%	0.07	0
TOTAL			6

Or

- B. Investment in Economically Distressed Communities. Only the highest of the following categories will receive points.
1. Project is within, or addresses flood risk of, a community in a Tier 1 distressed county as defined by the NC Department of Commerce and an economically distressed Opportunity Zone (State-nominated, federally-recognized): **10 pts.**
 2. Project is within, or addresses flood risk of, a community in a Tier 1 distressed county as defined by the NC Department of Commerce or an economically distressed Opportunity Zone (State-nominated, federally-recognized): **5 pts.**
 3. Project is not within a Tier 1 distressed county or an Opportunity Zone as described above: **0 pts.**
- C. Cost per acre. Total project cost (including all costs associated with any land or land agreement acquisition, design, permitting, construction, construction contingency, construction observation, monitoring, maintenance, stewardship, project administration and other project costs) divided by the project area (in acres) that is directly involved in flood risk reduction (**maximum 5 points**) See table below.

TOTAL PROJECT COST PER ACRE

<i>Total Cost / Acre</i>	<i>Score</i>
Up to \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to \$20,000	4
\$20,000 to \$40,000	3
\$40,000 to \$60,000	2
\$60,000 to \$100,000	1
Greater than \$100,000	0

NCLWF Flood Risk Reduction Grant Application

Flood Risk Reduction Grant Application Process and Timeline

Application for NCLWF Flood Risk Reduction grant funds, unlike application to existing NCLWF funding programs, is a two-step process. The first step, now complete, was to submit a "Letter of Interest" (LOI) that briefly described the project. Each LOI was accompanied by a preliminary budget, maps, and other attachments necessary to support the case for the effective reduction in flood risks. The second application step is to provide complete project details as a full application. To be considered for award, this application must be completed by the deadline of October 31, 2022.

In this application form you will find all of the information that you presented to NCLWF as part of your LOI. Additional questions have been added to collect detailed information about your proposed project. Please both update the information provided in your LOI and input new information as directed below.

NCLWF staff will review all complete Flood Risk Reduction applications, score them using the established NCLWF ranking system, and present ranked applications to the NCLWF Board of Trustees. The Board makes all funding decisions for NCLWF and expects to announce award decisions in March 2023.

Important Flood Risk Reduction Program Dates:

September 1, 2022 - Full application materials available

October 31, 2022 - Deadline for full application

March, 2023 - Anticipated date of award announcements

Program Guidelines and the Application Ranking System are available here:
nclwf.nc.gov/flood-risk-reduction-program-guidelines-and-rating-system

The Application Form, populated with your LOI information, is on the following pages



▲ 1 / 2 ▼

GENERAL INFORMATION

1 - Official Project Name

2 - Organization Name

Organization Type *

3 - Project Manager:

Name (Project Manager) *

Title (Project Manager) *

Email (Project Manager) *

Phone Number (Project Manager) *

336-555-1212 x100

4 - County *

5 - Waterbody(s) associated with the project: *

6 - Project Coordinates

If necessary, please update your estimate of location of the downstream extent of the project area in Decimal Degrees using www.latlong.net or a similar site. You may also upload an optional shapefile in upload section #18 near the end of this online application.

Latitude *

Longitude: *

7 - What is your total request from NCLWF?

This number should match your budget sheet total request column that will be submitted at the end. Please double-check before submitting!

Numerical digits only, no ",", " or "\$". *

8 - What is your proposed total matching contributions to the project?

This number should match your budget sheet total match column. Please double-check before submitting!

Numerical digits only, no ",", " or "\$". *

9 - Total Budget (calculated from 7 and 8)

\$0

Provide a description of your project with succinct summaries under the prompts below. Think of this overview as how you would describe the project to a decision maker, funder, elected official, reporter, etc.

Project Site and Location Relative to Threatened Resources and Communities

10.1 - What flood risk or flooding problem would your project address? *

0/250 words

10.2 - Description of Flood Prone Areas

List and describe any flood prone areas, resources, and/or communities adjacent to or within one mile downstream of the project site. You may also wish to update your project maps (see upload section #17 near the end of this online application) to highlight any such areas. *

0/250 words

10.3 Flood Reduction

How would the project reduce frequency and/or peak elevation of floods in a flood-prone area? If possible, please provide estimates of flood level reductions expected by the project and upload any models or other supporting material in upload section #18 near the end of this online application. *

0/500 words

10.4 Project Area (acres)

What is the total area of the project site in acres?

Note: Total project area is not to consider watershed area but the footprint of any proposed change to land use, land ownership, land management, and construction limits. *

10.5 Floodplain/Wetland Area (acres)

What is the total of floodplain and wetland area within the project area footprint in acres? *

10.6 Consistency with Existing Plans

Please briefly outline how your proposed project is consistent with plans described in flood risk reduction or flood resiliency plans of a federal, state, or local government agency. You may attach relevant plans below in upload section #18 near the end of this online application. *

0/500 words

11.1 - How would the project protect or restore floodplains and/or wetlands for the purpose of storing water or reducing flooding? *

0/500 words

11.2 Volume of Flood Waters Detained Under Current Conditions

What is the total volume of flood waters estimated **presently** detained on project site in acre-feet? *

11.3 Post-Project Volume of Flood Waters to be Detained

What is the total volume of flood waters estimated to be detained on project site after project implementation in acre-feet? *

11.4 Methods Used to Estimate Volumes Detained

Briefly outline how both estimates above (11.2 and 11.3) were calculated. Attach any supporting models or other materials in upload section #18 near the end of this online application. *

0/500 words

12 - What other benefits, such as improving water quality, providing wildlife or aquatic habitat, and/or providing recreational opportunities, would this project provide? *

0/500 words

13.1 - Summarize the expected outcome(s) of the proposed project. How will things be different? *

0/250 words

13.2 - Conservation Strategy

Please outline the general conservation strategy proposed for the project area. If the project is to involve land acquisition, please state where permanent conservation agreements will be employed and identify parties who would grant and hold conservation agreements. *

0/250 words

13.3 - Stewardship, Operation and Maintenance

Please outline the general maintenance strategy proposed for the project area. Please provide the name of the organization that will inspect the project site and conduct/oversee maintenance and repair as needed. If the project is to involve land acquisition, please identify any party that has agreed to accept stewardship responsibilities for the project site. *

0/250 words

14 - Please provide a bulleted list of your scope of work (a list of major tasks to be undertaken). *

0/250 words

15.1 - Project Team

Briefly introduce your project team's key personnel; those who would assist you in making your project a success. (Max 500 words) *

0/500 words

15.2 - Project Experience

Please provide brief project descriptions of up to five flood attenuation projects that your project team has previously been involved with and identify the role of team members in these projects. You may attach project reports as you wish in upload section #18 near the end of this online application. *

0/500 words

▲ 3 / 4 ▼

UPLOADS

16.1 - Final Budget Upload *** Note: A New Budget Form is Required! ***

Please review the budget you submitted with your Letter of Interest (LOI), download the new final budget form, and then submit a final project budget.

Download a final budget form here: [Final Budget Form](#).

This new budget form has a table where you are asked to characterize matching resources. Please be sure to describe any match proposed as either secured or unsecured on this table. Also, budget totals in your new budget sheet must match the budget summary questions you have answered.

You may edit and replace this uploaded budget at any time up until the submission deadline.

NOTE: Submit the Final Budget Form in its original pdf file format. Do not scan or otherwise export to another file format - the budget must be the original 'live' budget form. *

Choose File No file chosen

LOI Budget - for reference only.

The estimated budget uploaded with the LOI may be retrieved here for reference.

Choose File No file chosen

16.2 - Project Costs Expended Before Award Date

Please identify any costs to be incurred before NCLWF grant award decisions for which you would request approval of **matching funds**, including fee simple property purchases. Staff time to complete and submit an application is not eligible.

NCLWF will not reimburse funds for expenses incurred prior to a grant award date. *

0/250 words

17 - Project Site/Location Map(s)

Please review and update, if necessary, project maps to depict project location, site area map, and any preliminary design plans or conceptual maps.

Choose Files No file chosen

18 - Other files that you feel may be useful in describing your project may be attached here (up to ten).

PDFs are preferred. Please review and update, if necessary, any other files you may have uploaded to your application during the Letter of Interest period.

If you require more upload space please contact steve.bevington@ncdcr.gov.

Choose Files No file chosen

19 - Data Use Agreement: NCLWF uses third-party, cloud-based platforms to accept, review and store application materials. These platforms are restricted to staff users only and have a high level of security and privacy protections in place. Current platforms are: [Airtable](#) and [Formsite](#). As always, applications are subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties upon their request.

Do you agree to allow NCLWF to handle and store your application materials via cloud-based third-party platforms?

If you cannot say 'Yes' below, please do not submit this application, and contact steve.bevington@ncdcr.gov for help with an alternative application process. *

- ☐ Yes, I consent to have my application data processed on these highly secure platforms.
- ☐ No, I do not consent to have application data reviewed on these platforms. I will NOT submit this application now.

20 - Do you affirm that the information in this application and the statements and attached exhibits are true, correct, and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief? Do you further confirm that you are authorized to file this application and the organization you are representing has the authority to enter into a grant contract that may result from this application? *

☐ I affirm the above statement.

21 - Name of Affirming Party *

22 - Signature of Affirming Party *

[clear](#)

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