

Open Lands Program

Small Grants for Community Partnering

Criteria

1. Proposed projects must be in accordance with the mission of the Larimer County Open Lands Program and fall into one or more of the four Small Grants for Community Partnering categories listed below:
 - A: Provide or enhances natural areas, including wildlife habitat, river areas, and wetlands.
 - B: Provide linkages with existing open lands (Linkages may be either trails or wildlife habitat.)
 - C: Provide opportunities for environmental education, outdoor recreation, or nature interpretation.
 - D: Provide opportunities for people to connect with the land via parks, agriculture*, increased access to open spaces and natural areas*, or research on Larimer County open spaces.*

**see page 2*
2. Projects must be in Larimer County (unincorporated or city/town limits). Grant dollars will be distributed in Larimer County only, and to the extent possible, throughout the entire county. Preference is given to those associated with protected land (e.g., HOA's covenant-protected lands, neighborhood parks, etc.)
3. Projects must have a minimum match of 50% of the requested dollar amount. For example, a \$1,000 request requires a \$500 match. The match may be from in-kind services, volunteer hours, private dollars, and/or other funding sources (e.g. other grants).
4. Projects that include planting and/or habitat improvement must use native and/or non-invasive, drought-resistant plant species appropriate for the selected environment, except for projects categorized as "Agriculture."
5. If applicable, a long-term maintenance plan is required and should be included in the application.

Funding limitations

1. Small grant funds are for project implementation only and may not be used for salaries and/or project planning expenses, except for projects categorized as "Research on Larimer County Open Spaces."
2. Funding for transportation expenses is only available for projects categorized as "Increased Access to Open Spaces and Natural Areas" or "Research on Larimer County Open Spaces."
3. Tools and other equipment (e.g. GPS units, weed sprayers, etc.) may be funded with an acceptable justification of why they are required for implementation of the project. The SGCP program requires a disposition plan following use of the equipment. Requests for funds for tools or equipment that will be donated to a public agency or organization after the intended use will be looked upon more favorably.
4. A multi-phased project may be funded over multiple years and requests for new funding will be partially dependent on past project accomplishments. A complete, new application is required during each grant cycle that funds are being requested. If money received in previous funding years has not been spent at the time of the new application, new dollars will not be granted to the project until that money has been spent on its dedicated purpose and a final report submitted.

Criteria 1: Category D expanded:

D: Provide opportunities for people to connect with the land via parks, agriculture*, increased access to open spaces and natural areas*, or research on Larimer County open spaces.*

* *Agriculture* projects must also meet the following criteria:

- Provision of local food production, including community gardens, CSAs, etc., with a preference for projects which:
 1. are community minded (connecting a community and its people to an area)
 2. are conservation minded, and
 3. have local distribution

* *Increased Access to Open Spaces and Natural Areas* projects must also meet the following criteria:

- Getting people out into open spaces or natural areas, made available at least in part with the open spaces sales tax dollars. Projects may be one or more of the following:
 1. nature-based education
 2. nature-based health and wellness programs
 3. nature-based recreation
 4. transportation to open spaces and natural areas
- Projects on Larimer County properties must be approved through the special event process before funding.

* *Research on Larimer County Open Spaces* projects must also meet the following criteria:

- Provision of new information about or a better understanding of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources' properties which have a nexus with the open spaces sales tax dollars, or the people who use those properties. Projects should encourage intellectual curiosity about our natural world and/or how people connect to it. Research projects may be:
 1. Ecological (examples: species, plants, etc.)
 2. Behavioral (example: relationships of people to open spaces, etc.)
 3. Cultural (examples: barriers to use of open spaces, historical use of open spaces, etc.)
- The project must be approved through the special event process before funding.
- Funding for research may not be used for college or university overhead or administrative costs.