



# Community Greening Mini- Grants 2009

# Washington Parks & People



Restores Washington by reconnecting two of its greatest but least utilized strengths: its vast networks of public lands and waterways and its diverse neighborhood people and institutions.

Through the generous support of the TKF Foundation, the Community Greening Mini-Grants enable a larger city-wide impact to achieve Washington Parks & People's mission.

# What is Community Greening?

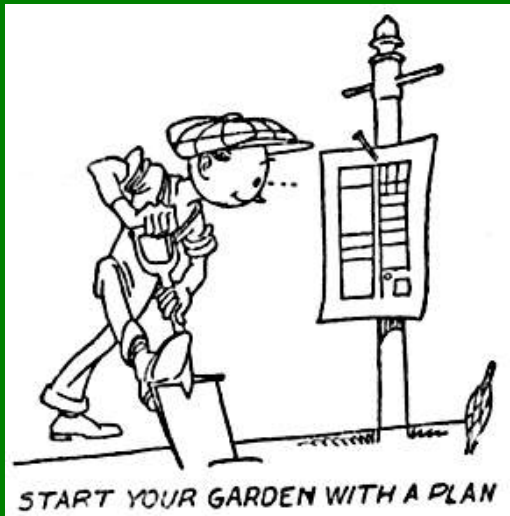
- **Community Building**: Community members working together to improve our neighborhoods.
- **Environmental improvement**: Beautification efforts create and improve neighborhood green spaces, reduce noise, water and air pollution, create habitat.
- **Health**: Heal, nourish, learn, grow.
- **Empowerment**: Urban residents gain access to public policy, economic resources and social interaction.
- **Green Jobs and Enterprise**
- **Cultural Heritage**: Information exchange between many different generations.

# Basic Requirements

- Community-based groups in Washington, D.C.
- Group must have a bank account or *fiscal sponsor*
- Must have right of entry to property
- Must have *project coordinator* and *planning team*
- Task list and *realistic* timeline that can be carried out within the grant period (November 2009)
- Budget and Tracking
- Evaluation and Assessment



# What makes a great project?



- Plan/design for sustainability
- Community benefits
- Positive environmental impact
- Clear community need
- Community engagement plan
- Broad partnerships

# What do we fund?

## Greening:

- tree grove/ orchard/ arbor
- streetscape/schoolyard greening
- park/ trail/ stream bank restoration
- environmental education activities
- neighborhood beautification
- container plantings
- tribute/ ceremonial garden
- meditation/ spiritual garden
- heritage garden
- learning and discovery garden
- play garden
- children's story/ fairy garden
- sensory garden
- rock garden
- water garden
- cultural/ international garden
- peace garden
- sculpture garden
- vertical garden
- container garden
- flower/ wildflower/ "weed" garden

## Community Gardens:

- vegetable/ herb garden
- native plant/ habitat garden
- rain garden
- healing/ hospitality garden
- gateway/ welcome garden
- memorial/ commemorative garden

# Other key components

- Edibility when possible
- Year-round life and use
- Climate-friendly landscaping: water efficiency, native trees, erosion reduction, low to no chemical use
- Realistic/ accessible design
- Youth Involvement
- Health impact



# The Application

- Due Date: February 13<sup>th</sup>, by 5pm.
- Email to [carrie.staton@washingtonparks.net](mailto:carrie.staton@washingtonparks.net)
- Mail or drop off to Josephine Butler Parks Center,  
2437 15th Street, NW.

**Organization Information:** inform reviewers of your groups purpose, history, and capacity



# Application continued:

**Project Description:** lead reviewers through your process of planning and thinking thoroughly about the project

I. Goals and approaches

II. Preparation: Site permission

Miss Utility 1800 257 7777 [www.missutility.net](http://www.missutility.net)

III. Implementation: How you plan to complete the project

*Task List Example*

**March:** Hold Community Meeting  
Recruit Volunteers

**April:** Pre-project Meeting  
Make planting /plan design  
Purchase materials & supplies  
Schedule work days

# Application continued:

**Volunteers:** Be *very* realistic on how many you need

## Recruitment/ Community Engagement:

- Form Partnerships: neighborhood commissioners, other community groups, organizations, local businesses, city council members
- Get the word out!
  - Talk to people, knock on doors, contact local papers
- Maintain transparency:
  - Host public community meetings
  - Attend other community meetings
  - Create signs to place at your site from day 1
  - Be open to comments, suggestions, and change
- Involve all ages
- Help people have meaningful impact
- Sustain volunteers and partners for the long haul



# Application continued:

## III. Project Maintenance

How often will somebody need to maintain the project?

Will you need a water source?

Does the soil need amending?

Do you have proper sun exposure?

Does your project need to be surrounded by a fence?

Will you require truck access?

Are you accessible to all?

Do you protect against theft and vandalism?



# Budget

- Keep it simple
- Be realistic
- Partial funding
- Cite other sources, if you have them
- Assess resources

# Application continued:

## Extras:

- Letters of support
- Photos
- Area map or drawing
- List of board or committee members
- Any other supporting documents

## Evaluation and Assessment

Why Kids Garden, Resources



# What happens next?

February 13<sup>th</sup>: Applications due

Mid-Feb/Mid-March: Site visits

End of March: Grantees notified

*A grant agreement will be sent with notification outlining the terms of the grant.*

## Grant Payments:

90% of award will be sent with notification

10% balance will be sent upon project completion

## During your Project:

Alert Carrie Staton or Steve Coleman about upcoming workdays and events

[carrie.staton@washingtonparks.net](mailto:carrie.staton@washingtonparks.net) or  
[steve.coleman@washingtonparks.net](mailto:steve.coleman@washingtonparks.net) or

202-462-7275

Save receipts and be sure expenditures are documented appropriately

# Questions?

