



#GREENMYCITY APPLICATION GUIDE

Not everyone has access to healthy green spaces. A poorly maintained space, littered and considered unsafe, is unlikely to be used by the community. These aren't features of good quality environments. Ideally, green space brings a sense of community and allows people to connect nature and each other.

The **#GreenMyCity** Program is an initiative of the Green Cities Foundation in its commitment to Protect, Nurture and Grow Public green spaces in cities for recreation, education and enjoyment. The program seeks to support communities to access various types of green spaces. Serving different populations with different services, from parks, playgrounds and community gardens, to sports field and open public spaces.

Our Mission.

Green Cities Foundation is a community connecting plants and people for a greener, healthier urban climate.

The Green Cities Foundation (GCF) has identified the need for green spaces in urban communities. By increasing the numbers, and quality of green spaces, Canadians can enjoy clean air, reduced city noise and a natural coolant to the increasingly hot outdoor temperatures.

These benefits can be achieved by increasing the quantity and quality of living plants, trees, shrubs, turf grass and perennials in the community. Contributing to the physical and mental health and wellness of the people enjoying these spaces.

Our Core Elements.

1. Protect, nurture and grow green spaces for people to gather and enjoy.
2. **Communities and people:** Communities and organizations come together to support their green space and benefit from positive health effects, including improved mood, stress relief, and promotion of physical activity. This is particularly important for children's opportunities to play and for fostering a basic sense of the environment.
3. **Environment:** Urban climate. Vegetation filters both air and water, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change, cooling our cities, and reducing the likelihood of flooding by slowing and storing excess rainwater.





APPLICATION PROCESS

Who May Apply?

Community gardens, businesses, service clubs, foundations, associations, and youth groups are all encouraged to apply.

What Are Eligible Green Revitalization Projects?

Maybe there's a public park in your neighbourhood that has been neglected, is run down, or needs some love and attention. Or maybe your local soccer field is a mucky mess every time it rains, and it's in need of renovation.

Any publicly owned land that could more productively contribute to your community's overall health and well-being may be eligible for restoration or revitalization. We want to help communities create or improve green spaces that people will be able to enjoy and that will improve air, soil, and water quality and the quality of life.

Projects must be located on publicly owned, accessible open spaces in urban Canadian communities, including the following: community gardens, city parks or streets, historic green spaces, sports fields, parks, brown spaces, green spaces, school grounds, and gardens.

Eligible Funding

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An ideal Green My City Project would involve the applicant being fully engaged and committed to partnering with the Green Cities Foundation by fundraising in their own community, recruiting community volunteers, and even donating to the project themselves.

Through our partnership connections nationally, the Green Cities Foundation will help provide plants, turf, and other landscape materials that support our mission. Our goal is to create involvement and support from the local community through volunteerism and in-kind and financial contributions so that we can build, enhance and create awareness every step of the way.



The Program Will Not Fund:

- The purchase of land.
- Fencing and urban furniture.
- Fabricated play structures.
- Annual maintenance costs.
- Contributions to a general fundraising campaign.
- Advocacy or research.
- Asphalt projects.

The #GreenMyCity program and grant opportunity will fund up to 50% (cash and/or in-kind labour/material donations) of green space improvements within your project.

Each project will be evaluated on its own merit and based on its ability to fulfill our mission.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested organizations must apply online at <https://www.gcfoundation.ca/apply/>. The application questions include the following elements:

1. General information.
2. Budget and material list.
3. Project summary, objectives, target audiences, community need and impact. Project goals and GCF mission.
4. Community engagement.
5. Project sustainability.
6. Environment: Urban climate. Does the project feature flowering shrubs, evergreens, perennial grasses, and trees? Does it help improve flood and erosion control? Does it reduce noise pollution? Does it increase shaded areas? Does it remediate a brownfield area?

Application Deadlines

1. Apply online any time before the start date of your project/ activity.
2. In 30 days, you will receive a decision on whether your proposal has been 'approved' or 'declined.'
3. Should we require further information regarding your request, we will contact you.

Contact Information

Prospective applicants are encouraged to complete an application at <https://www.gcfoundation.ca/apply/>

Please note that we only consider timely or complete applications for funding.

If you have any additional questions, or for more information on how to get involved, please contact Vivian Shum, Project Coordinator at projects@gcfoundation.ca, or visit us at www.gcfoundation.ca

