

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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Action: Approval of Neighborhood Matching Grants for Fiscal Year 2013

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Meeting Date: April 8, 2013  
Department: City Manager's Office  
[www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods)

Agenda Item Number: 3G  
Staff Contact: Cindy Clarke  
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## ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council is asked to approve the fiscal year 2013 Neighborhood Matching Grants proposals recommended for funding by the 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.

Since 2000, more than \$515,000 in matching grants have funded 96 neighborhood improvement projects community-wide. When the "match" portion of all projects is considered, the value of these projects well exceeds \$1 million. The benefits of the program go beyond the financial investment and are an investment in building community. 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.*"

Grant applications for neighborhood projects were solicited through media releases and direct outreach to neighborhood associations, community organizations, and previous grant recipients. 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. Eight applications were initially submitted for consideration with five making it to the final review:

- 1) Acorn Park Accessibility Project
- 2) Friendly Park: Little Free Library
- 3) Harlow Community Information Kiosks
- 4) Little Dog Corner: Shelter
- 5) Skinner City Farm: Mobile Cannery Unit Building Initiative

The Neighborhood Matching Grants Department Advisory Committee met with all applicants on February 25, 2013, and recommended that all projects receive funding. The five proposals total \$24,251.67 in grant funds and are described in Attachment A. When combined with the value of the match provided by the applicants the total value of all projects is over \$59,000.

### **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, and fair, stable and adequate financial resources.

### **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 2013 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals as recommended by the department advisory committee.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Neighborhood Matching Grants 2013 – Department Advisory Committee Recommendations

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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2013 Neighborhood Matching Grants - Recommended Projects

Project Name	Description	Applicant/Lead Contact	Partners	Requested Grant Amount
Acorn Park - Walkability/ Accessibility Project	Sidewalk installation from W 14th into Acorn Park, creating accessible and safe access to the park entrance.	Tom Schneider; Wayne Wilson	Bailey Hill Safety Committee	\$ 5,678.70
Friendly Park Little Free Library	Book cabinet attachment to the Friendly Park kiosk registered as a "Little Free Library" complete with books and periodicals available to community to borrow and make donations.	Hope Crandall	Parent Groups from Adams Elementary, Village School, Hazelwood Outdoor Kindergarten	\$ 1,287.51
Harlow Community Information Kiosks	Construction and installation of information kiosks in two locations in Harlow Neighborhood: Bertha Holt Elementary, and Monroe Middle School to be used in partnership with the neighborhood, school, and community groups.	Jennifer Yeh	4), Harlow Neighbors	\$ 2,520.46
Little Dog Corner	Construction of shelter to cover the picnic table in center of Small Dog Corner.	Lauren Chouinard	Amazon Neighbors, Park Users,	\$ 4,055.00
Skinner City Farm - Mobile Cannery Building Initiative	Construction of a fence and storage to house mobile cannery unit and cannery supplies in order to expand food preservation efforts and education for all community gardens.	Karl Benedek, Stacey Janssen	Center for Appropriate Transport, Whiteaker Community Council	\$ 10,710.00
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>\$ 24,251.67</b>