City of Richmond

Program Overview

The Community Environmental Enhancement Grant provides financial support to individuals and registered non-profit organizations for action-based projects that have measurable, positive outcomes on the environment in Richmond. Projects must be inclusive and focus on initiatives that contribute to the enhancement, restoration or conservation of Richmond's unique island natural environment.

Program Requirements

All projects must demonstrate that initiatives are measurable and will result in positive environmental impacts. All applications will be reviewed and prioritized according to the following criteria:

- Activities that will lead to positive environment results within the timeframe of the project;
- Opportunities for community members to be involved;
- A clarification on the specifics of the positive environmental impact that the initiative will yield;
- Consistent with and supportive of the City's environmental goals as presented in chapter 9.0 Island Natural Environment of the Official Community Plan;
- Innovative projects that contribute to a connected and functioning Ecological Network as presented in the City's Ecological Network Management Strategy and Public Tree Management Strategy;
- Contributes to healthy, diverse and functioning ecosystems;
- Supports the development of a stewardship ethic in the community;
- Supports resident activation in environmental enhancement; and
- Supports the City's circular economy principles.

Richmond

Core Considerations

A successful project should address [Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#): *A Leader In Environmental Sustainability*:

1. Demonstrate leadership in proactive climate action and environmental sustainability;
2. Preservation and enhancement of Richmond's natural environment;
3. Waste reduction and sustainable choices in the City and community; and
4. Agriculture and local food systems to enhance food security.

Richmond's [Ecological Network Management Strategy](#) is the long-term ecological blueprint for the collaborative management and enhancement of the natural and built environments throughout the city, within neighbourhoods, and across land uses and development types in order to achieve ecologically connected, livable and healthy places in which residents thrive. The ecological network is built upon the following four primary goals:

Goal 1: Manage and enhance our ecological assets;
Goal 2: Strengthen City infrastructure;
Goal 3: Create, connect and protect diverse and healthy spaces; and
Goal 4: Engage through stewardship and collaboration.

Eligibility

1. Individuals are eligible for a $500 Environmental Enhancement Grant.
2. Registered non-profit societies (society incorporation number must be provided) are eligible for a $2,500 Environmental Enhancement Grant. These groups include:
   - Environmental groups;
   - Community groups;
   - Youth and seniors groups;
   - Community-led associations; and
   - Service clubs.

Note: Non-profit organizations operating outside of Richmond are eligible to apply for grant funding for projects occurring in Richmond, however these projects will receive lower prioritization than Richmond based organizations.

Political parties and organizations are not eligible to apply.

Purposes Eligible for Funding

Grants may be used for the following purposes:

- Materials (e.g., plants, soil, amender);
- Supplies (e.g., equipment rentals, tools, safety equipment);
- Marketing and promotion;
- Education;
- Honorarium (up to $350); and
- Insurance.

What Type of Projects will be Considered for Grant Funding?

The following are examples of eligible projects under the Community Environmental Enhancement Grant. These projects may be part of a larger initiative, or be carried out as one-day events:

- Invasive species pulls;
- Native tree and shrub planting;
- Create or enhance bird habitat;
- Create or enhance pollinator and beneficial insect habitat;
- Watercourse enhancement;
- Shoreline and street clean-up's;
- Wildlife education;
- Fruit tree gleaning;
- Projects that expand programs such as [Richmond's Bat Friendly City Certification](), [Barn Owl Box Program](), [Pollinator Programs]();
- Reduce light pollution in natural areas;
- Citizen science engagement and outreach initiatives;
- Water quality monitoring; and
- Green infrastructure projects (e.g., rain gardens, bioswales).

Note: Projects based on private property will only be considered after all public Property based projects have been considered and awarded.

Projects are not limited to the above examples, if you have questions on whether or not your project is eligible for grant funding please contact the grant administrator.

What Type of Projects are not Eligible for Grant Funding?

The following are examples of projects that are not eligible under the Community Environmental Enhancement Grant:

- Projects designed only to beautify an area for cosmetic purposes;
- Projects primarily focused on and/or expenses associated with the construction of infrastructure with the exception of projects related to natural infrastructure;
- Purchase of a vehicle or other non-grant related items;
- Lobbying, advocacy or fundraising activities;
- Further disbursement of funds to a third party recipient;
- Projects that take place outside of Richmond;
- Projects only designed for recreation; and
- Political activities including, but not limited to:
    - Promoting or serving a political party or organization
    - Lobbying of a political party, or for a political cause
- Programs and services delivered in partnership with political parties and organizations. For clarity, this does not exclude programs and services that receive funding from other levels of government, including funding provided by the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada.

What Makes for a Strong Application?

- Enhances, restores, conserves and/or protects the environment;
- Includes objectives that are realistic, achievable and measurable;
- Demonstrates direct and measurable environmental benefit;
- Provides an opportunity for community members to become actively engaged in the project activities and educates them on environmental issues;
- Clearly demonstrates the ability to carry out the project successfully;
- Clear project goals and objectives;
- Clear action plan, which is realistic and attainable in terms of timing and resources;
- Evidence of community support and inclusiveness;
- Evidence of an evaluation plan to measure project effectiveness;
- Evidence of financial need and fiscal responsibility; and
- Willingness to work in collaboration with other City-related sustainability initiatives.

Awarding of Grants

1. **Council Decision**
   - City Council reviews recommendations forwarded by the General Purposes Committee and makes the final decisions.
   - Generally, City Council will decide on grant allocations in the first quarter of the year. Please contact staff to confirm the date.

2. **Grant Disbursement**
    - Applicants may receive full, partial, or be denied funding for their application.
    - Applicants who receive partial funding will have the opportunity to confirm if their project can still be implemented.
    - Grants are distributed with a cover letter indicating the amount and purpose of the grant, a brief explanation of increase, decrease or denial if applicable, and to contact staff if further information is required.

3. **Reporting and Acknowledgement of Grant Benefits**
    - Those receiving a grant must provide evaluation results either at year-end or by the time you submit your application for the following year, if you plan to apply again.
    - Successful applicants must complete and submit the Environmental Enhancement Grant Final Report, which will be disseminated upon application approval.
    - City support is to be acknowledged in all information and publicity materials pertaining to the funded activities. To receive an electronic copy of the City's logo, please contact staff.

4. **Recuperation of Grant**
    - If the grant will not be used for the stated purpose, the full amount must be returned to the City.

5. **No Appeal**
    - There is no appeal to Council's decision.

6. **Final Report**
    - A final report, which will be provided to successful applicants, must be submitted upon project completion.

How to Apply

To apply, visit https://www.richmond.ca/culture/citygrant.htm.

Contact Information

For any information regarding the Environmental Enhancement Grant, contact Parks Programs at parksprograms@richmond.ca or call 604-244-1250.