

Sustainable Neighbourhood Small Grant Application Guidelines

What is the Sustainable Neighbourhood Small Grant?

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Small Grant (SNSG) is a new funding program under the Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund. The purpose of the Sustainable Neighbourhood Small Grant is to support resident-led sustainability projects within the City of Markham that reduce the community's carbon footprint and enhance the health and resilience of our ecosystem and natural environment.

What are our goals?

The Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant will support and empower residents to undertake their own Green Markham initiatives – in their homes and gardens, on the road, at work and in the community.

Projects, activities and events that help to increase environmental awareness and engagement will be given high priority. Youth-led or youth-centric projects are strongly encouraged.

Projects that receive funding will help achieve one or more of the following:

- Contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Enhance the health, resilience and sustainability of our ecosystem and natural environment
- Help attain Markham's Zero Waste targets
- Beautify neighborhoods and communities
- Conserve and protect our natural environment

Who can apply?

Markham residents only can apply for the Sustainable Neighbourhood Small Grant. The application requires at least two (2) applicants from different households. At least one applicant must be over 18 years old. For-profit organizations and businesses are not eligible to apply for the Sustainable Neighbourhood Small Grant.

What are some environmental objectives & project ideas?

Your project must support actions that contribute to reducing Markham's carbon footprint and are required to meet at least one, if not more environmental objectives.

Contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

- Offer bicycle repair clinics

Help attain Markham's Zero Waste targets

- Organize free sewing and mending workshops

Enhance and increase natural species and habitat

- Pollinator gardens on your private property
- To learn more, visit [Pollinators in Our Community](#)

Where can projects take place?

Your project, activity or garden* must take place on your private property and be visible or accessible (if applicable) to the public.

*Gardens cannot be located in the following locations:

- Areas not visible or accessible to the public
- Boulevard planting (area between the street curb and the sidewalk)
- Public space (parks, laneways)

What about tree planting projects on my private property?

Markham' Trees for Tomorrow program has a strategic partnership with the Region of York to fund tree planting in your side or backyard.

- **Backyard Tree Planting Program** Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (L.E.A.F) Endorsed by Markham's Trees for Tomorrow initiative, the Backyard Tree Planting program provides trees to Markham residents at an additional discounted price through the Full Service or Do-It-Yourself programs.
- Learn more at YourLeaf.org

What about projects in parks and open space?

Markham offers a number of community green initiatives which you can participate in.

Grant eligibility or City resources/support is determined through the review of the specific program criteria.

- **Adopt a park** – The Adopt-a-Park program encourages individual residents, families, businesses, schools and community groups to become environmental stewards of their local parks and open spaces. The program promotes community pride through the clean up of litter, community plantings and additional volunteer work to keep our lands clean and green. A minimum of two cleanups a year makes you eligible to Adopt-A-Park.
 - Learn more [Adopt a Park](#)
- **Community gardens** – Markham is home to community and allotment gardens across the city, for residents who want more growing space! Community gardens are spaces governed by a community group, where growing, cleaning, maintenance and harvesting is done collaboratively. Allotment gardens are owned by the city, and residents can lease plots of land from the city for a set fee.
 - For more information contact sustainability@markham.ca
- **Neighbourhood clean up** – Markham encourages community stewardship and neighbourhood pride through the support of resident driven clean-up initiatives on our trail network, woodlots and greenspaces. Register your clean-up with the City to get free supplies.
 - Contact customerservice@markham.ca
- **Yellow Fish Road Community Events** – The City of Markham partners with Trout Unlimited Canada to present The Yellow Fish Road™ program which educates residents of all ages that storm drains are the doorways to our rivers, lakes and streams the importance of source water protection and preventing storm water pollution. [Learn more](#)

- **Public Realm /Community Public Art Projects** - Public Realm projects include everything from community public art to animating our neighbourhoods and districts, our efforts to keep Markham beautiful and create engaging spaces, such as destinations and gateways. If you have an idea about how to improve the public realm please contact the public realm group. publicrealm@markham.ca
- **Little Free Library Book Exchanges** - The City of Markham installed nine Little Free Library Book Exchanges around the City in 2019. Now part of a worldwide network of Little Free Libraries, the program supports and encourages sustainability, strong neighbourhoods and literacy. If you would like to volunteer to support one of the City's Little Free Libraries please contact publicrealm@markham.ca
- **Community Volunteer Ice Rink Program** - Markham encourages the building of outdoor ice rinks in approved park locations, by supporting neighbourhood volunteers through the Volunteer Ice Rink Program.
 - Contact customerservice@markham.ca
- **Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund (MESF)** is a municipal program that provides funding to non-profit, Markham-based organizations for innovative, environmental initiatives that contribute to the sustainability, health and protection of Markham's natural environment.
- To learn more visit [Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund](#)

What are the other requirements?

- You can only apply for one Sustainable Neighborhood Small Grant per funding year
- Your project must be free, accessible and welcoming to all
- You may not request donations, fundraise for other projects and/or organizations or profit from this project
- You must begin your project once you have been selected as a recipient and the grant must be spent within 12 months of approval. Projects are not supported retroactively.

What are the budget considerations?

1. Grant amount is determined and approved by the MESF Committee;
2. Grants may be approved up to \$500.00;
3. Grant money used to pay for in-kind services (called honorariums) may not exceed \$100.00;
4. Project budget must indicate the actual cost of items purchased;
5. The grant must be spent within 12 months of approval;
6. Original receipts must be submitted to account for all project costs;
7. Be resourceful and think about how to obtain materials through borrowing or donations;

How do I apply?

Visit [Sustainable Neighbourhood Small Grant](#) , review all criteria and guidelines; submit your project application to sustainabilitygrant@markham.ca

How are projects evaluated?

A City Staff committee will review and evaluate all applications each funding year and make recommendations to the Executive Leadership Team. Recommendations, including grant amount and conditions are assessed through scoring and discussion.

Projects submitted for funding will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

Impact

How well does the proposal identify a need, propose a solution and clearly state the hypothesis in terms of levers of change and potential to measurably advance one or more of Markham's sustainability goals?

Realistic

Does the proposal offer a realistic plan for achieving its goals and objectives? Are the costs and timeframe reasonable?

Community Engagement

Does the project involve those affected by the proposed work and increase the skills and assets of Markham residents, where possible?

Community Benefit

How is the project inclusive and has the capacity to benefit all City of Markham residents?

Learning & Knowledge Transfer

What is the plan and willingness to share findings with neighborhood organizations and members?

What happens after the project is completed?

Upon completion of the project, and no later than 12 months from delivery of the funding, you are required to submit your project report.

Project Report must include:

- Accurate accounting documenting how funding was spent
- Original copies of paid invoices
- Evaluation/description of the success/any shortfalls of the project
- Photographs and videos for review and promotion of the project
- Completed Photo & Video Consent Release Form

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about your project application.

Please contact us at sustainabilitygrant@markham.ca.