

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Approval of Neighborhood Matching Grants for Fiscal Year 2012

Meeting Date: April 9, 2012
Department: City Manager's Office
www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods

Agenda Item Number: 2C
Staff Contact: Cindy Clarke
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5272

ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council is asked to approve the fiscal year 2012 Neighborhood Matching Grants proposals recommended for funding by the Neighborhood Matching Grants Department Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

On June 12, 2000, the City Council adopted Resolution 4632, adopting guidelines for a Neighborhood Matching Grants program. Grant-funded projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical improvement projects that involve recreation or public safety facilities, natural resource features, public art and spaces, or community gardens. Projects that improve universal accessibility are also encouraged.
- Public school partnership projects that benefit school children and the immediate neighborhood.
- Neighborhood-based events and celebrations.
- Capacity-building initiatives that serve to create, diversify, or increase participation in a neighborhood-based organization or promote an understanding of issues important to neighborhood residents.

All neighborhood-based groups are eligible for funding, including neighborhood associations, business associations, school site councils and ad hoc neighborhood groups formed to work on specific projects. Community involvement and building relationships are key components of the program and are encouraged by requiring that the project budget includes a match amount equal to, or greater than, the grant request.

To date, more than \$490,000 in matching grants has funded 89 projects community-wide. When the "match" portion of all projects is considered, the combined value exceeds \$1 million. The benefits of the program go beyond the financial investment. As one applicant eloquently stated: "*When community members work together in any capacity, they strengthen relationships. When people work together on enhancing a public space, they not only enhance relationships, but build a community legacy that benefits everyone.*"

Although council no longer allocates dedicated funding for matching grants, Neighborhood Services has so far maintained the program by shifting resources from other areas.

Grant applications were solicited through media releases and outreach to neighborhood associations, community organizations and previous grant recipients. Nine applications were initially submitted for consideration during the pre-review process; three applicants opted not to submit a final application for various reasons.

Six proposals were submitted for final consideration:

- 1) CAN Walkability Project (Churchill Area Neighbors);
- 2) South University Traffic Enhancement Project (South University Neighborhood Association);
- 3) Tree Inventory and Assessment (Jefferson Westside Neighbors);
- 4) Map Your Neighborhood Project – Action Plan Eugene (Amazon, Southeast Neighbors, Friendly Area Neighbors);
- 5) Whilamut Natural Area Gateway Restoration Project (Harlow Neighbors); and,
- 6) Willakenzie Grange Site Improvements (Harlow Neighbors).

The Neighborhood Matching Grants Department Advisory Committee met with all six applicants on March 12, 2012, and recommended that all projects receive funding. The six proposals total \$25,564.84 in grant funding and are described in Attachment A.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Implementing a neighborhood matching grant program was a high-priority action item identified in the Neighborhood Empowerment Initiative. By leveraging neighborhood and community resources, the program supports council goals and outcomes for a safe community, sustainable development, accessible and thriving culture and recreation, effective and accountable municipal government, and fair, stable and adequate financial resources.

Grant applications are scored by the advisory committee based on the following criteria: tangible neighborhood benefit, neighborhood community involvement, project readiness and sustainability values. Sustainability values are based on the City's triple bottom line framework and include impacts to environmental health or ability to address climate change; impacts on the local economy and/or use of public resources; and project contributions to social equity through benefits to underrepresented or vulnerable populations or by promoting safety, cultural awareness, and building of community relationships.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The council may approve, amend, or deny the grant recommendations.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends the City Council approve all of the grant recommendations.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to direct the City Manager to fund the fiscal year 2012 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals as recommended by the department advisory committee.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Neighborhood Matching Grants 2012 – Department Advisory Committee Recommendations

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Attachment A

Neighborhood Matching Grants 2012 - Department Advisory Committee Recommendations

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
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CAN Walkability Project	CAN Walkability Collaborative, Bailey Hill Safety Committee	Churchill Area Neighbors	\$2,502.30
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This project provides pedestrian and safety improvements near Acorn Park and W. 15th Avenue and includes a pedestrian refuge in an area heavily utilized by neighborhood children who wait at that location for their school bus.

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
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Tree Inventory and Assessment	Jefferson Westside Neighbors	Jefferson Westside Neighbors	\$2,142.54
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The inventory and health assessment of all trees located in planting strips throughout the Jefferson Westside Neighborhood are key elements of this project. Information collected will be shared with Public Works and the Friends of Trees to help determine replacement options and maintenance needs. Partners include Friends of Trees.

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
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Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)	Action Plan Eugene, Helios	Neighborhood Association Amazon Neighbors, Friendly Area Neighbors, Southeast Neighbors	\$3,200.00
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Project coordinators assist in the creation of neighborhood disaster preparedness groups by holding training sessions and providing tools for group leaders who will work in the neighborhoods creating awareness and building capacity in the event of a disaster. Includes distribution of basic equipment for organizing MYN to support local emergency communication networks. Helios Resource Network and the City of Eugene Emergency Management are both identified as partners.

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
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South University Traffic Sign Enhancement Project	South University Neighbors	South University Neighbors	\$4,000.00
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This project includes the purchase and installation of decorative and theft resistant posts for traffic signs and street signs in designated area (Agate Street) in the South University area. Partners include the University of Oregon and Public Works Maintenance.

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
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Whilamut Natural Area Gateway Restoration Project	Nearby Nature	Harlow Neighbors	\$5,000.00
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Focused on an area near the Frohnmayer Pedestrian Bridge, the project includes volunteer "restoration celebrations" that will foster the development and stewardship of the Whilamut Natural Area. These working celebrations includes removal of invasive plants and replacement with native plants with additional litter control. Partners include Network Charter School, Rachel Carson Academy, and Harlow Neighbors.

Attachment A

Neighborhood Matching Grants 2012 - Department Advisory Committee Recommendations

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
Willakenzie Grange Site Improvements Site improvements including painting, gutters, and lighting consistent with historic building guidelines and a site cleanup removing invasive species and pruning existing native plants at the Willakenzie Grange building that will allow for a more accessible and inviting neighborhood and community center. A celebration that includes historical tours and site tours will take place in June. Partners include the Willakenzie Grange and Metro Housing.	Mohawk Grange and Harlow Neighbors	South University Neighbors	\$8,720.00
TOTALS			\$25,564.84