



Walkable Watershed

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San Francisco Bay Walkable Watershed Pilot *Overview of Eligibility Criteria, Services and Outcomes*

Introduction

Skeo Solutions is now accepting applications to develop a Walkable Watershed concept plan for an urban neighborhood in the San Francisco Bay watershed in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Francisco City and County, Solano, and Sonoma. Eligibility requirements, services funded by Skeo, community commitments and outcomes are described in more detail below.

A Walkable Watershed is a new opportunity to improve both water quality and the quality of life in urban, underserved neighborhoods. The initiative is unique in linking water quality and conservation, community health, social equity and smart growth. The outcome is a walkable watershed that includes goals for healthy rivers and streams along streets, parks and other shared spaces while also improving neighborhood quality of life.

Requirements

Eligible applicants must be one of the following:

- local government entity (such as stormwater utility, planning or transportation department, or environmental program) that has an established relationship with the participating community
- local watershed non-profit organization with a letter of support from a local government and an established relationship with the participating community
- local community or neighborhood organization with a letter of support from a local government

Watershed Criteria

The application must identify a target watershed to become the focus of the pilot. It should:

- Be part of an underserved or economically challenged community
- Include a water body that has poor water quality, erosion or substandard infrastructure
- Include a watershed or waterbody with water conservation and/or streamflow needs
- Reflect inadequate neighborhood infrastructure (e.g., spot floods, narrow or missing sidewalks, inadequate crosswalks, safety concerns)
- Be located near a community destination, such as a school

Optional Criteria

- Existing climate adaptation plan or interest in embedding climate principles into planning efforts
- Capacity and/or interest in using social media to implement plan

A walkable watershed process:

- provides an integrated planning approach to improve water quality and community health
- engages a broad range of stakeholders
- links environmental and social equity goals
- generates innovative, community-based solutions grounded in technical analysis
- creates multiple benefits, such as walkability, outdoor learning, revitalization, community stewardship and improved water quality
- attracts and leverages multiple funding sources
- provides a replicable process for any watershed



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Services Provided

Skeo Solutions will collaborate with the community to develop an overall vision and strategy with a focus on the interrelationship between better water quality and quantity, improved health and revitalized neighborhoods. Specific services will include:

1. Community Needs Assessment – stakeholder interviews to determine community needs, watershed opportunities and constraints, project goals and community capacity
2. Existing Conditions Analysis – technical analysis of existing stormwater infrastructure data (i.e., maintenance reports, ongoing issues, and impairments that inform identification of priority areas), walkability and community mobility assessment, and surrounding land use assessment
3. Community Engagement Forums – facilitation of a community working session to identify projects in the watershed, plus a public open house to share draft concept plan and solicit feedback
4. Concept Plan Development – development of a shared vision and set of priorities to help guide, coordinate and leverage investment in a community to address regulatory requirements and community needs

Outcomes

- Development of Watershed Concept Plan that will guide implementation of the community's Walkable Watershed
- Community capacity building, including enhanced stakeholder engagement and a vision for improving infrastructure, water quality and health
- Shaping of prioritized projects to improve water quality and quality of life, from better sidewalks to enhanced public space
- Shared learning and thought leadership through publications, conferences, etc.
- Development of new fundraising tools and increased ability to leverage investments for optimal community benefits



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Applicant Commitments

The following table outlines the services Skeo will provide and the corresponding commitment by the applicant. Proposals must demonstrate the applicant’s ability to meet these requirements.

Process	Skeo	Applicant
1. Community Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct interviews and draft a memo of community goals and considerations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify stakeholders and convene interview meetings • Host site tour for Skeo staff
2. Existing Conditions Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a series of maps highlighting issues and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile GIS data, related reports, and make available local technical resources (such as public utilities staff person)
3. Community Engagement Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop workshop materials (agenda, presentation and maps) • Facilitate working session and open house 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and invite participants, conduct outreach and convene meetings (identify location, provide refreshments and childcare) • Participate in working session, support Skeo staff in note taking
4. Concept Plan Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft concept plan and share with project team (local government and community representatives) • Coach local representative to share concept plan at council meeting or other public event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene project team to review draft • Support distribution of concept plan

Application

To apply, please fill out the online application at <http://www.walkablewatershed.com/sf-learnmore>

Applications due November 20th 5PM PST.

For more information, please contact:

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Since 2011, Skeo Solutions has supported a range of successful Walkable Watershed projects in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Building on lessons learned, we are looking forward to adapting this approach to the San Francisco Bay Area and supporting communities in improving neighborhood quality of life and the quality of the Bay.