

# TREE PLANTING MINI-GRANTS

## *about the program*

In partnership with the City of Grand Rapids, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks is on a mission to increase our city's tree canopy to 40%.

We maximize the number of trees planted each year through public volunteer projects, tree giveaways, and by inviting community members to help shape plans for their neighborhood tree canopy with Tree Planting Mini-Grants. Every tree matters as we work toward this goal! A single tree's canopy can grow to spread 40-80 feet wide, not to mention the many benefits it provides.



## *frequently asked questions*

### **WHAT IS A MINI-GRANT?**

A mini-grant is funding awarded to interested groups for tree plantings ranging from 10-30 trees within the City of Grand Rapids.

### **WHO CAN APPLY FOR A MINI-GRANT?**

Any group representing a community in Grand Rapids is welcome to apply! This could include neighborhood, school, non-profit, block-club, faith-based or other groups. Interested individuals should engage with their community to apply with partners that support the desired tree planting.

Applications should be submitted by the group's main contact person. Groups which have not already received a mini-grant in the current calendar year will be considered.

### **WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED TO EVALUATE PROJECTS?**

Projects are evaluated by their potential to involve a large portion of a neighborhood in the process, the visibility of their impact on the urban forest (will the trees provide public benefit by being in a frequently accessed area?), and the applicant's commitment to on-going tree maintenance.

### **WHEN WILL I HEAR BACK ABOUT MY APPLICATION?**

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and you will receive an email confirmation that your application has been received. Before the Urban Forest Project committee evaluates projects, we will contact you to review and discuss grant criteria.

The committee reviews all applications and awards mini-grants seasonally (in the spring and fall). Mini-grant applicants will be notified of the status of their mini-grant consideration at that time.

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## *frequently asked questions*

### **IF MY GROUP IS AWARDED A MINI-GRANT, WHAT IS EXPECTED OF US?**

We will walk alongside you to help you gather or become equipped with the following:

- Provide at least five volunteers for the day of planting
- Help identify vacancies where trees could be planted (10-30 sites needed)
- Identify a couple of date options for the planting to take place
- Commit to performing or seeking tree maintenance as needed for two years as the trees establish (i.e. watering, mulching, etc.)
- Optional: We highly encourage applicants to seek matching funds, either from their own organization or from other community partners.

### **IF MY GROUP IS AWARDED A MINI-GRANT, WHAT DOES FRIENDS SUPPLY?**

We will provide the following to groups awarded a mini-grant:

- A site assessment by a tree expert to help verify vacancies
- Guidance for tree species selection based on identified planting sites
- Ordering and transporting of high quality, location-appropriate trees
- Day-of training, tools and personal protective equipment for all volunteers at the planting project
- Resources for on-going tree care and community engagement
- Ongoing access to Friends of GR Parks' staff and subject matter experts



## *questions?*

Our staff would love to help you with your application!  
Please contact us:

**Lauren Davis, Urban Forest Manager**

lauren@friendsofgrparks.org

**Abigail Bruins, Community Engagement Coordinator**

abigail@friendsofgrparks.org

Or you may access the application at:

**[www.friendsofgrparks.org/minigrant](http://www.friendsofgrparks.org/minigrant)**