



The Tellier Prize: Greater Milwaukee Green Infrastructure Overpass Challenge

Problem Statement:

Changing weather patterns have resulted in shorter duration, higher intensity storms. In fact, the Midwest is experiencing the wettest period on record, and Milwaukee data shows the four highest annual rainfall amounts ever recorded occurred in the last twenty years. The 2010s decade was eight inches of rainfall per year wetter than the 1940s decade. A warmer and wetter future is expected. Coupled with paved landscapes in our urban settings, these storms result in more urban runoff. In the Milwaukee region, this translates into more unanticipated water entering the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) system.

Challenge:

The Tellier Foundation is sponsoring a local competition to identify new, innovative approaches to slow down and retain these peak runoff events. Our current infrastructure, as originally designed, may not be capable of meeting the higher volumes of stormwater. We will need fresh ideas on retrofitting and adapting to meet this increase. The Greater Milwaukee Green Infrastructure Overpass Challenge is focused on reducing and treating runoff from interstate overpasses. It will be assumed that the roadway drainage area is 50 feet wide by 200 feet long and is 100 feet above the urban landscape. The stormwater management or green infrastructure approaches should capture a two-inch rain event.

Winning proposals will identify innovative ideas to maximize the capture of runoff from the overpass area and strive to attain other triple bottom line benefits. A successful submittal will suggest a resilient solution that can be incorporated into the overlooked green space under freeways. The vertical height of the stormwater system should be treated as an opportunity for both runoff reduction and treatment. The solution should be capable of being replicated throughout the freeway system and should consider stormwater as a resource.

The Challenge is open to any project team with an interest in innovated stormwater management and green infrastructure. Interdisciplinary teams comprised of various focus areas such as water resources, land use planning, ecology, and/or transportation are encouraged. Each project team will develop two or three alternatives described in a memo, then further define a recommended plan which would include conceptual design drawing or visual, a preliminary estimate of construction cost, a construction schedule, a description of constructability issues, and a long-term maintenance plan memo. PDF is the preferred file type for submission. ***Award selection will be equally based on innovation, sustainability, and quality of the submittal.***

Award: The winning submittals will receive financial awards of:

First Place - \$5,000

Second Place - \$3,000

Third Place - \$2,000

Register your team with the main contact person and a description of team members and submit all questions by September 25, 2020. Please submit questions to contactus@freshcoastguardians.com. No teams will be allowed to register after September 25, 2020, and the question and answer period will end.

Final submittals are due November 20, 2020, by emailing contactus@freshcoastguardians.com or by mailing documents to MMSD – 260 W. Seeboth St, Milwaukee, WI, 53204 / Attention: Bre Plier. PDF is the preferred file type for email submission. The awardees will be notified by email and a phone call in January 2021. The submittals will be judged by a four-person panel comprised of MMSD and the business community.

The three winning submittals will be asked to present a short 10-minute description of their proposal after the award notification. The winning submittals will also be posted on the MMSD [Fresh Coast Resource Center website](#).

To learn more about the Greater Milwaukee Green Infrastructure Overpass Challenge visit: <https://www.mmsd.com/about-us/news/tellier-green-infrastructure-overpass-contest>

