



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest Program

2023-24 Grant Opportunity
Guidelines (non-competitive closed)

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Background

Covering an area of 2,090 km², the Swan Canning catchment includes the Swan (Derbal Yerrigan), Canning (Djarlgarra/Dyarlgarro), Helena and Southern Rivers. The Swan Canning Riverpark (the Riverpark) includes 2,600 ha of river foreshore and receives groundwater and surface water from the catchment as it flows along drainage lines and tributaries.

Native plants thrive throughout the Riverpark, including significant areas of remnant riparian and terrestrial native vegetation. However, these areas have become increasingly vulnerable to fragmentation and degradation.

The Riverpark and surrounding areas have undergone significant historical change through altering the natural river system; both in the waterways, and on the coastal plain for industry and suburban development.

Vast tracts of the Swan and Canning catchments have been cleared for agriculture and development. The Riverpark continues to face a range of water quality and ecosystem health challenges that can have a negative effect on the delicate ecological system and reduce the community's ability to enjoy our natural areas (State of Western Australia, 2015).

In March 2021, the McGowan Government committed \$3 million in funding over four years (2021-22 to 2024-25) to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (the department) Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest program (the program).

The program is an initiative that allows the department to deliver priority projects which improve ecosystem health, amenity value and use of the Riverpark and connected landscape. The program supports local and State government agencies to deliver urban forest restoration projects within the Riverpark and surrounds (including tributaries and drainage lines in the Swan Canning Catchment).

This program is expected to provide the future benefits as follows:

- Improved condition, structure and function of urban forest ecosystems in the Riverpark and along its drainage lines and tributaries.
- Improved habitat value and increased use by native fauna through revegetation.
- Improved management of the Swan Canning Riverpark and connected urban forest by State and local government.
- Improved quality of water entering the river via the Riverpark.
- Enhanced Riverpark amenity value and use.

This initiative is part of the WA Government's Kep Katitjin-Gabi Kaadadjan (Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2) to establish leading waterwise communities for Boorloo (Perth) and Bindjareb (Peel) by 2030, addressing climate change through water-saving initiatives and the creation of climate-resilient, liveable urban spaces and healthy environments.

These guidelines are intended for project partners and provide an overview of the program and answer key questions relating to the eligibility, available funding and the application and assessment process.

Who is eligible for this funding?

To be eligible for this funding the proponent must:

- Be a State or local government land manager responsible for the proposed project site.
- Be able to contribute at least one third of the overall project costs. Contributions can be either cash or in-kind and include contributions from project partners.

Must not:

- Be a private landholder or community group. The payee for successful partnership projects must be a local or State government agency, who will be responsible for managing funds and project reporting.

Eligible items for funding

Projects funded through the program must be consistent with the objectives of the program. Projects financed through the program must:

- Be aimed at achieving on-ground urban forest restoration works.
- Be in line with identified Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest objectives.
- Be located within or linked to the Riverpark (including tributaries and drainage lines in the Swan Canning Catchment).
- Be easily identified as distinct from or additional to previous projects or projects funded through other programs, however infill and weed control for previously funded Riverbank Program sites will be considered for funding if it is included as part of a larger project for the site.

Items that will not be funded

The following items cannot be funded through the program:

- the program will not fund activities retrospectively
- staff salaries or wages
- purchase of tools and equipment
- major earthworks and civil construction
- restoration and rehabilitation of buildings
- capital equipment purchases
- works primarily aimed at beautification or improving an amenity without environmental outcomes for the Riverpark
- bioengineering works, including brush matting, coir logs and brush walling

- built shoreline stabilisation structures including river walling, revetments and gabions
- research projects
- site investigations including acid sulfate soil and geotechnical investigations.

Items eligible as the proponent's in-kind contribution

The items that will not be funded are also ineligible as the proponent's in-kind contribution except for staff and volunteer time. Applicants may not seek staff wages through Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest funding; however, wages may be used as partner contribution for funding. Applicants can put officer labour toward their contribution for funding as 'in-kind' support at a rate of \$50/hr per adult volunteer, \$20/hr children (school age) volunteer and \$90/hr per officer. The following may also be considered for in-kind contribution:

- Costs associated with obtaining relevant permits and approvals
- Site investigations which facilitate planting
- Site preparation
- On-ground materials and labour for site preparation, revegetation and weed control
- Interpretive signage highlighting the importance of the project to the site
- Auditing costs

In-kind contributions should also be aligned with Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest objectives and therefore inclusion of amenity-focused items (e.g. paths, seating and irrigation and turf alterations) is discouraged.

How much funding will be provided?

The department has allocated \$2.6 million (ex GST) to on-ground implementation of urban forest projects from 2021-22 to 2024-25.

There is no maximum grant amount available to applicants. The department will consider value for money and availability of funds to meet priorities in determining a grant amount. Projects with a maximum completion date of June 2025 are preferred, however projects undertaking works in 2025-26 and 2026-27 may be considered. Extension of a project beyond this date will require approval from the Director General of the department. All funding is exclusive of GST.

The Department reserves the right to close the grant process early if all funding is allocated prior to June 2025. If the program is oversubscribed, projects will be scored in the assessment process and funding awarded according to rank and available budget.

Important note: Large scale, multi-year projects are encouraged to help achieve better onground outcomes and to reduce administrative burden on grant recipients.

Application process

Funding distributed under the Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest program follows a non-competitive process. Applications for funding can be made at any time during the year on an ongoing rolling basis. Your application will be assessed on its contribution to program outcomes.

The application process is as follows:



The provision of funds will be made upon the execution of a funding arrangement. It is through the establishment of these agreements that the final project details, including a project schedule, and detailed budget arrangements will be negotiated.

The assessment criteria

All grant proposals are scored against the following criteria and must achieve a minimum score to be considered eligible. All grant proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

CRITERION 1: How effectively does the project address the program's objectives?

We will consider:

- How effectively the proposed activities are expected to improve condition, structure and function of urban forest ecosystems in the Riverpark and along its drainage lines and tributaries.
- How effectively the proposed activities are expected to improve habitat value and increased use by native fauna through revegetation.
- How effectively the proposed activities are expected to improve management of the Swan Canning Riverpark and connected urban forest by State and local government.
- How effectively the proposed activities are expected to improve the quality of water entering the river via the Riverpark.
- How effectively the proposed activities are expected to enhanced Riverpark amenity value and use.

CRITERION 2: Other Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest funded projects

We will consider:

- Project partner's record of delivering Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest or Riverbank funded projects (if applicable).

CRITERION 3: The project is feasible, technically sound and achievable.

We will consider:

- If timeframes are feasible for achieving proposed objectives; and
- If the proposed methodologies and technical oversight proposed are adequate.

CRITERION 4: The project activities are in alignment with an existing management or strategic plan.

We will consider:

- How the proposed activities contribute to and align with strategic planning and/or site management planning.
- How the proposed activities assist land managers to achieve urban forest/canopy targets identified within strategic planning documents.

CRITERION 5: Demonstrates value for money

We will consider:

- If the proposed budget is a reasonable estimate of what might be expected to achieve the objectives of the project.

CRITERION 6: Demonstrates financial or in-kind contributions

We will consider:

- The level of financial or in-kind contribution being made by the funding recipient. Funding recipients need to meet the minimum requirement of 1/3 cash or in-kind contribution.

CRITERION 7: Project maintenance

We will consider:

- If the proposed maintenance budget is a reasonable estimate of what might be expected to achieve the project objectives.

CRITERION 8: Proposed monitoring, evaluation and reporting approach

We will consider:

- The suitability and comprehensiveness of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting approach.

The Riverbank Program Manager is responsible for determining if proposed projects fit the overall intent of the program. In situations where project proposals are considered to be of merit, yet outside the intent of the program, the Program Coordinator can discuss opportunities for project refinement or potential alternatives for project implementation with applicants.

Talk to us about your project

If you have a project in mind, please contact our Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest Coordinator. We will work with you in the development of your project.

Telephone: 9278 9000

Email: riverbank@dbca.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au/swan-canning-riverpark

Budgetary requirements

Project applicants are expected to provide indicative annual budgets. Quotes for any good and services including consultant's fees, where available, should be used to inform the project plan.

When calculating the costs for your proposed project, please ensure that you exclude the GST component for all items. Project budgets should indicate the estimated total value of the project including funding being sought and any partnership contributions.

Please note that cost sharing arrangements allow:

- Up to two-thirds of the total project cost to be requested from the program; and
- Funds available to local or State government agencies and community from other sources to be considered as part of the partnership contribution. Evidence of the availability of matching funds must be provided.

Projects that receive funds of \$35,000 or over will also require an itemised audit of expenditure from an independent auditor (at the expense of the funding recipient).

Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest projects must be demonstrably distinct from or additional to previous DBCA projects or projects funded through other DBCA programs.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Statutory Approvals

Proposed works may require a permit or development approval under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* or Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007. Statutory approval requirements should be established as early as possible.

Project applicants should refer to the department's website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au for clarification of approvals required for their proposed works.

Queries can be directed to the Statutory Assessments Unit by emailing rivers.planning@dbca.wa.gov.au or calling 9278 0900.

Statutory approval for proposed projects is a separate process to funding assessment and allocation and must be addressed through the formal process. Proponents are encouraged to consult with the Statutory Assessments Unit prior to the submission of a project plan if planning input is required to shape the project.

Aboriginal consultation and authorisation

The Swan and Canning Rivers are registered sites and works that require ground disturbance may require either a Section 18 or Regulation 10 approval under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974* respectively. Consultation with the Aboriginal community is an important part of any environmental project. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) should be consulted as early as possible in the planning process and can provide guidance on what approvals will be required. On-ground works cannot commence if this consultation has not taken place and any required authorisation has not been received.

Further information can be found on the DPLH website www.dplh.wa.gov.au.

It should be noted that consultation requirements may change during the implementation period of this program following recent amendments to the legislation. The onus is on the proponent to keep abreast of these changes and allocate adequate time and resources for Aboriginal consultation and relevant authorisations.

Media protocol

Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest projects are collaborative partnerships, and it is a condition of funding that all communication activities are shared equally between the department and the funding recipient. More information is provided as Appendix 1.

References

State of Western Australia (2015) *River Protection Strategy*. Perth, Western Australia

Appendix 1 - Communication guidelines

Acknowledgement of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest projects are collaborative partnerships. It is a condition of funding that all communications activities are equally shared between the department and the land manager.

Section 8.1 of the Collaborative Arrangement (CA) signed by the department and land manager states that:

- (a) Any communication activity, including: presentations, publications, signage, articles, newsletters or other literary works relating to the Project or its activities, shall give representation to the Parties in the display of logos and party names.
- (b) The respective roles of the department and the land manager must be acknowledged at relevant forums, conferences and project launches where the Project is promoted.
- (c) The requirements in (a) and (b) will be subject to clause 8.3 and will not apply to the extent that a Party requests that its name or logo not be used for a particular communication activity.

Before engaging in any of the abovementioned activities, the land manager's media representative must first contact the department's Public Information and Corporate Affairs (PICA) Manager on (08) 9219 9999.

Media releases

Media releases are a great way to attract favourable attention to Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest projects. It is a condition of the CA or memorandum of understanding that at least one joint media statement is released during the life of the project.

Section 8.3 of the CA states that:

- (a) The department and the land manager shall coordinate joint communications when dealing with the media and shared stakeholders on issue/s of mutual concern, including circulating draft media statements between the Parties for comment.
- (b) Both parties agree to publicise project milestones and outcomes in a joint, coordinated manner that allows them to brief their respective internal stakeholders prior to information being released to the public.
- (c) The land manager will not issue media releases, participate in media interviews, provide information to the media or engage in social media activity on any aspect of the project unless prior written approval (via email) is provided by the department or its delegate(s) no less than three working days, prior to any such project-related information entering the public arena. For

urgent matters, if agreed by the department, approval may be provided with less than three days' notice.

The best time to issue a media release is when a major project milestone is reached, for example following community involvement in the project such as a community planting day.

It is up to both parties to identify opportunities to attract media coverage or promote the project through other avenues.

Joint releases should include a banner with both the department and land manager logo, and media contacts for both agencies.

For further help in generating a joint media release, please contact PICA as above.

Use of Logos

The department's logo and State Coat of Arms must appear prominently in publications or signage produced by partner organisations to acknowledge department involvement.

The preferred format of the WA State Government Badge, department name and symbol are shown below.



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



The elements that make up the department logo must not be altered.

For advice on logo size, colour and variations, please contact a PICA publications officer on (08) 9219 9999.

Signage

Recipients of Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest Program funding can obtain a professionally designed sign for their project. These signs are 800 x 600mm and consist of anodised aluminium with some vinyl overlays. Anodised aluminium is a durable material with good anti-graffiti properties. To obtain a sign, please contact the Program Coordinator on (08) 9278 0900.

Should you wish to display alternative project signage, please provide a draft to the Program Coordinator which includes the following text:

"This project has received partnership funding from the Parks and Wildlife Service through the Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest program."

The department's logo(s) should always be accompanied with the text "Supported by" above the logo.

In addition to the logos shown above, a Swan Canning Riverpark logo is also available for projects that occur within the Riverpark.