

WMCC Showcase Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project Grant Executive Committee Report Summary

Applications at a Glance

Applicant	Grant Project	Funding Request	Match Amount	Total Project Budget	Risk Score	Ranking out of 3	Recommended Funding
City of Missoula	Missoula Public Library Living Roof	\$1,100,000	\$275,000 Majority Unsecured	\$1,375,000	Low	1	\$1,000,000 Incremental Based on Match
City and County of Butte-Silver Bow	Father Sheehan Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure Revitalization Project	\$1,090,000	\$326,200 Majority Secured	\$1,416,200	Low	2	\$1,090,000
Project Green of Montana, Inc.	Upper Silver Bow Creek Reconstruction 100% Design	\$986,347	\$403,503 Secured	\$1,389,850	High	3	Not Recommended

Review team members include:

- Catey Bauer, DNRC Conservation District Specialist
- Ella Lunny, DEQ Water Quality Specialist
- Matt Peterson, ERM Newfields Civil Engineer, WMCC Member
- Samantha Treu, DNRC Reclamation and Development Grants Program Manager/CARDD MEPA
- Casey Lewis, WMCC Executive Director
- Krista Lammers, WMCC Grant Staff

A brief description of each grant application is provided.

1. City of Missoula – Missoula Public Library Living Roof

The proposed project will transform 13,000 square feet of rooftop in the heart of Missoula into a vibrant living roof, designed to reduce stormwater runoff, filter pollutants, cool the building, and lower energy use all while demonstrating the power of nature-based solutions. This highly visible installation will promote biodiversity and pollinator habitat and engage over 50,000 annual Library visitors through interpretive signage, educational workshops, and programming aligned with K-12 science and sustainability curricula. Volunteers will be integral to planting, seasonal maintenance, and citizen science efforts, fostering community stewardship of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). The Living Roof will also serve as a platform for local artists, naturalists, and educators to contribute content and lead programming, amplifying the project's reach and impact across Western Montana.

2. City and County of Butte-Silver Bow – Father Sheehan Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure Revitalization Project

The Butte-Silver Bow Father Sheehan Park (FSP) Green Stormwater Infrastructure Revitalization Project aims to address inadequate stormwater management at one of Butte's most historical and well-loved parks. The primary goal is to develop, design, and begin implementation for an economically and environmentally sustainable, yet efficient green stormwater infrastructure

complex. In addition, this project will build on existing community stormwater partner education and improve the safety and accessibility of Father Sheehan Park and the adjacent urban trail system. This project will address longstanding stormwater management deficiencies while aligning with local and regional sustainability goals by integrating innovative stormwater solutions into FSP. The community will not only protect its recreational assets but also contribute to a healthier, more resilient urban environment for future generations.

3. **Not Recommended for Funding – Project Green of Montana, Inc. - Upper Silver Bow Creek Reconstruction 100% Design**

Project Green proposes utilizing funds for the 25% to 100% design phases for the restoration of 6,974 feet of Silver Bow Creek, converting a heavily polluted and channelized creek into a natural stream system with green stormwater infrastructure elements such as bioswales, permeable pavement, and constructed wetlands. This work would address historic mining contamination, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity, and create public green spaces and trails to benefit the Butte community. The project also includes robust public education and outreach through interpretive signage, K–12 curriculum development, and citizen engagement initiatives led by Ripple, a partner experienced in environmental education. While the project strongly aligns with WMCC’s goals for stormwater toxics reduction and community education, it is not yet eligible for funding under the current grant cycle as construction is required to meet EPA grant outcomes. Continued advancement of design and match funding will position this project for future implementation.

Recommend not funding this project for the following reasons:

1. **Limited Scope for Toxics Reduction:** The proposal focuses solely on design and does not include implementation of on the ground practices within the WMCC grant period, making it unlikely to achieve measurable toxics reductions during this timeframe.
2. **Timeline Misalignment:** The anticipated schedule for construction extends well beyond the current grant period, leaving significant uncertainty about when the project benefits would be realized.
3. **High Risk for Grant Investment:** The applicant organization is a small nonprofit with a volunteer board with no staff and no formal policies or procedures in place, presenting a high level of administrative and operational risk for managing this level of funding.
4. **No Clear Path to Implementation:** Without secured funding for construction and implementation, there is no guarantee that the project will move beyond the design phase.
5. **Strong Alignment with WMCC Goals, but Premature for Funding:** This proposal represents the framework of a promising project that aligns well with WMCC’s mission. We are committed to working with this organization to strengthen its capacity and explore future opportunities for collaboration when the project is closer to implementation readiness.

Applicant	City of Missoula	
Grant Project	Missoula Public Library Living Roof	
Funding Request	Match Amount	Recommended Funding
\$1,100,00.00	\$275,000.00	\$1,000,000.00 Incremental Based on Match
Risk Assessment Score	WMCC Service Drainage	Grant Duration
Low	Lower Clark Fork	2025 - 2028

Purpose of Grant

The proposed project will convert 13,000 square feet of impervious roof, approximately 0.3 acres at the Missoula Public Library, into a living roof that intercepts and reduces stormwater runoff, preventing pollutants and toxics from entering adjacent rights-of-way and ultimately flowing into local waterways. This nature-based solution will demonstrate how green stormwater infrastructure can effectively manage urban runoff while providing additional co-benefits such as building energy efficiency, reduced heat reflectivity, and urban cooling. As one of the most visible and highly accessible installations of its kind in Montana, the living roof will serve as a flagship example of GSI in action, educating communities across the state about practical, scalable strategies for reducing stormwater impacts.

Interpretive signage will guide over 50,000 annual Library visitors in understanding the roof's stormwater functions, native plant selection, pollinator habitat creation, and water quality benefits. Educational materials and programming will be co-developed with Library staff, local environmental educators, and community partners to align with K-12 science and sustainability curricula, fostering a generation of informed stewards. Volunteers will support planting, seasonal maintenance, and citizen science initiatives, deepening community engagement and stewardship of green infrastructure. Additionally, the space will host workshops and provide a venue for local artists, naturalists, and educators to contribute content and lead programming, amplifying the reach and relevance of the project.

By funding this highly visible and innovative installation, WMCC will catalyze a transformative demonstration of GSI that embodies the goals of stormwater toxics reduction, public education, and community-driven environmental solutions.

Missoula Public Library Living Roof – Goals and Objectives

1. Advance Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency: Install a highly visible living roof as a flagship GSI feature to attenuate, filter, and slow stormwater runoff, protecting groundwater quality and demonstrating nature-based solutions that build resilience to climate change impacts in urban environments.

2. Reduce Building Energy Demand and Mitigate Urban Heat Island through GSI: Utilize the green roof's natural insulating and cooling properties to lower building energy consumption, reduce rooftop heat reflectivity, and mitigate urban heat island effects—key GSI benefits that improve environmental performance in dense urban settings.

3. Promote Public Education and Awareness of Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Leverage the Library's highly visible roof and public gathering spaces to engage visitors in hands-on learning about GSI, low impact development (LID), and their role in sustainable water management, stormwater quality improvement, and climate adaptation across Western Montana.

4. Enhance Urban Biodiversity and Habitat through Integrated GSI Design: Create a multifunctional green space that supports pollinators, fosters urban biodiversity, and exemplifies how GSI installations can provide critical ecological services within the built environment.

5. Improve Community Wellbeing and Showcase the Aesthetic Benefits of GSI: Transform the roofscape into an inviting, restorative environment that enhances the Library's visual landscape and delivers mental health and wellness benefits—while serving as a high-profile demonstration of the aesthetic and functional value of GSI in public spaces.

Metrics

- Total acres of impervious area managed by GSI
- Total gallons per year of runoff reduced
- Total pounds per year of pollutants reduced, including CU, Pb, Zn, and oil & grease
- Measures implemented to increase resilience to climate impacts (e.g., groundwater protection, flood risk mitigation)
- Description of increased community benefits provided (e.g., improved water quality, public health improvements, education opportunities, providing urban green spaces)
- Number of residents engaged in outreach and education efforts
- Summary of outreach activities (e.g., events, workshops, publications)

Recommendation

WMCC staff recommends a total award of \$1,000,000 in funding, distributed incrementally to align with key project milestones.

\$103,100 in initial funding would support consultant services for grant management, engineering design, and architectural and landscape architectural design. This will ensure the project is fully developed and implementation ready.

\$896,900 in a second allocation of grant funds would be designated for the bidding process, construction management, full construction, and development of the educational components of the project. These funds will only be allocated when the required full 25% non-federal match has been confirmed and secured by the applicant and project partners.

To ensure WMCC funding for the bidding and construction phases is deployed effectively, it is recommended that bidding and construction funds be made available only once all project partners have fully committed and secured their respective contributions. This approach would require committed proof of funds and formal commitment letters signed by an authorized representative of each funding partner.

By tying WMCC's support to confirmed partner funding, we can guarantee that sufficient resources are in place to successfully advance the project through bidding and into construction. This step ensures readiness for implementation and aligns with WMCC's responsibility to invest in projects that are financially viable and poised for tangible outcomes.

The Missoula Public Library Living Roof Project is an excellent example of the kind of work we hope to encourage through this grant program; it's really the definition of green stormwater infrastructure. While its direct reduction of toxics might seem modest, its broader impact is significant. It builds community capacity for GSI through accessible training, hands-on teaching, and public outreach efforts that will extend far beyond the grant period.

It's worth noting that this project was previously removed from the legislature's funding package for House Bill 6, yet ranked in the top four statewide for DNRC Renewable Resource Grant Project funding. WMCC's funding provides a unique opportunity to move this project forward.

Budget Overview

Budget Category	Task Description	WMCC Grant	Match Amount (25% of total grant)	Total Task Cost
Grant Administration	City of Missoula staff project management		\$7,500	\$7,500
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Technical Narrative funded by reimbursement to City of Missoula from DNRC Planning Grant		\$30,000	\$30,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Consultant budget management, reporting, reimbursement requests	\$5,600		\$5,600
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Engineering Design (MEP & Structural) and Architect and Landscape Architect	\$97,500		\$97,500
RECOMMENDATION THAT FUNDS BELOW ARE RELEASED WHEN MATCHING FUNDS ARE SECURED				

Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Bidding and Contracting	\$15,200		\$15,200
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Construction Administration	\$22,700	\$7,700	\$30,400
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Contractor Overhead		\$129,000	\$129,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Construction and Materials for Living Roof	\$844,000		\$844,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Educational Exhibit	\$15,000		\$15,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Contingency		\$200,800	\$200,800
Total Project		\$1,000,000	\$375,000	\$1,375,000

Applicant City and County of Butte-Silver Bow
Grant Project Butte-Silver Bow Father Sheehan Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure Revitalization Project

Funding Request	Match Amount	Recommended Funding
\$1,090,000.00	\$326,200.00	\$1,090,000.00
Risk Assessment Score	WMCC Service Drainage	Grant Duration
Low	Upper Clark Fork	2025 - 2028

Purpose of the Grant

The Butte-Silver Bow Father Sheehan Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure Revitalization Project proposes to address decades of stormwater management deficiencies at one of Butte’s most treasured public spaces. This phased effort will transform 14.7 acres of parkland with green stormwater infrastructure features, including constructed wetlands, bioswales, riparian buffers, and permeable paving to reduce impervious surface area, improve water quality, and enhance ecological resilience at the headwaters of the Clark Fork River. The project also integrates community education through Ripple’s K–12 curriculum, citizen science opportunities, and Clearly Connected interpretive signage to build public understanding of GSI and stormwater toxics reduction. Phase 1 will include site preparation, topographic contouring, and stabilization seeding to prepare for the subsequent construction of GSI elements. The project’s location along the I-90/15 corridor ensures high visibility for residents and travelers, positioning it as a demonstration site for innovative, nature-based stormwater solutions. Requested funds would support design development, community engagement, educational programming, and limited site preparation efforts while leveraging in-kind match from a DNRC RDG grant, and stormwater education contract with Montana Technical University – Office of Sponsored Programs, and a small amount of in-kind match for the removal of tennis courts.

Butte-Silver Bow Father Sheehan Park Green Stormwater Infrastructure Revitalization Project – Goals and Objectives

- 1. Restore Ecological Function and Stormwater Resiliency:** Reduce impervious surfaces and implement GSI features such as constructed wetlands, bioswales, and riparian buffers to capture, filter, and reuse stormwater while mitigating localized flooding.
- 2. Improve Water Quality at Headwaters:** Intercept and treat stormwater runoff before it reaches Blacktail Creek, reducing toxics and sediment loads entering the Clark Fork River watershed.
- 3. Foster Community Engagement and Education:** Deliver robust public outreach and educational programming through Ripple, including interpretive signage, K–12 curriculum integration, and citizen science projects.
- 4. Enhance Recreational and Cultural Amenities:** Revitalize park trails, walking paths, and green spaces to provide accessible, sustainable community assets that support wellness and environmental awareness.

5. **Demonstrate Scalable GSI Solutions:** Establish Father Sheehan Park as a high-visibility model for green infrastructure practices that can be replicated in communities across Montana.

Metrics

- Total acres of impervious area managed by GSI
- Total gallons per year of runoff reduced
- Total pounds per year of pollutants reduced, including CU, Pb, Zn, and oil & grease
- Measures implemented to increase resilience to climate impacts (e.g., groundwater protection, flood risk mitigation)
- Description of increased community benefits provided (e.g., improved water quality, public health improvements, education opportunities, providing urban green spaces)
- Number of residents engaged in outreach and education efforts
- Summary of outreach activities (e.g., events, workshops, publications)

Recommendation

WMCC recommends full funding for the applicant's grant request of \$1,090,000, recognizing this project as an exemplary alignment with our EPA-funded toxics reduction and GSI objectives. Through a process of thoughtful refinement, the applicant has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to ensuring that all funded activities directly advance transformative water quality improvements and the installation of showcase-level GSI features within the park. By strategically prioritizing investments in phased GSI design and construction, and by increasing the public outreach budget while integrating impactful educational components, this initiative stands out as a highly visible, multi-benefit demonstration of innovative, nature-based stormwater management for western Montana.

This project is far more than a construction effort; it is a forward-looking investment in enduring water quality and a replicable model for regional communities. By providing resources to support site preparation, dewatering, and restorative work that lays the groundwork for GSI, and by leveraging additional matching funds for complementary activities, the project positions itself to deliver measurable stormwater management solutions within the grant period. The expansion of public engagement and community education will deepen local involvement, empowering residents to adopt and champion sustainable stormwater practices. Such a comprehensive and community-oriented approach is fundamental to multiplying the project's benefits far beyond the park's boundaries, catalyzing innovation and stewardship throughout the region.

Budget Overview

Budget Category	Task Description	WMCC Grant	Match Amount (25% of total grant)	Total Task Cost
Grant Administration	BSB administration costs for grant management		\$29,520	\$29,520
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Project Vision/Mission development, public outreach, partner engagement	\$33,680	\$21,680	\$55,360
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Floodplain realignment, conceptual layout, detailed stormwater design limitations	\$82,400	\$82,400	\$164,800
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Funding strategy for Phase 2	\$9,920		\$9,920
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Construction opinion of probable costs and phasing plan	\$35,200		\$35,200
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Detailed Site Construction Plans Suitable for Bidding	\$75,200		\$75,200
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Trial planning and park programming	\$29,600		\$29,600
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Phase 1 Landscape Architecture: Minor Grading, Stabilization Seeding	\$68,800		\$68,800
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Phase 1 Floodplain and Stream Realignment Construction including opening the canopy around Stream Bank	\$143,200		\$143,200
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Ripple Marketing planning, implementation for education and outreach	\$52,800		\$52,800
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Site Clearing & Preparation for Excavation and Grading Activities, Match is Stormwater Education Contract with Montana Tech	\$150,000	\$60,000	\$210,000

Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Dewatering Plan, Match is Stormwater Education Contract with Montana Tech	\$75,000	\$60,000	\$135,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Grading & Rough Site Restoration, Match is Stormwater Education Contract with Montana Tech	\$278,200	\$60,000	\$338,200
Staff Salaries	Removal of tennis courts		\$12,600	\$12,600
Publication, Printings and Advertising	Education and outreach materials and integration of Clearly Connected	\$56,000		\$56,000
Total Project		\$1,090,000	\$326,200	\$1,416,200

Applicant **Project Green of Montana, Inc.**
Grant Project **Upper Silver Bow Creek Reconstruction 100% Design**

Funding Request	Match Amount	Recommended Funding
\$986,347.00	\$403,503.00	Not recommended
Risk Assessment Score	WMCC Service Drainage	Grant Duration
High	Upper Clark Fork	2025 - 2028

Purpose of the Grant

The Project Green proposal seeks to restore 6,974 feet of Silver Bow Creek, transforming it from a degraded creek into a free-flowing stream system with integrated green stormwater infrastructure such as bioswales, permeable pavement, tree trenches, and constructed wetlands. WMCC grant funding would support advancing 25% - 100% design as well as developing and implementing education and outreach programming to build public awareness of stormwater management, green infrastructure, and ecological restoration of Silver Bow Creek. This ambitious effort addresses a century of mining and smelting impacts that left the creek channelized, polluted with heavy metals, and ecologically lifeless. The project envisions reconnecting the community to its historic waterway while improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity, and creating public green spaces, parks, and trails that support recreation and economic revitalization. Educational programming led by Ripple will complement the physical restoration, with interpretive signage, K-12 curriculum materials, and citizen engagement activities designed to build lasting awareness of stormwater management and toxics reduction.

While the project aligns strongly with WMCC's organizational goals and demonstrates transformative potential for stormwater toxics reduction, it is not yet ready for funding under WMCC's current EPA grant, which requires on-the-ground construction within the funding period to achieve measurable outcomes. WMCC recognizes the critical importance of this work and encourages continued design advancement to position the project for future implementation. We remain committed to supporting the applicant in other ways as this effort progresses.

Metrics*

- Total acres impervious area managed by GSI
- Total gallons per year of runoff reduced
- Total pounds per year of pollutants reduced, including CU, Pb, Zn, and oil & grease
- Monitoring levels of heavy metals, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity in Silver Bow Creek before and after restoration
- Measures implemented to increase resilience to climate impacts (e.g., groundwater protection, flood risk mitigation)
- Return of native plant species and aquatic life will serve as indicators of ecological recovery
- Return of native plant species and aquatic life will serve as indicators of ecological recovery
- Assess real estate trends near the restored creek to determine whether property values have increased

- Development of new businesses, restaurants, or tourism-related industries in the area will also be tracked
- Measure the increase in visitors coming to Butte to experience the creek and its surrounding attractions
- Description of increased community benefits provided (e.g., improved water quality, public health improvements, education opportunities, providing urban green spaces)
- Number of residents engaged in outreach and education efforts
- Summary of outreach activities (e.g., events, workshops, publications)

***It is important to note that the metrics for this project will not be realized until after construction is complete. Given the anticipated timeline, construction would extend beyond WMCC's EPA grant period of performance, which concludes in 2029.**

Budget Overview

Budget Category	Task Description	WMCC Grant	Match Amount (25% of total grant)	Total Task Cost
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Public outreach and partner engagement	\$16,800	\$3,200	\$20,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Completion of 50% Design (25% remaining)	\$47,500	\$47,500	\$95,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Completion of 75% Design	\$218,500	\$218,500	\$437,000
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Completion of 100% Design	\$622,947	\$128,503	\$751,450
Professional Services (Contracted Services)	Funding Strategy for Construction	\$20,600	\$5,800	\$26,400
Publication, Printings and Advertising	Integration of Clearly Connected promotional materials	\$60,000		\$60,000
Total Project		\$986,347	\$403,503	\$1,389,850