

GRAND RAPIDS

# URBAN FOREST PROJECT

*The Urban Forest Project is an initiative of Friends of Grand Rapids Parks in partnership with the City of Grand Rapids and funded by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation to engage our whole community in planting and growing a larger, healthier urban forest.*

Dear Neighbor,

You live in an **Urban Forest**. We see our City as a living ecosystem where **every tree matters**. Each and every tree around you is connected to other trees throughout the City through complex environmental interactions. Diseases, insects, and weather never affect just one tree, but rather an ecosystem of trees. Moreover, this connected system of trees provides a multitude of benefits that is far greater than the sum of its parts. From wildlife habitat and clean air to increased property values and a greater sense of place, our urban forest is important.

The idea that we live in a connected “Urban Forest” is relatively new. To further build its vital Urban Forest, the City of Grand Rapids has established a 40% tree canopy (or tree cover) goal in 2011. Currently, our city is at roughly 30% tree canopy. The City Forestry Department is working very hard to ensure their contribution to the canopy goal is met. However, a large portion of the trees needed to reach this goal will have to be planted and maintained on private lands. That's where you come in. Your involvement in spreading the word to your neighbors of the value of our Urban Forest is the first step towards insuring its growth and protection

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks **Urban Forest Project** seeks to raise awareness, increase understanding of Urban Forest issues, and further grow the City's canopy. As part of the Urban Forest Project, the Friends is offering local community or civic groups funding, technical assistance, trees, or support to host an urban forest project or event in the City of Grand Rapids.

Any Grand Rapids community or civic organization is eligible for funding to host events or complete forestry projects. Ideal projects and events will involve or inform local residents in expanding, protecting, or enhancing our City's Urban Forest.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Adams  
Executive Director  
Friends of Grand Rapids Parks

**Join your neighbors and get involved with growing the Urban Forest.**

**\*\*\*Applications are accepted on an on-going basis\*\*\***

**What kind of projects are eligible?**

Any project that involves community members in strengthening Grand Rapids' urban forest is eligible. We've funded tree maintenance, tree celebrations, tree mapping events, tours, tree plantings, and educational workshops. We're especially excited about new and unique opportunities to raise awareness and celebrate the trees in your community.

**What criteria will be used to evaluate project proposals?**

We're looking for projects which inform or help to grow Grand Rapids' Urban Forest. We like projects which have the potential to involve a high portion of your community or neighborhood. The best projects will have a visible and lasting impact on the urban forest within your community.

**Who is eligible to receive funding?**

Any community group, school, non-profit, block-club, faith-based organization or other group representing members of a community in Grand Rapids.

**What kind of help does the Friends of Grand Rapids Parks provide?**

In addition to trees or funding, we will serve as a resource and adviser to help you ensure your project meets its objectives. We can help you connect with other groups or neighborhood organizations who might have interest in partnering. We can also offer technical assistance, help publicize your project and in recruiting and organizing volunteers.

**What do we need to do as part of my project?**

You and your group will design and implement your proposed project or event. You will identify a primary contact and project manager. Your group will be the primary developers, planners, leaders, and doers for your project. Typical responsibilities may include: scheduling event space, leading outreach efforts, recruiting volunteers, and working with the Friends to find the appropriate assistance and resources to meet your goals.

**When are applications evaluated and awarded?**

Grant applications are accepted on an on-going basis. Planting projects must be completed in the spring or fall. Otherwise, we try to plan as many projects as possible for October NeighborWoods month. We will contact you regarding your application within four weeks of receiving it. We cannot promise that we have the resources to fund every project submitted, but we will do our best to help you complete your goals.

**How do we apply?**

If you have an idea for an exciting Urban Forest Project in your neighborhood, please remove the attached application and fill it out. We'll examine your idea, see if there's other partners in your area, and do what we can to help make it happen.

Questions and applications can be directed to:

Urban Forest Project Coordinator

info@friendsofgrparks.org

616-288-7209

ATTN: Urban Forest Project Coordinator

P.O. Box 3199

Grand Rapids, MI 49501

**Urban Forest Project Grant and Assistance Application**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Website (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

What is your group or organization's mission?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What other activities or projects related to the urban ecosystem or trees has your group participated in?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Area Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT DETAILS**

What type of project are you applying for (pick one option)?

Tree planting within a park (5-15 trees)

Other event or project (Max: \$1000)

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT NARRATIVE**

What is the goal of this project?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your project (150 words maximum):

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**BUDGET**

Total Project Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Max: \$1,000\*) **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ (number) trees

How will this money be used? (receipts up to \$1,000 will be reimbursed following project completion)

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Will you be contributing any supplies, money, or volunteer hours? How much? If you are asking for trees, how do you plan to maintain them?

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How else can the friends help or support your project?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of group/org representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date