

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
St. Louis Region Community Conservation Funding Opportunities



Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) engages partners and provides opportunities for active citizen involvement in conservation efforts in urban communities. MDC offers the Community Conservation Grant Program to support partner-led habitat improvement projects and connect communities to nature.

Applications to the Community Conservation Grant Program should be relevant to the goals of MDC's Community Conservation Program:

- Provide support for terrestrial and aquatic habitat improvement in urban areas,
- Coordinate efforts among similar organizations which share the common goal of improving urban habitats and supporting community conservation efforts,
- Train partner organization staff in native habitat restoration and long-term management practices of sustaining natural landscapes, and
- Engage the public through conservation education and volunteer opportunities.

Proposal ranking

Proposals for this grant opportunity will be ranked based on a 100 point scale for the following criteria:

- Value and quality of habitat restoration or improvement activities (40 points)
 - MDC grant funds must be spent on terrestrial or aquatic habitat enhancement.
 - Projects should have a detailed and realistic budget and timeline of project activities.
 - A long term plan should be included which describes management activities and responsibilities following completion of grant project to maintain habitat improvements.
- Partnerships developed, matching resources (25 points)
 - Partners are defined as those organizations and entities which contribute financially or in-kind to the project. This does not include contractors who will be paid for services.
- Staff training and re-tooling (25 points)
 - Long-term success of grant projects will depend upon the grantee staff knowledge and organization equipment necessary for managing natural landscapes.
 - Project implementation should include staff training on applicable topics such as invasive species identification and control; native Missouri plant identification; turf to native warm season grass conversion; forest, woodland, and prairie management; storm water solutions, etc. Applicants are encouraged to attend the variety of existing training and workshop opportunities available. Specialized training may also be contracted using grant funds.
 - Equipment necessary for project implementation and long-term management may be purchased with grant funds (up to specified limits).
- Visibility and outreach potential (10 points)
 - Projects which are accessible to the surrounding community, involve volunteers, and have high visibility and potential for educational programming will receive a greater number of points.

Proposals will be accepted until 5pm on September 11, 2015.

Community Conservation Grant

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants include (1) government entities (e.g., municipal and county parks departments, schools), or (2) non-profit corporations. Applications from schools and school districts must identify a full-time staff member as project manager.

Projects must be located in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, Jefferson County, or incorporated areas of Franklin, Lincoln, or Warren Counties.

Grant awards

The maximum request for grant awards is \$30,000.00. Funds will be distributed in March or April 2016 as a lump sum payment.

Preference will be given to projects which utilize match or in-kind contributions.

Eligible practices

Practices eligible for funding include land management activities necessary for habitat restoration such as: native plant establishment, terrestrial and aquatic habitat enhancement, and exotic species control, and staff training for natural landscape management.

Funding for equipment purchases must not exceed \$5,000.00. Equipment purchase over this amount may count toward in-kind contributions. *Funding will not be granted for the development of educational materials or for administrative salaries.*

Grantee requirements

Grantees will be required to sign a cooperative agreement, submit progress reports that include both a financial and narrative summary on progress toward project completion, and comply with all terms of the agreement.

Cooperative agreements will include a requirement that the grantee will draft and implement a 15-year management plan for the project.

Assistance and questions

Grant applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the grant program coordinator prior to submitting an application to discuss a potential project and the application requirements.



Grant Coordinator Contact Information

Erin Shank, Urban Wildlife Biologist
Missouri Department of Conservation
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
11715 Cragwold Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Email: Erin.Shank@mdc.mo.gov
Phone: 314-301-1506 ext. 4207

Proposal deadline for FY 2016 funds

Proposals must be received by 5pm on September 11, 2015.

Grant proposals may be mailed or emailed as a pdf document to the appropriate Grant Coordinator. Please do not fax proposals.

The MDC Grant Selection Committee will notify applicants of their status by December 1, 2015.

MDC reserves the right to modify its procedures, standards and policies from time to time without prior notice and without the consent of applicants or others. While it is not the intent of MDC to inconvenience or disadvantage applicants, MDC believes it must retain the ability to adjust to changing legal, factual and experiential circumstances in discharging its statutory responsibilities and fulfilling the goals of the grant program.

In addition and for the same reasons, MDC reserves the right to reject any and all applications and to award such grants as MDC may determine to be appropriate from time to time. The points set forth in this application are not totally determinatives as to whether a grant is awarded. And MDC reserves the right to consider other factors in awarding grants.

PROJECT APPLICATION

Proposals must be received by 5pm on September 11, 2015. Please limit grant applications to 8 pages or less (not including maps or letters of support) and use the following format for grant applications:

1. Project basics:
 - a. Title
 - b. Lead organization
 - c. Project manager and contact information
 - d. Amount of funding requested in this application
 - e. Total project budget
2. Project description:
 - a. List project objectives, including acreage and habitat types involved.
 - b. Describe activities/ land management practices and an associated timeline (grant funds will be distributed in spring 2016, and projects must be completed in three years following grant award). Include plant species lists.
 - c. Include long term management plan describing how improvements will be maintained or managed for the next 15 years following initial project completion, and who will be responsible for long-term management. If the project includes invasive species removal, describe how the area will be retreated to control regrowth.
 - d. Include map/ aerial photo or sketch of the project site (hand drawn maps are acceptable).
 - e. If this project received previous MDC funding, provide information on previous accomplishments.
3. Project partners:
 - a. List partner organizations and contact information.
 - b. Describe the contribution (financially, in-kind, or volunteer) of each partner to the project. Do not include paid contractors as partners unless services are donated.
4. Staff training:
 - a. Detail training needs and proposed workshops, classes, or contracted training for staff to ensure long-term management of habitat improvements.
 - b. If there are no training needs for staff describe how existing staff and their knowledge will ensure long-term success in habitat management.
 - c. Describe equipment needs for management of project area and how any grant-funded equipment purchases are necessary for long-term viability of the habitat improvements.
5. Project budget:
 - a. Include itemized budget that indicates the source and intended use of grant funds, matching funds, and in-kind contributions (calculate the value of volunteer labor using Missouri minimum wage, \$7.65/ hour).
 - b. Indicate whether partial funding would be acceptable for your proposed project.
6. Fiscal responsibility:
 - a. Identify grantee fiscal agent and signature authority for grant agreement, include contact information.
 - b. List nine-digit Federal Tax Id Number.
 - c. Provide a list of non-profit organization's board members and officers if applicable.
7. Letters of partner commitment:
 - a. If the project is located on a property not owned by the lead contact, include a letter from the property owner stating support for the project.
 - b. Include other letters of support as applicable.

