

Tire Products Grant Q&A	
Question	Answer
Will we get a copy of the webinar?	Yes, the webinar slides are posted to the Tire Grant website: <a href="https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant">https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant</a>
What is the difference between mulch and a trail surface?	Mulch is a loose material. This grant will fund pour in place, tile and other stationary materials.
Can we ask questions during the application process ?	Yes; please email any questions to <a href="mailto:SWTF.Grant@dnr.ga.gov">SWTF.Grant@dnr.ga.gov</a> .
Could you please share the DCA information?	Local government applicants must have qualified local government status as of the date of their application, as determined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. You can view this list at the following website: <a href="https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp">https://apps.dca.ga.gov/LocalGovStatus/planning.asp</a>
For poured playgrounds, does the grant only pay the difference from virgin to TDP?	Yes, we are seeking to promote the use of tire-derived products by reducing the cost in choosing this material over another.
Can you clarify if the match is required or not?	There is only a match required for the Research of New and/or Innovative uses of Scrap Tires. There is not a match requirement for the Tire-derived Products track.
Why would TDP be ok for playgrounds but not turf?	It is due to the type of TPD. Recent studies have raised concerned with the environmental and public health impacts of certain TDP. As a result, EPD will not fund projects utilizing tire-derived mulch or tire-derived beads for artificial turf. Playgrounds may utilize poured-in place TDP.
Is a public utility like GA Power considered eligible for a nonprofit to partner with?	Georgia Power is a private company, but they could partner with an eligible local government, public authority, agency, commission, or institution on a project.
Are projects that are underway eligible for the grant?	Yes, projects at any stage will be considered.
Do we have to have a partner ?	If you are an eligible applicant (local government or public authority, agency, commission, or institution), you do not have to have a partner. Nonprofit or private organizations may partner with eligible applicants, but they cannot be the direct recipient of the grant award.
Can the Tire Products grant funds be used for recycle tire events?	No; this grant is for projects that utilize TDP or for research of new and/or innovative uses for scrap tires. EPD does have other programs that cover these events, such as the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Program. More information about the STAR program can be found here: <a href="https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials/star-program">https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials/star-program</a>
Would the grant cover the cost difference between wood chips and a poured playground surface using TDP?	Yes, that would be eligible for the Tire-derived Products track.
Can multiple offices / departments from the same county apply?	Different departments within an eligible entity may count as their own applicant. Only one application per applicant is allowed. If there are multiple applicants from the same eligible entity, EPD would most likely award to only one applicant in order to spread the grant's impact to as many communities as possible.

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Does the grant cover admin fees?	It depends on what track you are applying for. For the Tire-derived Products track, the grant will only cover the cost of the TDP and associated services, such as hauling or mixing. For the Research of New and/or Innovative Uses for Scrap Tires track, funds may be used for all costs related to research, such as salaries and material testing.
Is there a list of contacts about poured playground surfaces?	EPD has created a webpage listing companies that supply materials and services related to tire-derived products. Any company may be listed; and listing does not constitute an endorsement by EPD. Applicants may source their materials from any company. EPD may post additional contacts as they become available. The list can be found here: <a href="https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant">https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant</a>
Are associated services the labor that is contracted?	Yes, it can be. It may also include transportation, mixing, installation, etc.
If the funds are used for playground resurfacing, does it only cover the material or the cost to prepare the site to receive the surface?	Applicants would need to demonstrate that the site preparation activities are specific to the installation of a TDP to be eligible for funding. For example, if there is a specific activity that must occur in order for the vendor to use the TDP that is outside of normal preparation activities, that may be eligible.
Can we receive the Tire grant and a STAR grant?	Yes, you can apply for and be awarded both grants in the same fiscal year.
Can a Local Government apply in each track if one project is research and other project is application of TDP?	No, applicants may only apply to one of the tracks per grant cycle. The goal is to give as many communities as possible the opportunity to benefit from grant funding.
Can projects be used to pave an animal shelter parking lot?	Yes, as long as TDP is utilized by an eligible applicant, for example a county shelter.
Is the \$1,000,000 split between the two tracks or \$1,000,000 for each?	There is \$1,00,000 total. EPD will determine how it is divided between the two tracks based upon the types of applications received.
Is there a list of approved materials?	We do not have a list of approved products, although tire-derived mulch and tire-derived beads for artificial turf are not eligible funding.
Would a project that is accessible freely across the region be considered multiple eligible entities? We know populations of neighboring cities that will benefit from our project.	To receive the bonus points as a multi-jurisdictional project the project must be a joint application from multiple eligible entities, for example, neighboring counties, a city and a county, etc. Use of the area from those in surrounding areas would not count towards the bonus points.
Can tire products be used near water? Is there any concern about oil?	Recent studies have raised concerns with the environmental and public health impacts of some TDP. As a result, EPD will not be funding projects utilizing tire-derived mulch or tire-derived beads for artificial turf.
Can TDP be mixed with concrete or asphalt only?	Questions regarding TDP uses and mixing should be posed to the manufacturer or industry representatives.
Is GDOT eligible to apply for grants?	Yes, GDOT and other state agencies are eligible to apply.
Does a tire grinder fall under this grant?	This grant is solely for the use of products derived from tires or for research; tire grinders are not an eligible purchase. Please note, the use of a tire grinder requires a scrap tire processing permit from EPD.
If we, the County, have multiple smaller playgrounds currently with mulch and we wish to replace with poured TDP will only one park qualify?	Multiple playgrounds within one project may be eligible, so long as the cost of the TDP and associated services does not exceed the \$250,000 cap.

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Does the grant cover removing existing tires?	No, this grant does not cover those types of projects. EDP does have other programs for scrap tire abatement, such as the Scrap Tire Abatement Reimbursement (STAR) Program. More information about the STAR program can be found here: <a href="https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials/star-program">https://epd.georgia.gov/about-us/land-protection-branch/recovered-materials-and-abatement/recovered-materials/star-program</a>
Can a public entity grind tires and use them for projects or does the TDP have to come from a qualified tire recycler?	It is not something a local government can do unless they are permitted as a tire processor. Tire processing is a regulated industry.
Is there a definition of TDP mulch and beads?	EPD does not have a specific definition for these materials. In general, to be eligible for this grant program, the TDP should be fixed in place and not in a loose form. If you have questions about whether a specific material is likely to be eligible, please reach out to grant staff.
Would soil aggregate/amendment derived from scrap tires be eligible for funding?	No. TDP soil aggregate or amendments are not eligible for funding as they are in loose form.
Would TDP include the steel, fiber, and nylon products that are TDP products? In other words, are non-rubber products made from TDP eligible?	Yes. The TDP does not have to consist only of recycled scrap tire rubber. It may consist of the other components that come recycled from scrap tires.
What is the basis for excluding mulch? Any papers or scientific studies or the like that suggest an issue? Please let me know for my understanding.	Recent studies have raised concerns with the environmental and public health impacts of some TDP. As a result, EPD will not be funding projects utilizing tire-derived mulch or tire-derived beads for artificial turf. Information can be found online at the following sites:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/federal-research-recycled-tire-crumb-used-playing-fields">https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/federal-research-recycled-tire-crumb-used-playing-fields</a>  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/july-2019-report-tire-crumb-rubber-characterization-0">https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/july-2019-report-tire-crumb-rubber-characterization-0</a>  <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9003429/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9003429/</a>
How many folks were on the call? I heard that about 60% were gov representatives but wondered about the total participation.	There were 112 participants, most of which were local governments. EPD has posted a document online that lists the participants who opted to post their name and affiliation in the chat during the meeting: <a href="https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant">https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant</a>
Our supervisors couldn't attend this webinar, but we're very interested in applying. Is there a way we could get a recording of it or schedule a meeting with someone to get more information?	Presentation slides and more information about the Tire Grant is available online at the following link: <a href="https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant">https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant</a>
Where can I find information about the grant if I missed the webinar?	Presentation slides and more information about the Tire Grant is available online at the following link: <a href="https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant">https://epd.georgia.gov/tire-products-tire-grant</a>

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Do playground surfaces have to be bonded rubber or can it be poured in place?	Playground surfaces may utilize poured-in place products such as EPDM recycled rubber mats so long as they are from tire-derived products (TDP). Please note that the recycled rubber must be sourced from scrap tires to be eligible for grant funding; recycled rubber that is not derived from scrap tires is not eligible for grant funding.  Bonded rubber is likely to be eligible as long as the applicant can demonstrate that the pieces are permanently fixed in place and not loose.
A playground is currently covered in mulch. How do we develop our budget if we want to use pour-in-place instead of putting down replacement natural wood mulch? In other words, do we subtract the costs from a complete amount of mulch or do we subtract the replacement mulch as the playground mulch is currently established?	It would be the difference in cost between the replacement mulch and the pour in place.
The project would involve placing the rubberized trail material onto the surface of an old slate trail to restore and improve the trail surface. Does the grant cover 100% of this cost?	The tire grant has two tracks. Paving projects would fall under the product track. In this track, funds will cover only the cost of the tire-derived product and the associated services. So in this scenario, it would cover the cost of the rubberized trail material and services like hauling and mixing.
We intend on resurfacing a 2560' walking trail with rubber from used tires. Will the grant pay the whole cost or only the differences from using virgin rubber?	In the tire-derived products track, the grant will only cover the cost of the TDP and the associated services. The grant pays for the difference in cost to use TDP instead of conventional/virgin materials. In the application, applicants are required to describe the total project cost utilizing conventional or virgin materials vs. the total project cost utilizing TDP(s).
We are looking to have a walking track redone with recycled tires. Do you know of another project like this in GA that has been awarded the grant?	This is the first time this grant has been available at EPD.
Would the grant cover the cost of removing an existing rubber path to repave with TDP?	Applicants would need to demonstrate if the site preparation activities are specific to the application for TDP to be eligible for funding. For example, if there is a specific activity that must occur in order for the vendor to use the TDP that is outside of normal preparation activities, that may be eligible.
The tire product company has recommended to lay stone under the product; would the grant cover the cost of the stone?	Applicants would need to demonstrate if the site preparation activities are specific to the application for TDP to be eligible for funding. For example, if there is a specific activity that must occur in order for the vendor to use the TDP that is outside of normal preparation activities, that may be eligible.
The Moultrie-Colquitt County Parks and Recreation Authority covers six cities in Colquitt County, and each will benefit if the grant is awarded. The Colquitt County Solid Waste Department is providing input since they host the Tire Amnesty recycling program in the County. Does this count as coordination with other eligible applicants towards the five (5) bonus points since each of these cities and Colquitt County are eligible to participate individually?	No, to receive the bonus points as a multi-jurisdictional project the project must be a joint application from multiple eligible entities, for example, neighboring counties, a city and a county, etc. Use of the area from those in surrounding areas would not count towards the bonus points.

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<p>On page 7 it states, "Does the application demonstrate the percentage by cost of the project that utilizes TDP and associated services in relation to the total project cost? 1 point. If yes, what is the percentage by cost of the project that utilizes TDP and associated services in relation to the total project cost? &lt;50% = 1 point; 51%-100% = 2".</p> <p>Can you explain how the scoring will be calculated? Specifically what is the total amount of points that can be achieved for this evaluation criterion?</p>	<p>Each evaluation criterion is worth up to 3 points. A score of 0 means the response was incomplete. A score of 1 means poor, a score of 2 means good, and a score of 3 means excellent. Each evaluation criterion is weighted. The score is multiplied by the category weight. For example, if the evaluation criterion scores 2 points and the category weight is 4, the weighted score would be 8.</p> <p>For the percentage of the cost of the project that utilizes TDP, 1 point is given for demonstrating the percentage plus an additional point is given if the percentage is &lt;50% of the total project cost (2 points), or 2 points are given if the percentage is &gt;50% of the total project cost (3 points). The total points are then multiplied by the weight of 4.</p>
<p>Who is responsible for completing the W-9 and the contractor affidavit form and do they have to be submitted at time of grant submission?</p>	<p>The applicant is considered the contractor and is required to complete and submit both forms along with grant submission.</p>
<p>During the webinar, I know the discussion around playgrounds was typically focused on poured in place. Will loose rubber mulch also be considered for playground renovations?</p>	<p>Tire-derived mulch and tire-derived beads for artificial turf are not eligible funding.</p>
<p>Our local shared police training site has a pistol and rifle range with a dirt berm. This range was built several years ago and all the shooting into the berm is causing it to crumble away. Putting chipped tire material on it is something we discussed a few years back but the cost was prohibitive. We think this would be a good option for us if we put it on thick enough. In researching these berms around the nation I have been told we need to use airplane tires and not regular tires due to the wire in car and truck tires. Do you think the grant would cover this project?</p>	<p>Chips are a loose material. This grant will fund pour in place, tile and other stationary materials.</p>
<p>If an applicant has an open EPD consent order, are they ineligible?</p>	<p>The SWTF Grant Review Team will review eligibility of each applicant. Part of this review includes a review of consent orders. If the EPD District Office, Division, or other issuing party provide confirmation that the applicant is demonstrating active compliance with a consent order, then the applicant may be considered eligible for grant funding.</p>
<p>Are public county schools eligible to apply for this grant?</p>	<p>Yes, public schools are eligible applicants.</p>
<p>In getting the breakdown of the services and materials, the company included a break out of "Taxes." As you know as governmental agency, we are tax exempt. Should we relay this to company (so it will be excluded from cost estimate) or should I include that as one of the line items for costs?</p>	<p>We suggest that you communicate with your vendor on the tax issue and request a new quote that reflects that. This way the vendor understands the City's tax-exempt status. Also, if it is not a cost that you are planning to pay it should not be listed as a line item on the application.</p>
<p>I am requesting funds for 5 playgrounds in the county, all of which have the same exact footprint. Would you like me to get 5 separate quotes for all 5, or will one suffice as I have cited throughout the application they are all the same size?</p>	<p>It is best practice for applicants to have quotes for each project, as costs such as transportation may vary.</p>
<p>I have a question about the difference in cost portion of the grant. My understanding is there has never been a quote given or sought after to surface this trail as it is relatively new and in a completely natural state of grass and sand. With that said, would we need to get a separate quote for other surface materials?</p>	<p>No. Applicants are asked to describe the cost difference when using virgin materials and TDP. Documentation is not required for the virgin material estimate.</p>

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Will there be another cycle of this grant?	SWTF Grants are authorized each state fiscal year, based on available funding. Grant cycle announcements for the next fiscal year will be made in the Summer of 2024.
Are county park and recreation departments eligible for the grant?	Yes, county parks are eligible for SWTF Grant funding.