Green Infrastructure Grants Program

Sign Guidelines

Overview
The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s Green Infrastructure Grant Program Signage is an important and useful part of the green infrastructure grant program for educational and public outreach purposes. The education signage must be approved by NEORSD before installation. The following is a guide specification covering the requirements for common types of exterior signs, dimensional letters, and metal plaques.

Signage Design Workflow

| Grantee is awarded project by Sewer District | Grantee and Sewer District agree on GIG program agreement language | Information and benefits regarding GI projects are provided by Sewer District | Sewer District provides baseline specs and examples for signage | Grantee creates signage for Sewer District to review and approve before installation | Grantee must install signage within 30 days of GI project completion |

GI Grant Program Agreement and RFP Language

1. Permanent educational signage is required as part of all construction projects and must be approved by the Sewer District.

2. The Sewer District is responsible for providing minimum criteria regarding signage to be associated with all applicable GI practices.

3. The fabrication, installation, maintenance, and replacement (if necessary) of the signage shall be the responsibility of the awarded applicant for the design life expectancy of the project.

4. The initial cost to design, fabricate, and install 1 permanent signage is an eligible expense that can be included within the grant request budget.

5. The Sewer District shall be acknowledged on any public advertisement or outreach efforts related to the GI project.

6. Grantees are required to install signage within 30 days of completion of the GI Grant awarded project.

7. The Sewer District shall be permitted and have the right to photograph any project that has been selected for funding, to use for public outreach and education projects.

8. Once constructed, the Grantee shall coordinate the Project’s educational signage content and placement with the District, utilizing the District’s guidelines, templates or the signage could be customized for applicable GI practices.

9. Contact Jessica S. Cotton, GISP, GIP, Grants Program Administrator @ 216.881.6600 x6458.
Specification and measurements

The signage to be used by the grantees for the green infrastructure projects shall emulate the below imagery. There are no maximum dimensions required, as this is at the discretion of each project. Here are some consideration and specifications:

1. **Size and Visibility**
   - The signage minimum specs include a height above ground of approximately 3 feet (36 in)
   - Panel dimensions of 2.5 feet x 3.5 feet (30 in x 42 in)
   - The signage should be clearly visible from the intended viewing distance.
   - The size of the signage should be appropriate for the viewing distance and the amount of information to be displayed.

2. **Fonts and Text**
   - Fonts should be legible and easy to read.
   - The size of the text should be large enough to be readable from the intended distance.
   - Use a font color that provides good contrast with the background color to enhance legibility.

3. **Colors and Contrast**
   - Select colors that are visually appealing and attention-grabbing.
   - Ensure there is sufficient contrast between the background color and the text or images.
   - Consider color combinations that comply with accessibility guidelines, such as those for individuals with color blindness.

4. **Material and Durability**
   - Choose materials that are durable and suitable for the signage's intended outdoor location.
   - Outdoor signage should be weather-resistant and able to withstand environmental factors like rain, sunlight, and temperature changes.

5. **Mounting and Installation**
   - Determine the appropriate mounting method based on the signage type (e.g., wall-mounted, freestanding, hanging, single post, double post).
   - Consider factors like height, angle, and location to ensure optimal visibility and accessibility.
   - Customized signage is highly recommended.

6. **Regulatory Compliance**
   - Adhere to local regulations and standards regarding signage size, placement, and content.
   - Consider accessibility guidelines to ensure signage is readable and usable by people with disabilities.

7. **Branding and Design**
   - Maintain consistency with your brand identity, including logo, colors, and typography.
   - Ensure the design elements align with the intended purpose and target audience of the signage.

These specifications provide a general framework for signage design and development. However, it's essential to consult with signage professionals, graphic designers, or local authorities to ensure compliance with specific requirements and regulations in your area.
Signage Example from previous funded GI Grant Program Projects

The Sewer District heavily encourages each project to take their own unique approach and design to their signage. Below are some examples.

**Signage Template Type 1**

![Signage Template Type 1 Diagram](image-url)
Keeping our Great Lake great

How a landscape helps protect Lake Erie water quality

When rain hits hard surfaces like roadways, it flows to the lowest point and carries pollution with it to sewers and nearby streams. The greenspace you see here (and the sewers you don’t) now work together to keep stormwater out of the sewer system and pollution out of our environment. Here’s how the system works:

1. Stormwater on the surrounding area flows over the ground surface to the bioretention area instead of street drains.

2. The bioretention area collects runoff where it slowly soaks into the ground naturally.

3. When the storm exceeds the bioretention area’s capacity, excess runoff is conveyed to the street sewer system, which drains to the combined sewer system.

Fast Facts
What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure projects control stormwater before it enters the combined sewer system. This means less pollution in our lake from combined sewer overflows.
Example of funded project: 2020 Providence House West Campus Parking Lot Pavement Replacement
Example of funded project: 2020 INTRO