Planting for Our Future

Frequently Asked Questions

The Planting for Our Future Project is an initiative of Friends of Grand Rapids Parks in partnership with the Grand Rapids Public Schools and Project Learning Tree with funding from the United States Forest Service to engage our whole community in planting and growing a larger, healthier urban forest.

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

What kind of projects are eligible?
Any tree project designed to expand, educate, and/or maintain urban forestry throughout the community. Funded is in two forms either $500 towards tree maintenance, tree celebrations, tree mapping events, tours, and/or educational workshops. Or full funding for a 5-15 tree planting all trees must be 1.5" caliper and selected from the approved species list. (Sorry, NO FRUIT TREES.) We're especially excited to see proposals that find innovative and unique ways to incorporate trees into student learning objectives.

What criteria will be used to evaluate project proposals?
We're looking for projects with meaningful student involvement; which inform or help to grow our community's urban forest. We like projects which involves and incorporates community or neighborhood involvement. We encourage Teachers who have taken or will be taking the Project Learning Tree training to apply. The best projects will have a visible and lasting impact on the urban forest and detailed maintenance plans. All proposals will be reviewed by the Planting for Our Future team as well as the GRPS Maintenances and Grounds Division.

Who is eligible to receive funding?
Any Grand Rapids Public School teacher and or administrator or any GRPS teacher or administration/community member team.

What kind of help does the Planting for Our Future team 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 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 Planting for Our Future Team to find the appropriate assistance and resources to meet your goals.

When are applications evaluated and awarded?
Grant applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

How do we apply?
If you have an idea for an exciting project, please remove the attached application and fill it out. Or access a fillable PDF version on the GRPS intranet. The intranet will also have resources to assist you with the proposal including sample tree curriculum and school property maps.

Questions and applications can be directed to either:

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