

## **Building Resilient Communities through Green Infrastructure in Parks – Community Engagement Grant**

In partnership with Southwest Airlines, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) aims to build resilient communities, whose residents are engaged and empowered to create solutions for the challenges facing their communities. As a component of NRPA's Great Urban Parks Campaign, this grant opportunity will support innovative strategies around community driven green infrastructure projects in parks. The goal of this grant is to support community engagement activities that provide best practice strategies and lessons learned on how to effectively engage and empower residents in green infrastructure projects.

Grants of \$10,000 will be awarded to three communities to fund community engagement activities that educate and empower local residents to be active drivers in planning, design, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of a green infrastructure project in their local park. Matching funds of at least 1:1 will be required. Matching contributions may include cash, in-kind contributions of staff and volunteer time, materials and services donated, or other tangible contributions to the project objectives.

The grant period will be between May 2017 and November 2017. Successful grantees will be required to submit a final report using NRPA's online reporting template by December 15, 2017.

### **Eligibility:**

- The principal applicant must be a park and recreation agency or affiliated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- The project must take place at a park site in a low-income underserved community and include significant green infrastructure components.

### **Successful applicants will:**

- Have an existing community engagement plan that considers the particular needs and barriers to participation of local residents and demonstrates how they will create a community engaged in green infrastructure solutions.
- Include community partners, committees, and local leadership in engagement and implementation.
- Outline strategies for measuring success and describe how local residents will continue to be engaged in the project after the grant period.
- Identify and describe the underserved, low-income community that they will reach, including demographic statistics compared to the surrounding communities and region.
- Demonstrate the need for and impact the green infrastructure project will have on the community.

### **To apply:**

Please answer the following questions in short essay format to complete your application. **Answers to all questions are required for consideration.** Do not delete or change the questions.

- 1) Provide an overview description of the planned project including: the need for and impact it will have on the community, and the green infrastructure components of the project.
- 2) What is the total amount of secured funding to date for the overall project?
- 3) Please provide demographic information about the community or population involved in and served by the project.
- 4) Narrative summary describing how your agency/organization plans to use the grant funding. Please touch upon each of the following:
  - a. Describe the proposed activities that this funding would support.
  - b. How many people does your agency plan to reach through an engagement plan?
  - c. What local partners do you plan to involve in the community engagement work?
  - d. What are ways your agency/organization will educate the community on green infrastructure benefits and solutions?
  - e. What ways can local residents continue to be engaged after the grant period ends?
  - f. What are the proposed strategies for measuring success of the plan/activities as well as metrics that will be used to track results?
- 5) Please provide a timeline for the green infrastructure project (including community input, design, engineering, permitting, installation, completion, initial maintenance schedule).

Applications are due by **11:59 pm EST April 21, 2017**. Applications should be submitted to our online portal [here](#) in a word document or PDF format. Applicants will be notified whether or not they were selected for this grant by May 5, 2017.

For questions more information, please visit the [Great Urban Parks Campaign](#) website. For questions about the grant or application, please contact [Jenny Cox](#) at [jcox@nrpa.org](mailto:jcox@nrpa.org).