

Greening Grants

Thinking of creating a green space or have one and looking for ways to maintain or enhance your community's green space? Here is a list of organizations and programs to help fund various greening projects in Baltimore City. We're providing you this list so you can get ready and mark your calendars for the ones that have passed so you can be ready next year!

Please note that this is not a complete list, as funding sources are sometimes seasonal, annual, or temporary. Please contact info@baltimoregreenspace.org to share other resources or information that we may include in future publications.

Available Grants in 2025

Abell Foundation

Accepts funding requests of \$10,000 or less, on a rolling basis

Accepts funding requests of \$10,000 or more, due Jan 1, March 1, May 1, July 15, and Oct 1

- The Abell Foundation awards grants to nonprofit community partners working to improve the quality of life in Baltimore. We provide seed funding for innovative pilots, support for ongoing community programs and services, and funding for capital projects. Consideration is also given to applications for grants that provide creative responses to pressing community needs, strengthen the operational base to ensure more effective and efficient delivery of services and demonstrate potential for stimulating new sources of financial support.
- **Who Can Apply:** The Foundation provides grant funding to organizations that have 501c3 or 509a nonprofit tax status, or are a government agency or fiscally sponsored project. Programs should fall into one of Abell's program areas and focus on Baltimore City. Applicants must include a copy of their latest IRS determination letter and federal tax identification number (EIN), or proof of fiscal sponsorship.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://abell.org/grants/>
 - grants@abell.org, 410-547-1300

Baltimore Community Foundation

Stronger Neighborhoods Grant (\$1000-5000 for smaller projects, \$20,000 for larger projects)

This grant has a rolling submission and awards calendar throughout the year.

- This fund prioritizes proposals that have demonstrated community-wide support and align with one or more of our key funding focus areas: safe, clean, green, and vibrant neighborhoods.
- **Who Can Apply:** Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status. They will also consider projects working with fiscal sponsors as long as the fiscal sponsor meets financial standards.
- **More information:** <https://www.bcf.org/stronger-neighborhoods/>

Baltimore National Heritage Grant

Neighborhood Placemaking Grant (\$1500-5000 with a required match)

This grant application opens mid-September and closes mid-December. Awarded funds are available in February 2025 (50% of award).

- The goal of the Neighborhood Placemaking Grant Program is to assist neighborhoods with: enhancing their quality of life through heritage tourism and environmental stewardship, become more visitor-friendly and visitor-ready, balance community and tourism, and increase awareness of the Baltimore National Heritage Area and its resources for neighborhoods.
- **Who Can Apply:** Eligible applicants are non-profit organizations and tax-exempt community/neighborhood associations in good standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. Proposed projects must be within this boundary: <https://www.explorebaltimore.org/page/bnha-boundary-map>
- **More Information:**
 - <https://www.explorebaltimore.org/grants/heritage-neighborhoods-grants>
 - First-time applicants to Baltimore National Heritage Area are required to contact Kenyona Moore, kmoore@baltimoreheritagearea.org, 410-878-6411

Bmore Beautiful

Love Your Block Microgrant (\$500-\$1,500)

This grant application will open in July 2025, deadline to be announced.

- Love Your Block are microgrants that are used to support small community-based beautification efforts. This community engagement grant is designed to support small projects that have a clear public benefit, reducing litter while enhancing the overall aesthetic of the neighborhood.
- **Who Can Apply:** Interested residents, neighborhood groups and community organizations
- **More Information:**
 - <https://ecb.baltimorecity.gov/grant-opportunities%2%A0>
 - Natasha Neale, Natasha.Neale@baltimorecity.gov, 410-396-6909

Say YES! Grant Program (Amount Varies)

Grant applications for spring cycle will open in March 2025

- Say YES! (Youth Environmental Stewards) Program is a seasonal youth engagement program. Community based organizations can apply for a grant to engage with up to 5 youth in their community on various beautification efforts. Selected youth must live in the neighborhood that they are working. Supervision is provided by community leaders as a way to foster mentorship for the next generation of community leaders and activities.
- **Who Can Apply:** Eligible organizations must be a registered 501c3 OR have a fiscal sponsor with a registered 501c3 designation.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://ecb.baltimorecity.gov/grant-opportunities%2%A0>
 - Natasha Neale, Natasha.Neale@baltimorecity.gov, 410-396-6909

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grants (Up to \$5000)

Application open in July every year on a rolling deadline and ends when all funds are awarded.

- The Community Engagement and Restoration Mini Grant Program is designed to support activities that enhance communities, engage residents, and improve natural resources, such as tree plantings, rain gardens, stream cleanups, and storm drain stenciling. To see a longer list of potential projects, read the full Request for Proposals (RFP). *Please note the RFP is updated every year.*
- **Who Can Apply:** Nonprofit organizations, community associations, faith-based organizations and more. The Trust seeks to engage groups that have traditionally been under-engaged with environmental issues but also new applicants and organizations from a diverse array of communities. Only applicants who have received three grants or fewer from the Trust in the past are eligible to apply.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://cbtrust.org/grants/community-engagement/>
 - Kayleigh Katzenberger, at kkatzenberger@cbtrust.org or 410-974-2941 ext. 127

Outreach and Restoration Grant Program (\$50,000-125,000)

Applications due in August 2025

- This grant program encourages outreach, community engagement activities, and on-the-ground restoration projects that increase knowledge, change behavior, and accelerate stewardship of natural resources that involve residents in restoring local green spaces, waterways, and natural resources. Applicants can request funds from one of the following tracks.
 - Track 1: Outreach/Knowledge Building Projects (up to \$50,000)
 - Track 2: Behavior Change Projects (up to \$75,000)
 - Track 3: Restoration Projects (up to \$100,000)
 - Track 4: Outreach and Restoration Projects (up to \$125,000)
- **Who Can Apply:** Non-profit organizations, community and homeowner associations, faith-based organizations, and more.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://cbtrust.org/grants/outreach-and-restoration/>
 - Danielle Hamilton, dhamilton@cbtrust.org, 410-974-2941 x115

Additional Grants from Chesapeake Bay Trust

Applications and deadlines vary. Visit <https://cbtrust.org/grants/> for information about many additional opportunities.

Forever Maryland – Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant Program

The Community Stewardship Grant (Up to \$5000)

This grant application opens in September 2025, due mid-November 2025

- This grant supports projects that develops and encourages the ongoing work of organizations that are demonstrating active engagement as defenders of the environment by developing innovative solutions to local environmental problems. Proposed projects should activate citizens and encourage stewardship through education and outreach while elevating awareness of local environmental problems and working to reduce them.
- **Who Can Apply:** Schools, nonprofits and other community organizations whose missions are centered upon directly engaging community members (especially children and young adults) in environmental education and stewardship.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://dnr.maryland.gov/met/Pages/GrantDetails.aspx>

MD Department of Agriculture Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Program

Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant (87.5% of project cost)

This application is open as long as funds remain available per fiscal year (July 2024 - June 2025)

- This financial assistance program provides annual funding through Fiscal Year 2027 to help urban farms and community gardens purchase and install equipment to access water and electricity needed to sustain their operations. The grant provides up to 87.5% of the total project cost. Eligible expenses include water meters, water pipes, irrigation hoses, electric meters, electrical lines, or other equipment authorized by the department.
- **Who Can Apply:** To qualify for this grant, you must be growing in an urban area, produce a farm product that generates a minimum of \$1,000 in sales or donations annually, and comply with all local, state, or federal regulations and secure required project permits.
- **More information:**
 - https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/Infrastructure-Grants.aspx

Maryland's Healthy Soils Competitive Fund

This application is open from December 7 2024 through March 7 2025

- This financial assistance supports conservation practices to enhance soil health, yield, productivity and carbon capture in innovative ways. Eligible practices include cover cropping, integrated pest management, prescribed grazing, silvopasture in agroforestry settings, and many more. There are no minimum or maximum acreage requirements or criteria around farm size.
- **Who Can Apply:** Individual farmers in MD, groups of farmers in MD, individuals or organizations conducting research with farmers in MD. You may apply for more than one conservation practice.
- **More information:** https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/Soil-Health.aspx

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership

Community Grants (\$2,000-100,000)

Applications accepted quarterly, Next Deadline is Winter 2025

- The project must serve or otherwise benefit the residents, businesses, institutions, or organizations of the District served by South Baltimore Gateway Partnership.
- **Who Can Apply:** Any non-profit organization, faith-based organization, community group, PTO, or government agency can apply. For Spark and Small grants, this even includes unincorporated community organizations, or groups of active community residents, so long as you can find a fiscal sponsor to help.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://sbgpartnership.org/community-grants/>
 - Acacia Asbell, aasbell@sbgpartnership.org

United Way of Central Maryland

Neighborhood Grants (\$2,500 - \$10,000)

Applications due October 30 2025 for the funding period of Jan 1 - Oct 31 2026

- The United Way Neighborhood Grant is an opportunity to receive \$2,500 to \$10,000 in funding to carry out community-centered projects that are resident-driven, connect community members and create impact in Central Maryland through projects that inspire community connections, empower local leaders and build vibrant neighborhoods.
- **Who Can Apply:** Local organizations with total annual operating budgets of \$500,000 or less
- **More Information:**
 - <https://uwcm.org/grants-funding-opportunities/neighborhood-grants/>

Central Baltimore Partnership

Community Spruce Up Grant Program (\$10,000-20,000)

Application typically opens in March, deadline is May or early June

- Supports projects that are neighborhood-driven related to open space and capital improvement projects in the 11 Central Baltimore neighborhoods served by Central Baltimore Partnership.
- **Who Can Apply:** Applicants may be neighborhood associations, merchants groups, or other not-for-profit organizations located in, or serving, the neighborhoods of Abell, Barclay, Charles North, Charles Village, Greenmount West, Midway, Oakenshawe, Old Goucher, Remington, Wyman Park, and/or the Waverly Main Street. Full applications must also include a letter of support from their local community associations.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://www.centralbaltimore.org/community-spruce-up>
 - Aaron Kaufman, akaufman@centralbaltimore.org, 443-681-7098

BGE Green Grants (\$500-\$10,000)

Application typically opens in the spring in April; deadline in 2024 was June 2, 2024

- Environmental stewardship is one of BGE's core values. Due to our commitment to use natural resources responsibly, prevent pollution and, improve energy efficiency, BGE Green Grants are being offered to communities within the BGE's service area. These grants complement our environmental giving and are part of steps to link our employees to the communities they live and work in. Applications will be considered for new and existing programs that fall within the Environmental Focus Areas (Conservation, Education, Energy Efficiency, Pollution Prevention, Community Engagement).
- **Who Can Apply:** 501c3 non-profit organizations with a Board of Directors and the project must be located geographically within the BGE service area.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://www.bge.com/safety-community/community/community-initiatives/environment/green-grants>

Bmore Beautiful**Care-A-Lot Program (up to \$5,500 or up to 25 lots and 10 visits at \$22 per lot)**

Grant applications for 2026 cycle will open in January 2026 with a deadline in February 2026

- The Care-A-Lot Program is designed to support t innovative community groups and organization in the cleaning, mowing, maintenance and beautification of vacant lots in Baltimore City.
- **Who Can Apply:** Eligible organizations must be a registered 501c3 OR have a fiscal sponsor with a registered 501c3 designation. This program is not intended for landscaping, small haulers and other small businesses.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Care%20A%20Lot%20Program%20Description.pdf>
 - Natasha Neale, Natasha.Neale@baltimorecity.gov, 410-396-6909

Activate Your Space Grant Program (Up to \$5000)

Grant applications for spring 2026 will open in October 2025

- This grant is available for projects to transform vacant lots through the City. Activate Your Space is designed to provide the resources, education, and support to create unique, safe and publicly accessible community managed greenspaces. Importantly, Activate Your Space will prioritize applicants that incorporate at least 1 CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) strategy into their application.
- **Who Can Apply:** Eligible organizations must be a registered 501c3 OR have a fiscal sponsor with a registered 501c3 designation.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://ecb.baltimorecity.gov/grant-opportunities%C2%A0>
 - Natasha Neale, Natasha.Neale@baltimorecity.gov, 410-396-6909

Celebrate Urban Birds

Mini-Grants \$250-2500

New proposals for 2026 will accepted in the fall of 2025.

- Celebrate Urban Birds (CUBs), aims to co-create inclusive, equity-based citizen science projects and programming that stem from priorities of communities that have been historically underrepresented or excluded from birding and science. They seek to improve quality of life and promote better science by including missing voices, perspectives, and experiences. Once a year they invite community-based organizations and leaders to apply to mini-grants for "Equity, Birds, and Conservation." These are focused on promoting events that center Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in birdwatching and ornithology.
- **Who Can Apply:** Mini-grants are awarded to organizations from Canada, United States, Latin America and the Caribbean. Organizations that work with underserved communities are strongly encouraged to apply. No experience with birds required.
- **More Information:**
 - <https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/community/minigrants/>