

How Were Water Quality Projects Selected?



The City has regulatory obligations to reduce pollutants (TP, TN, and TSS) in specific amounts by the year 2028. There are some things the City is already doing to reduce pollutant load; however, more programs and projects are needed to meet requirements. Water quality projects were selected citywide using aerial imagery and topographic information. This initial list was evaluated by staff persons and through field review. The final list of BMPs was then sorted using the following Project Prioritization and Ranking Criteria.

Project Prioritization and Ranking Criteria

Ranking Factor	Scoring Technique	Scoring Range	Max Score
Pounds TN Removed	The project with the highest TN pollutant removal receives the highest score. Projects are scored as a percent of the best pollutant removal, multiplied by 20, so the score can range from 0 to 20.	0-20	20
Cost Effectiveness	Cost effectiveness is calculated by dividing the total project cost by the pounds of TN removed. Projects are scored as a percent of most cost effective project multiplied by 20, so the score can range from 0 to 20.	0-20	20
Project Cost	Project cost includes projected cost for design and construction. The lowest project cost receives the highest score, so the score can range from 0 to 10.	0-10	10
Land Acquisition	Projects located on city-owned land earn the highest score as there will be no land acquisition needed.	10	10
	Projects located on private property where minimal easement acquisitions will be needed earn a mid-range score.	5	
	If a project crosses multiple private properties and significant easement or property acquisition will be needed, the project will earn the lowest score.	0	
Drainage Issues	A project that addresses flooding or infrastructure risk in areas with known drainage issues earns the highest score. Drainage issues have been mapped based on staff knowledge and public involvement.	10	10
	Projects that provide detention or conveyance benefits but are not in area with known drainage issues earn a mid-range score.	5	
	Projects that are purely water quality projects and do not provide additional detention or conveyance benefits earn the lowest score.	0	
Maintenance Burden (Long-term)	Projects that require little maintenance earn the highest score.	10	10
	Projects with a medium maintenance burden will earn a mid-range score.	5	
	When extensive staff time and money is needed to maintain the project, it will earn the lowest score.	0	
Site Constraints & Potential Utility Constraints	If there are no constraints such as large trees or underground utilities that would need to be relocated, then the project will earn the highest score.	7	7
	If there are utilities or vegetation present that would be easy to avoid, such as overhead electric or phone lines, then projects will earn this score.	5	
	If access is somewhat constrained, making it difficult for construction or maintenance vehicles to access the site, the project will earn a mid-range score.	3.5	
	If vegetation or utilities are present but relatively easy to avoid and access is only somewhat constrained, then projects will earn this score.	2.5	
	If there is poor access, major grading required, karst topography, or major utilities like a sewer line that must be moved, then a project will earn this score.	1	
	If there is poor access, major grading is required, major utilities must be moved, or karst topography is present, a project will earn the lowest score.	0	
Implementation Schedule	If a project can be implemented in under 12 months, with no permitting requirements, it will earn the highest score.	6	6
	If a project can be implemented in under 12 months with permitting requirements or a project can be implemented in 12 to 24 months with no permitting requirements, it will earn this score.	4	
	If a project can be implemented in 12 to 24 months with permitting requirements or a project cannot be implemented in under 2 years with no permitting requirements, it will earn this score.	2	
	If a project cannot be implemented in under 2 years with permitting requirements, it will earn the lowest score.	0	
Synergy	If a project can be incorporated within other city infrastructure plans and projects and it also provides environmental benefits beyond water quality benefits, then the project will earn the highest score.	5	5
	If a project can be incorporated within other city infrastructure plans and projects (including other potential BMPs) but does not provide additional environmental benefits, then it will earn this score.	4	
	If a project provides multi-purpose or environmental benefits beyond water quality benefits, then the project will earn a mid-range score.	2.5	
	A project will earn the lowest score if it provides only water quality benefits.	0	
Aesthetics / Visual Appeal	If a project adds landscaping or would enhance aesthetics at the site, it will earn the highest score.	2	2
	If the project neither detracts from aesthetics nor adds much in the way of value, or the project is out of general public view, it will earn a mid-range score.	1	
	If a project provides only water quality benefits and does not enhance aesthetics of a site, it will earn the lowest score.	0	

Pounds of TN removed by the BMP, cost effectiveness (\$/lb/TN), and overall project cost are the most important ranking factors.



Some areas have more site constraints than others, which makes construction more difficult and expensive.



Stormwater projects that are featured in or could integrate into other City projects score higher than stand-alone stormwater projects.



Projects in public view that enhance aesthetics are ranked higher than projects with no visual appeal.