



Columbia Green Grant Programs

Call for Proposals

As part of its mission to make Columbia more beautiful for residents and visitors alike, Columbia Green has established two grant programs: Neighborhood Beautification Grants and Tree Initiative Grants. Awards will be announced at the Columbia Green Annual Meeting in November.

The Neighborhood Beautification Grants provide awards from \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000 for landscaping and beautification. The amount of funding for any individual grant depends on the specifics of the projects. All projects must be completed by the end of 2012.

The Tree Initiative Grants provide awards from \$500 to a maximum of \$2,500 for canopy trees, shade trees which, at maturity, will reach a height of 30 feet or more and have a crown spread of 20 feet or more. All Tree Initiative Grants must be completed by the end of 2012.

Details of the Neighborhood Beautification Grants and the Tree Initiative Grants:

Proposal Due Date:	October 1
Eligible Organizations:	City governments, residential neighborhood associations, neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations, garden clubs, etc.
Project Areas:	All projects must be planted in common areas, entryways and recreational areas in the Columbia metropolitan area.
Sustainability:	All projects must be sustainable either through xeriscaping or irrigation.
Eligible Costs:	Funds may be used to purchase only plants, trees and soil amendments.
Matching Funds:	Not required, but encouraged. Matching funds can cover the cost of labor, soil amendments, irrigation, fountains, landscape planning, etc. Matching funds may be provided by the applicant organization, private contributions or other grants.

Proposal Specifications:

Submit proposal with the following information:

- Title of the Grant Program (either Neighborhood Beautification or Tree Initiative)
- Description of the location
- Proposed landscape/beautification plan, including approximate dimensions of the project area(s) and the tree or plants to be installed.
- Photographs of the site(s) to be beautified.
- Description of how the project will be sustained, including maintenance and any irrigation plans
- Estimated budget for the cost of the project, including matching funds, if any. Note: for Neighborhood Grants expenses above \$5,000 for plants and amendments, and for Tree Initiative Grants expenses above \$2,500 for trees and amendments must be borne by the successful applicants.
- Timeline for implementation.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by representatives of Columbia Green. We will consider the following: 1) expected benefit to the project area; 2) the attractiveness of the proposed planting; 3) expected sustainability of the plants by the proposed maintenance and irrigation plan OR the viability of the xeriscaping plan; and 4) availability of matching funds.

Post Award Grant Administration

- Grantee is responsible for all approvals, permits and easements that may apply, particularly those related to a municipal or county right-of-way.
- Expenditures for plant and soil amendments are 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 1) they are horticulturally and aesthetically appropriate and 2) as suitable as or better than the original submission.
- Representatives of Columbia Green will visit the project site(s) upon receiving a request for reimbursement to verify the project's completion.
- 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 may be submitted by either of the following methods:

1. Electronically to Jackie Boland at cgreen1984@hotmail.com
2. Received at the following location:
Grant Programs
Columbia Green
PO 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 become a member. If you have any questions, please contact Columbia Green at 254-7595 or through www.columbiagreen.org.