



2008 NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM

Call for Proposals

As part of its ongoing mission to make Columbia more beautiful for residents and visitors alike, Columbia Green has established a Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program. Through it, Columbia Green awards grants to a variety of groups for beautification projects. The specifics of the grant program are outlined as follows:

Beautification Grant Detail:

Total Funding Available:	\$9,000
Individual Award Amount:	Up to \$3,000
Proposal Due Date:	November 1, 2008
Project Period:	Projects to be completed by May 31, 2009
Eligible Organization:	Residential neighborhood associations, neighborhood groups, garden clubs, etc.
Eligible Projects:	Landscaping/beautification of common areas, other public areas, entryways and recreational areas in the Columbia metropolitan area
Eligible Costs:	Grant funds are to be used solely to purchase plants and soil amendments.
Ineligible Costs:	Irrigation materials, installation, repair; Hardscape materials, installation, repair; Labor to install plant material. Grantee is responsible for all approvals, permits, easements, tap and meter fees that may apply.
Matching Funds:	Not required, but encouraged. Matching funds can cover the cost of labor, irrigation, fountains, landscape planning, etc. Sources of matching funds could include neighborhood association funds, private contributions or other grants.

Proposal Specifications:

Please submit your proposal with the following information:

- A description of the neighborhood and the location.
- The proposed landscape/beautification plan, including approximate dimensions of the project area(s) and the plants to be installed.
- Photographs of the site(s) to be beautified.
- A description of how the project will be sustained, including maintenance and any irrigation plans.
- An estimated budget for the cost of the plants. Note that expenses above \$3,000 for plants and amendments must be borne by winning group(s).

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by representatives of Columbia Green. We will take into consideration the expected benefit to the project area, the attractiveness of the proposed planting, expected sustainability of the plants by proposed maintenance and any irrigation and availability of matching funds, if any. An announcement of awards will be made at Columbia Green's Annual Meeting in November, after which winners will be immediately notified.

Post Award Grant Administration

- Grants are plant and amendment cost reimbursable. Grant recipients must purchase materials and supplies with their own funds, and will be reimbursed upon completion of the project. Receipts for all purchases must be submitted with the request for reimbursement.
- Substitutions made at the time of installation will be reimbursed only if they are horticulturally and aesthetically appropriate and as suitable as or better than what was originally specified, as determined by Columbia Green.
- Representatives of Columbia Green will visit the project site(s) upon receiving a request for reimbursement to verify the project's completion.
- A reimbursement check will be issued upon verification.
- At the discretion of Columbia Green, a small sign may be placed on the property indicating Columbia Green sponsorship.

Contact Information

Proposals should be submitted to the following address:

Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program
Columbia Green
P.O. Box 50191
Columbia, SC 29250

Grants given to organizations are made possible by generous donations and contributions. We appreciate your interest and commitment in helping beautify our capital city and encourage you to visit Columbia Green's website, www.columbiagreen.org to learn more about our organization and its grants, tours, other special programs and how you can join us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Columbia Green at 254-7595 or through www.columbiagreen.org