

# FFY 2023: 319 Letter of Intent Kentucky Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program



## Instructions:

- The Division of Water encourages the use of this Letter of Intent to notify its Nonpoint Source Program of the intended submission of an application.
- The Letter of Intent opens a dialogue between potential partners and the Nonpoint Source Program to ensure that the proposed project is eligible and financially reasonable before submission of the full application.
- The Letter of Intent should include:
  - A brief description of the proposed project
  - Details about any water quality issues of concern and how the proposed project would address those issues
- Please submit the completed Letter of Intent to Joanna Ashford at [joanna.ashford@ky.gov](mailto:joanna.ashford@ky.gov) by November 15, 2022.
- The Kentucky Division of Water will respond to Letters of Intent by December 1, 2022.

## Proposed Project Title:

## Project Contact

Name  
Agency/Organization  
Street Address  
City  
State  
Zip  
Telephone Number  
Email Address

Will this project include water quality data collection?                      YES                      NO

If you selected yes, please briefly discuss who will be conducting the data collection:

A consultant will be hired to implement and oversee LFUCG established volunteer stream sampling protocol. Samples would be taken by qualified volunteers and LFUCG staff. Samples will be analyzed at LFUCG WWTP Lab.

Project cost estimate (please list total project amount, which includes both 60% federal funding and required 40% match):



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### Letter of Intent (800 word limit):

The Wolf Run Watershed, Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 05100205270-070, is a 10.18 mi<sup>2</sup> (6,514 acre) watershed located entirely within Fayette County, Kentucky. Wolf Run drains into Town Branch, which flows into South Elkhorn Creek and eventually the Kentucky River. This watershed has 40% impervious surface and has impaired waters due to the effects of urbanization (partial support warmwater aquatic habitat; non-supporting primary/secondary contact recreation). A Watershed Management Plan (WMP) was developed and approved for this watershed in March 2013. Since this time, 30 to 40 projects have been implemented and studies, recommended by the WMP, have been completed. The completion of these projects and studies by non-profit organizations, private entities, and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG), shows the community's dedication to improve this watershed.

LFUCG would like to continue these efforts by implementing a water quality project recommended by the Southland Association Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study (BMP #49) and by updating the BMP Table in the Wolf Run WMP. The goal of the Southland Project is to reduce sediment loads reaching the main branch of Wolf Run at Regency Road. The study proposes retrofitting one commercial basin (1.25 acres) and creating another basin (1/3 acre) on LFUCG-owned property, to settle out sediment prior to reaching Wolf Run. If funded, the initial focus would be to divert stormwater from a drainage channel parallel to the railroad tracks into a filtration basin, on Derby Drive, and discharge the filtered flow back into the storm sewer parallel to Regency Road. This property is within a small neighborhood and to enhance the look, along with function, flowering native plants and trees would be installed for color and to encourage pollinator species to use this area. Educational signage would be installed and this area could be used for BMP tours, a geocaching location, passive recreation (bird watching), etc. Pre- and post-construction monitoring would occur to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of this BMP.

The second focus area would be retrofitting the commercial basin by removing the concrete channels (500 LF) and replacing them with stone to encourage infiltration and dispersal of stormwater flows across more of the basin bottom. Additional work would include removing any invasive species, and installing native meadow plants and trees. This basin is currently not accessible to the public, although it is visible from Regency Road. As a part of this project it would be evaluated if the public could safely access this area for tours and passive recreation. This basin is within a professional office area and benches could be placed at the edges of the basin to provide an outdoor setting for lunches and breaks. Pre- and post-construction monitoring would occur to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of this BMP.

The third component to this proposal would be to update the BMP table of the Wolf Run WMP. As stated above, the Wolf Run Watershed is a highly urbanized watershed and little new development has occurred in the past 10 years. Since numerous projects and studies from the WRWMP have been completed, a reevaluation of the BMP table is warranted. In addition, as a part of the LFUCG Watershed-Focused Monitoring Program (WFMP), Lexington is completing an extensive monitoring program within the Wolf Run Watershed in 2022-2023. The results from this monitoring would be used to compare to the original water quality data. In addition to the WFMP data, two additional wet weather monitoring events are proposed as a part of this update to ensure sufficient data points to compare the two data sets. The Wolf Run Watershed Council would be reactivated and work closely with the stakeholders of this watershed (Friends of Wolf Run, University of Kentucky, Kentucky River Watershed Watch, etc.) to assist in updating this BMP table.

The budget for the entire proposed project is \$620,000 (\$372,000 Grant; \$248,000 Match). The Southland Project's proposed construction budget was \$390,000; however, these 2018 estimates were for construction only and pre-COVID. With the increased cost of material, labor, and project scope (engineering design/construction oversight and monitoring) it is now estimated the cost will be \$540,000.

It is estimated the update to the WRWMP BMP table will cost \$80,000. LFUCG would hire a qualified consultant to assist in the additional wet-weather monitoring, to complete the requirements as shown in the April 2022 Watershed Plan Update Guidance, to gather additional information, and to facilitate public meetings.

Match for these two projects will be a combination of cash and in-kind services. In addition, LFUCG would work closely with the Friends of Wolf Run to assist in gaining public input and for design review of the two basin projects.