

CITY OF COCONUT CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program is to stimulate and enhance neighborhood vitality by addressing the concerns and special needs of our neighborhoods. The City Commission has allocated funds for a Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program to assist in neighborhood planning opportunities, neighborhood enhancement programs, support of neighborhood/homeowner associations, and neighborhood partnership agreements. The City's mission statement is to exceptional, responsive, and sustainable services for the Coconut Creek community. Quality neighborhoods are crucial to attaining our mission. The state of our neighborhoods reflects the overall economic stability, social quality, and security of the City.

Project Criteria

- Neighborhood improvements shall benefit the entire neighborhood or community and demonstrate the direct involvement of the neighborhood residents. All project proposals must include members of the neighborhood in the identification, planning, and execution of the project. No project shall benefit an individual more than it would the entire neighborhood.
- Projects must be voted on and approved by the applicant association or organization. Documentation of affirmative vote and approval is required.
- Funds cannot be used for maintenance-type projects or improvements that are required by code. Maintenance includes, but is not limited to, re-sealing or re-paving streets, routine painting of walls or fences, trimming trees and/or shrubs, or installing improvements that are required as part of the City code or required as a condition of site plan approval, with the exception of a Street Tree Replacement project.
- Program funds cannot be used to replace the organization's current operating budget.

Eligible Applicants

The types of organizations eligible for funding include the following:

Neighborhood Associations – Voluntary, non-profit organizations formed by residents of a subdivision. The goal of these organizations is to enhance and preserve the quality of the neighborhood. Association activities may include beautification efforts and the development of crime prevention programs. Neighborhood associations have no regulatory powers.

Homeowners Associations – Mandatory organizations for all property owners within the boundaries of a development, including condominium and townhome associations. Homeowners Associations have legal authority to enact and enforce maintenance and design standards, and levy fees for maintenance of common areas. This type of organization is formed as a part of the development process of new neighborhoods prior to actual construction.

Schools – Accredited Schools serving elementary-age children and higher.

Non-Profits- Non-profit organizations that can assure the long-term maintenance of the enhancement.

Eligible Projects

The grant program is designed to provide funding assistance for specific neighborhood projects that promote a stronger, safer, and more sustainable community. Eligible neighborhood projects may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

1. **Beautification Projects:** Projects such as low maintenance landscaping or other improvements to rights-of-way or City-owned property, which serve to beautify the neighborhood. Projects may include upgrades to neighborhood identification or entry signage, lighting, or median landscaping.; all of which must fall outside of that which is code/site plan required.

2. **Energy Conservation Projects:** A project providing the use of renewable energy, such as solar panels, photovoltaic systems, or windmills, for the use of common area energy to reduce demand for electric power. Common area energy includes those site features where the HOA is responsible for electric bills such as clubhouse, pool equipment, site lighting, and site irrigation.

3. **Butterfly Gardens:** A project providing the planting and maintaining of caterpillar food plants upon which adult butterflies lay their eggs (larval host plants). Projects may include the planting of blossoming nectar plants to make the butterfly garden more beautiful and provide for adult butterfly feeding.

4. **Wildlife Habitat Sites:** A project providing the basic habitat elements (food, water, cover, and places to raise young), taking steps to conserve natural resources in the habitat, and applying for and receiving certification from the National Wildlife Federation as a “Backyard Wildlife Habitat.” The National Wildlife Federation certification application fee is eligible for reimbursement.

5. **Buffer Walls/Fences:** must screen, enhance community aesthetics, provide security and/or improve quality of life.

6. **Greenway Connections, Amenities, and Trailheads .**

7. **Street Tree Replacement:** A project providing street tree replacement plans when using the “Right Tree, Right Place” concept, and a new site plan is prepared to replace the approved plan of

record. This is not intended to be for a single tree or a grouping of trees but for the entire community under the HOA or Neighborhood Association.

8. Multi-phase Design Projects: The design of community landscape plans where existing approved plans are no longer consistent with industry best management practices (BMPs) and/or compatible with surrounding areas. Funds may be used for third party professional services and would be eligible for reimbursement based on the scale of community and as determined by the Director of the Department of Sustainable Development. Applicants shall enter into an agreement, committing to a multi-phase installation plan up to five (5) years. Failure to adhere to the installation plan will result in a reassessment of awarded funds.

9. Security and License Plate Reader Projects: Projects providing for the use of security cameras and License Plate Reading (LPR) Cameras. In order to be eligible for Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program Funds, LPR projects must utilize software that is compatible with the Police Department monitoring software and provide Police Department access to LPR information through a separate agreement. Applicants shall enter into an agreement with the City to ensure funded improvements shall be maintained in a reasonable condition allowing for normal aging.

Funding Priorities

Each project will be evaluated on the basis of how well it addresses the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program's main purpose of improving neighborhoods and the community. When there are more projects requested than funding can accommodate, projects that accomplish the following goals will take priority:

- Projects that propose the use of renewable energy sources for common areas.
- Projects that impact major thoroughfares will receive a higher priority than those that impact interior streets.
- Projects which serve more than one HOA or Neighborhood Association (adjoining or adjacent communities).
- Projects which serve to revitalize older or declining neighborhoods.
- Projects that further City and neighborhood goals and/or complement other public improvements.

Funding Restrictions

An applicant who has previously received funds will not be eligible to receive additional funds for five years unless:

- There are no other applicants that meet the criteria and/or funding requirements.
- It is a multiple Neighborhood Association or HOA project that will require that all neighborhood associations or HOAs apply, including previously funded associations, in order to implement the proposed project.
- There exists an approved multi-phase plan for community restoration as described in item 8 above under eligible projects.

Neighborhood Project Proposal/Application Requirements

The applicant must submit the required application form with a complete description of the project. The application must include the following listed items 1-13:

1. Contact names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the members who have the authority to act on behalf of the association/organization;
2. Project purpose;
3. Project description;
4. Estimated project cost, including an itemization of the described project plan and line-item estimates, the amount of City funding requested, the amount of matching funds supplied by the applicant, and the make-up of the funding (cash, materials, etc.). A minimum of three estimates must be submitted for all work over \$1,000;
5. Brief description of Maintenance Plan, including acknowledgement and execution of Maintenance Agreement;
6. Photographs of the proposed project area;
7. Plans, maps, or surveys depicting the project in relation to the neighborhood and surrounding community;
8. Letters of authorization, where applicable, from the appropriate agencies, abutting property owners of property to be improved, utility companies, etc.;
9. Board minutes showing approval of described project and funding commitment;
10. Landscape plans, where applicable, which include plant locations, quantities, species and sizes.

For an Application please contact Daniel Nelson @ dnelson@coconutcreek.net