Neighborhood Beautification Program (NBP) Grant Guidelines

DESCRIPTION:

The Neighborhood Beautification Program (NBP) is funded through the Neighborhood Improvement Fund (NIF) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). NBP supports the repurposing and beautification of Land Bank vacant lots in Detroit neighborhoods. The program is designed to grant funds to Department of Neighborhoods (DON)-approved neighborhood associations and block clubs, faith-based organizations, and non-profit organizations that currently own land or purchase Land Bank vacant lots in their neighborhood to carry out a public activity in their communities or neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Beautification Program (NBP) seeks to invest funding in public outdoor spaces located in disadvantaged communities that typically see less investments in their neighborhoods. Investing in disproportionately impacted communities will help address the increased health disparities often experienced in low-income communities.

Public space presents a timeless value that can enhance the spaces that define a community’s collective urban experience. NBP encourages community organizations to imagine how they can repurpose vacant lots to serve as community connectors, designed with shade, greenery, seating, plenty of space, socially distance, areas that enrich and expand the live-work-play experience throughout the neighborhoods and city.

OBJECTIVES:

Awarded Beneficiaries will partner with Wayne Metro, and the City of Detroit to achieve the following objectives:

1. Mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 and improve social determinants of health in disproportionately affected communities by increasing the quality and amount of green spaces
2. Advance equity and inclusion by supporting community-driven improvement projects in underserved neighborhoods
3. Decrease amount of blight in underserved neighborhoods, while increasing beautifying physical components
4. Increase number of outdoor gathering spaces in neighborhoods leading to greater community cohesion

AVAILABLE FUNDS:

Organizations can apply for $500-$15,000 per project. Grant awards may be less than requested per application. Organizations are permitted to reapply for funding for each grant year.

Allowable costs: Funds CAN be used for project related supplies and materials; to hire contractors or consultants; project related administrative fees up to 10%; and liability insurance.

Disallowable costs: Funds CANNOT be used for any of the following:
- Construction related activities, including but not limited to: hoop houses, sheds, or pavilions
- House or structure rehabilitation or improvement
- Water features or water catchment systems, including rain barrel installation
- Any project that requires cement to be poured
- Administrative fees that exceed 10%
- Staff payroll
- Projects that do not comply with city ordinances
- Conducting lobbying, carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation
- Influencing the outcome of any specific election through any means
- Purposes other than charitable, scientific, or educational Budget shortfalls, general support, or endowment funds
- Land acquisition or real estate purchases
- Individual scholarships or fellowships
- Reimbursement purposes (i.e., to cover costs associated with events or activities that have occurred outside of the Grant Term)
- Any costs not directly related to the funds requested in the proposal
ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS:

Organizations must meet **all three** of the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

1. Organization must be a Detroit neighborhood organizations that fall into one of the following categories:
   a. City Registered Neighborhood Association or Block Club, OR
   b. Nonprofit organizations or Faith-based organizations **working in partnership with a City Registered Neighborhood Association or Block club within 1 mile of their facility**. Partnerships must be documented with the provided [Neighborhood Beautification Partnership Letter Template](#).

2. Organizations must either have 501c(3) tax exemption status or identify a 501c(3) tax exempt organization as a fiscal sponsor

3. Organizations must be able to demonstrate site control of **properly zoned vacant lots** on which the proposed project will take place (up to 4). Site control is shown by:
   a. A deed or deeds held by a 501c(3) or LLC **with the same name as the applicant organization**

**NOTE:** Site control is **NOT required if the project consists ONLY of CLEAN UP ACTIVITIES. In this case, the lots must be owned by the city.**

LOT ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for funding, proposed projects must take place on lots that meet the following criteria:

1. Lots must be zoned as R1, R2, or R3.
   a. To check how your lot is zoned, please refer to this map:

   [https://detroitmi.gov/webapp/detroit-development-opportunities](https://detroitmi.gov/webapp/detroit-development-opportunities)

2. Lots must be owned by a legal entity with the same name as the applicant organization. **Projects on lots owned by individuals are NOT eligible for funding.**
PROJECT ELIGIBILITY:

NBP has three eligible project areas:

1. Clean-Up Activities
2. Community Gardens
3. Public Space Activities

See the chart below for examples activities within each project area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clean-Up Activities</th>
<th>Community Gardens</th>
<th>Public Space Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Lot Clean up</td>
<td>Raised-bed flower gardens, living fences</td>
<td>Community owned and managed Park Improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alley Clean up/Enhancements</td>
<td>Tree Planting</td>
<td>Neighborhood Beautification Projects/Public Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti Removal/Public Space</td>
<td>Vegetable/community gardens</td>
<td>Park and Playground Seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Clean-up</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gathering spots (pocket parks, seating, benches, picnic tables),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter Removal/CLB, City Lot/Public Spaces</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Art installation (Murals and Public Art)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be eligible for funding, projects must:

- Demonstrate community buy-in
- Demonstrate capacity to comply with program guidelines.
- Contain a clearly defined Scope of Work and Budget.
- Have realistic and achievable goals.
- Demonstrate clearly defined success and performance metrics and outcomes.
- Maximize positive impacts in the community it serves.
- Address community need
- Benefit Detroit residents and be available to the public
- Contain a Plot Plan: A Plot Plan is a simple one page drawing that shows the dimensions and configuration of your property. It includes the size and precise location of existing and proposed features and physical changes
  - See Appendix A for more information
REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDED BENEFICIARIES:
These requirements are only applicable to organizations who are awarded. More information will be provided with the award notice.

- All Awarded Beneficiaries must submit an application for and receive a Building Permit Application for each lot before project implementation.

- All Awarded Beneficiaries must obtain general liability insurance for the duration of the grant term (Liability insurance can be written as a budget line item)

- Comply with all grant agreement requirements, including: submission of a project completion report, monitoring of project, documentation of expenditure, and photographic documentation of project progress and completion to include before, during and after photos of lots.

- Awarded Beneficiaries must participate in the Program Assistant Liaison (PAL) program and Program Evaluation Activities. Failure to participate may affect eligibility and consideration for future funding and/or disbursement of grant monies.

- Grant funds must be expended within the grant term indicated on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (otherwise known as the Grant Contract). The MOU will be supplied by Wayne Metro to the Awarded Beneficiary before funds are disbursed.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications and all applicable documentation are to be submitted via the online submission form. 
Please note: you do need to complete the application in one sitting, you can save your work and resume.

Apply here

Applications are accepted and awarded on a rolling basis. The last date to submit an application is Friday, July 29, 2022. Applications will only be considered for funding if they are complete. Please read the following carefully.
A Complete Application Includes:

1. Completed Online Application
2. Completed Budget (contained within online application)
3. Proof of Site Control
   a. Deed(s) held by a legal entity (LLC or 501(c)3) with the same name as the applicant organization
4. Plot Plan (see Appendix A for more information)
5. If applicable, Partnership Letter with Block Club or Neighborhood Association
   a. Please complete and upload: Neighborhood Beautification Partnership Letter Template.
6. If the applicant organization is a 501c(3) or using the fiduciary status of another organization, the following documentation is required:
   a. 501 (c)3 IRS tax exemption letter in applicant’s name OR identification of a tax-exempt fiduciary organization & the following documentation related to the 501(c)3
   b. A list the Board of Directors
   c. Proof that an organization has no unresolved audit findings and tax issue, if applicable
   d. Most recent fiscal year financial statements that show the organizational operating budget
   e. 2021 - 2022 Michigan Annual Nonprofit Report
   f. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
   g. Certificate of Good Standing from LARA
   h. PLEASE NOTE: If the applicant elects to use Wayne Metro as their fiduciary, the above 501c(3) related documentation will not need to be submitted with the application.

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Submitting a complete application ensures a speedy review process. Incomplete applications will delay procedures and can affect application approval. Applicants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the following support.
Submit questions to the Participatory Grantmaking Team at nbg@waynemetro.org or call the Connect Center at 313-388-9799. Email inquiries will receive a response within 1-2 business days.

Information Sessions:
The presentation will cover the grant guidelines, including a review of required documents that make a complete application. The sessions will be virtual and applicants must register to attend. The same information will be presented at each session.

- June 23, 2022, 12 pm - 1 pm: Register to attend
- June 30th, 2022, 6 pm -7 pm: Register to Attend

Technical Assistance:
Technical assistance regarding obtaining an LLC, support navigating the application, questions not answered in the Grant Guidelines and/or access to the internet and computer/laptop will be available June 6th - July 27th through one of the following options.

- **Wednesdays and Thursdays**
  - **In Person**, by appointment, at:
    Wayne Metro - Lakeshore
    7310 Woodward, Suite 800
    Detroit, MI 48202
  - Email NBG@waynemetro.org to set up an appointment

- **Monday through Friday**
  - **Virtually via Zoom**, by appointment
  - Email NBG@waynemetro.org to set up an appointment
Appendix A- “Plot Plan Information”

See an example of a Plot Plan below. For more information on Plot Plans please refer to the Plot Plan, Site Design and Maintenance Guide.
How to Prepare a Plot Plan

1. Determine the measurements of property lines & existing structures

2. Measure how far structures are from property lines, including the dimensions of structures

3. Determine & draw a scale:
   - Graphic scale: Using a grid paper, where each square is a specific distance
   - Measurement: an example would be where 1" in the plot plan = 20' of the property
   - It is important to make clear what the scale is, whichever it may be

4. Draw a directional arrow or compass

5. Begin by drawing the property lines & all structures with dimensions. Including:
   - Existing buildings/structures
   - Proposed buildings/structures
   - Buildings/structures to be demolished

6. Add any additional details as required on a specific application.
   This may include, but is not limited to:
   - Project boundaries, including any fencing with height & material
   - Easements location with dimensions
   - Set backs
   - Driveways, walkways, and parking areas
   - Trees or other site features
   - Location & names of streets abutting property
   - Location of any alleys abutting the property
   - A more specific list of requirements is noted in the application

7. Include:
   - Name, address
   - Property address, parcel/lot number
   - Include square footage & acreage for the property & project

EXAMPLE:

[Diagram showing a plot plan with measurements and symbols, including easements, setbacks, and trees.]
Plot Plan Example #1

“Beautification Project”
1234 Fifth Street
Detroit, MI 01234

Draw your site:
- Property lines
- Sidewalks along edge of property
- Required setbacks for plantings, structures, and other items from the property line

Draw all existing and proposed:
- Structures
- Fences or other features
- Driveways or other vehicle access locations
- Water access
- Rain catchment systems or rain gardens
- Trees
- Signage
- Compost, brush and/or trash storage
- Temporary restrooms and screening
- Benches and sculptures or other art elements
- Paths

Draw in the areas where you will have:
- Row crops/planting areas
- Raised beds

Label all existing and/or proposed:
- Seed banking, permaculture techniques and pollinator habitat
- Streets and alleys next to the property
- Fences with heights and materials
- Dimensions and area of structures in feet
- Tool storage and chemical fuel storage needs
- Utility poles and fire hydrants