NH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
DRAFT 2020 RANKING CRITERIA
FOR STORMWATER PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
PRE-APPLICATIONS

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program provides financial assistance for planning, design and construction of eligible water pollution control infrastructure projects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) capitalizes the CWSRF with annual grants, used to provide loans to eligible entities within the state. Sub-recipients or borrowers are typically municipal or other local government entities.

The need for CWSRF project funding in New Hampshire exceeds the financing available. Therefore, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has developed a ranking system to prioritize projects. The criteria used to evaluate and rank eligible project pre-applications are listed below. If two or more projects receive an equal score, the higher ranking will go to the project serving the greatest existing population.

(Maximum 100 points)

1) PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY, PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT *(35 points maximum)*

Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Impaired Water.	35
b) NPDES MS4 Compliance Issue.	20
c) Federal or state administrative order or consent decree.	20
d) Chronic flooding that causes a water quality problem.	10
e) Surface water quality in unimpaired waters.	5

2) WATER QUALITY PLAN *(25 points maximum)*

Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) NH Nonpoint Source Plan.	25
b) Watershed-based plan that meets Clean Water Act Section 319 guidelines.	25
c) 2010 Piscataqua Region Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.	25
d) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).	25

3) GREEN PROJECT RESERVE *(25 points maximum)*

Project Addresses:	**Points**
a) Disconnection of impervious cover from the stormwater drainage system.	30
b) Protection or restoration of natural hydrology, floodplains, and wetlands.	20
c) Improved stream connectivity with respect to aquatic life.	20
d) Smart growth as defined in RSA 9-B:3.	10
e) Environmentally Innovative Infrastructure.	10

4) SUSTAINABILITY *(15 points maximum)*

Project Addresses:	
a) Aging infrastructure.	15
b) Flooding/ Resiliency.	15
c) Local capacity.	10
d) Relative value to the public.	10

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PROTECTION OF WATER QUALITY, PUBLIC HEALTH & THE ENVIRONMENT
*(Maximum 35 points)***:**

a) Water quality impairment
- Projects identified in the state's 305(b)/303(d) report will receive the most points in this category (See Surface Water Quality Assessment Viewer).
- Projects must result in pollutant load reduction or other measured water quality improvement.

b) NPDES MS4 Compliance Issue
- Projects that implement a requirement in the municipality's NPDES MS4 permit or the stormwater management plan incorporated in the permit.

c) Federal or state administrative order or consent decree
- The public owner is under a court order or a state or federal consent decree, or a state or federal administrative order, or administrative order by consent requiring the owner to address pollution control issues by complying with a schedule of events.

d) Chronic flooding that causes a water quality problem
- Excess bacteria, sediment, or other pollutants released to a water body.
- A stream that is out of equilibrium as evidenced by excessive bank erosion, channel incision, or head cutting. and/or
- Barrier to aquatic life passage.

e) Improve water quality in unimpaired watersheds
- Projects will receive points with adequate documentation, such as modeled pollutant load reductions.

WATER QUALITY PLAN *(25 points maximum)***:**

a) Recommendation in the state Nonpoint Source Plan
- Project that implements a recommendation in the Plan.

b) Creation of watershed-based plan that meets Clean Water Act Section 319 guidelines
- Project that addresses fully, or partially creates an a-i watershed based plan.

c) Recommendation in the 2010 Piscataqua Region Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

d) **Project addresses an action item identified in the Plan, which can be found at 2010 Piscataqua Region Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.**

e) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
- Project addresses an action item identified in the TMDL or expands upon the TMDL to create an a-i plan.

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GREEN PROJECT RESERVE *(Maximum 35 points)*

The goal of the Green Project Reserve (GPR) is to guide funding toward projects that utilize green practices to: complement and augment hard or gray infrastructure; adopt practices that reduce the environmental footprint of water and wastewater treatment, help municipalities adapt to climate change; enhance water conservation; adopt more sustainable solutions to wet weather flows; promote low impact development with respect to stormwater runoff; restore natural hydrology; and promote innovative approaches to water management problems.

Green Infrastructure includes a wide array of practices at multiple scales that manage wet weather and restore natural hydrology by infiltrating, evapotranspiring, harvesting, and using stormwater. On a regional scale, green infrastructure is the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as forests, floodplains and wetlands, coupled with policies such as infill and redevelopment that reduce overall imperviousness in a watershed. On a local scale, green infrastructure consists of site- and community-specific practices within development, redevelopment, or retrofits, such as bioretention, trees, green roofs, permeable pavements and cisterns.

Stormwater and nonpoint source projects qualify for Green Project Reserve points if they implement Green Infrastructure in accordance with the EPA guidance document: *2012 CWSRF 10% Green Project Reserve: Guidance for Determining Project Eligibility*.

Green Project Reserve projects include:

a) Disconnection of impervious cover from the stormwater drainage system (25 points):

- Implementation of green streets (combinations of green infrastructure practices in transportation rights-of-ways), for either new development, redevelopment or retrofits including: permeable pavement, bioretention, trees, green roofs, and other practices such as constructed wetlands that can be designed to mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness at one or more scales. (Vactor trucks and other capital equipment necessary to maintain green infrastructure projects do not qualify for planning funds.)
- Wet weather management systems for parking areas including: permeable pavement, bioretention, trees, green roofs, and other practices such as constructed wetlands that can be designed to mimic natural hydrology and reduce effective imperviousness at one or more scales.
- Implementation of comprehensive street tree or urban forestry programs, including expansion of tree boxes to manage additional stormwater and enhance tree health.
- Stormwater harvesting and reuse projects, such as cisterns and the systems that allow for utilization of harvested stormwater, including pipes to distribute stormwater for reuse.
- Downspout disconnection to remove stormwater from sanitary, combined sewers and separate storm sewers and manage runoff onsite.
- Comprehensive retrofit programs designed to keep wet weather discharges out of all types of sewer systems using green infrastructure technologies and approaches such as green roofs, green walls, trees and urban reforestation, permeable pavements and bioretention cells, and turf removal and replacement with native vegetation or trees that improve permeability.
- The water quality portion of projects that employ development and redevelopment practices that preserve or restore site hydrologic processes through sustainable landscaping and site design.

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b) Protection or restoration of natural hydrology, floodplains, and wetlands (20 points):

- Establishment or restoration of permanent riparian buffers, floodplains, wetlands and other natural features, including vegetated buffers or soft bioengineered stream banks. This includes stream day lighting that removes natural streams from artificial pipes and restores a natural stream morphology capable of accommodating a range of hydrologic conditions while also providing biological integrity.
- Projects that involve the management of wetlands to improve water quality and/or support green infrastructure efforts (e.g., flood attenuation).
- May include natural or restored wetlands if the wetland and its multiple functions are not degraded and all permit requirements are met.
- Fee simple purchase of land or easements on land that has a direct benefit to water quality, such as riparian and wetland protection or restoration.

c) Improved stream connectivity with respect to aquatic life (20 points):

- Restoration and protection of stream connectivity with respect to aquatic life passage through perched, shallow, or under sized culvert replacement, dam removal and stream crossing designs that provide for passage of fish and aquatic animals, maintain natural stream conditions, and improve protection of roads and property from potential effects of floods.
- Effective stream crossings may include bridges, open bottom arches, and culverts that span and remain buried in the streambed.

d) Smart growth as defined in RSA 9-B:3 (10 points):

- Control of haphazard and unplanned development and the use of land which results over time, in the inflation of the amount of land used per unit of human development, and of the degree of dispersal between such land areas.
- Development and use of land in such a manner that its physical, visual, or audible consequences are appropriate to the traditional and historic New Hampshire landscape. Smart growth may include denser development of existing communities, encouragement of mixed uses in such communities, the protection of villages, and planning so as to create ease of movement within and among communities. Smart growth preserves the integrity of open space in agricultural, forested, and undeveloped areas.

e) Environmentally Innovative Infrastructure (10 points):

- Build resilient, sustainable infrastructure that promotes innovation.3

SUSTAINABILITY (Maximum 15 points)

a) Aging infrastructure (10 points):

- Addresses infrastructure that is beyond expected lifespan or in failure.

b) Flooding/ Resiliency (10 points):

- Addresses current or anticipated flooding issues.

c) Local capacity (10 points):

- Commitment of the applicant's support network, and capacity to complete the proposed project. Ranking will be based upon the grantee's description and/or demonstration of their team's ability to successfully complete the proposed project.

d) Relative value to the public and environment (10 points):

- Consider the availability (access), and extent of use of the waterbody. Consider uses including, but not limited to: drinking water supply; public recreational opportunities; aquatic and terrestrial habitat benefits; and potential for increased public use and improved habitat. Consider anticipated cost of corrections relative to their benefit.