

A photograph of a forest floor covered in green moss and brown fallen leaves. In the background, several thin tree trunks stand against a soft, out-of-focus backdrop. The overall lighting is natural and slightly dim, typical of a forest interior.

2023 OCPR/OC Cisma Community Treatments: Funding Guidance

Overview

- 2023 funds are approximately \$150,000
- Projects should:
 - i. Improve regional biodiversity
 - ii. Prevent and/or control of invasive species on/in waterways
 - iii. Increase native landscaping in urbanized areas
 - iv. Increase green infrastructure in urbanized areas (tree planting, rain garden installation, etc.)
- Funds are not meant to be inclusive of all invasive species related projects, communities should strive to allocate dedicated funding to invasive species management and habitat improvement





Overview Cont.

- Any municipality or CISMA member can apply
 - Can be completed on private or public lands but **applicant** must manage the project with CISMA
 - E.g. CISMA will not coordinate directly with homeowners associations. They can apply via their local CVT though.
 - Projects can involve the same kind of project in multiple locations
 - E.g. Knotweed treatments across a community submitted as one project.
- Funds are not distributed directly to communities. *Projects* are funded and OC CISMA/OCPR will utilize county contracts/processes to execute work.
- OC CISMA will utilize a portion of funds for OC CISMA strategic goals
 - E.g. Phragmites/knotweed roadside treatments

Schedule

- Form sent out next week
- Projects submittal deadline **Mid-March**
- Project selection announced **Mid-April**
- Projects must be completed within approved fiscal year (October 1-September 31).
 - Projects/funds do not roll over!



What projects are eligible?

Each applicant can request up to 2 projects

- a. Biodiversity and Habitat Restoration
 - a. Treatment of early detection species (terrestrial and aquatic)
 - b. Prevention and control of invasive species on/in priority waterways
 - c. Prescribed burning
 - d. Education and outreach materials/signage
- b. Climate Resilience and Green Infrastructure
 - a. Native landscaping in urbanized areas
 - b. Green infrastructure installation in urbanized areas (tree planting, rain garden installation, etc.)
 - c. Education and outreach materials/signage



How projects will be selected

1. Municipalities/CISMA members will submit complete project requests
 - a. Provide as much information as possible
 - b. Include a map (google, screenshot, define boundary of project area)
 - c. Be specific about project details (what you want to happen)
2. OC CISMA/OCPR staff will initially subdivide projects to be completed by:
 - a. Staff (CISMA crew) OR
 - b. Contractors
3. Contractual projects will be quoted with OCPR existing blanket contracts
4. The Prioritized Project List sent to OCPRC in April for review and approval by the OCPR Commission



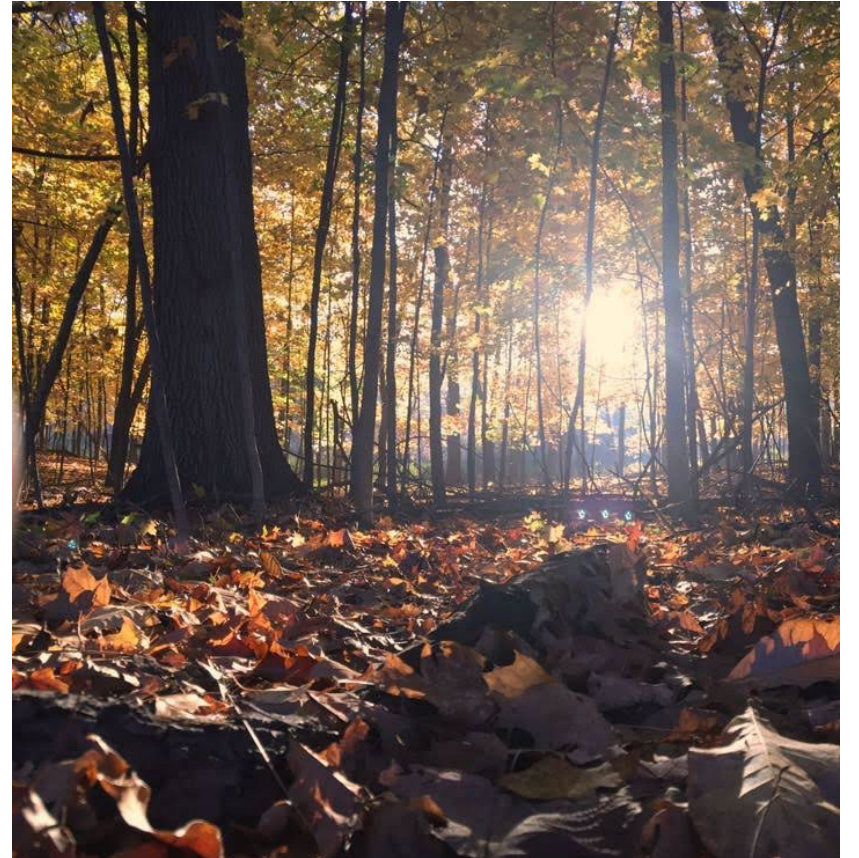
A close-up photograph of a forest floor. In the foreground, there is a dense layer of green moss. A small, young plant with a single green leaf is growing out of the moss. To the right, there are some brown, fallen leaves. In the background, a thin, light-colored branch extends diagonally across the frame. The background is filled with more green foliage, which is slightly out of focus. The overall lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a sun-dappled forest environment.

What gets funded?

- Projects will be approved/selected in the order they appear on the Prioritized Project List, up to the funding total
 - OCPR may right-size projects and maximize equity
 - Example: Unlikely to fund 2 huge projects vs. a smaller number of projects
 - If initially “selected” projects cannot be completed the next project(s) on the list will be funded.
- Initially approved/selected projects may not be completed due to factors outside of anyone's control (weather, contractor scheduling, etc.)
 - Those projects will be prioritized at the top of the following years list (no need to re-apply)
 - All other projects will need to re-apply

Applicant Responsibilities

- Reply in a timely manner to messages from OCPR/OC CISMA staff.
- Communicate and obtain necessary permissions from the property owner(s) and/or neighbor(s)
- Attend project walk throughs
- Complete project maintenance such as sign installation and maintenance, watering of seeds/trees/native plants and other maintenance (i.e. follow-up treatments).
 - Specific guidance about required maintenance for each project type will be provided.
- Promote the project funding source through installation of small signage provided by OCPR at the project location and promote the projects through newsletters, social media or other relevant communication channels.



OCPR/OC CISMA Responsibilities

- Retain contractor(s) and provide all project related oversight in the areas of:
 - Bidding and payment
 - Permitting
 - Scheduling
- Follow best management practices
- Communicate schedule requests to applicants in a timely matter for approval and discussion



Project Examples

- A local city has garden beds in front of City Hall they would like to convert to a pollinator garden
 - Measure the area, seek internal approvals, apply for restoration funding
- 3 homeowners associations have complained about phragmites in their neighborhoods
 - Collect permissions from all affected landowners and apply for treatment funding
- A community trail would like to install boot brush stations at all their primary entrance points with signage
 - Ensure all landowners have provided permission and apply for prevention funding
- You have something that looks “bad”
 - Call Patrick for a site visit! OC CISMA/OC Parks staff will help you scope projects and techniques



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, dark-colored turtle. The turtle's head is extended, showing its eyes and a yellowish-orange throat. The word "Questions" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, with a thin white horizontal line underneath it. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green foliage and a grey path.

Questions