

Streamside clean up and/or streamside plantings

Stream cleanups and plantings engage the community in restoring and maintaining the streams within their communities. Stream cleanups provide an opportunity for volunteers to see the effects of litter on wildlife and creeks. Planting native plants along creeks connects volunteers to their local waterways and improves water quality. These projects are often included in the same grant and target the same audience(s), whether they are in the same or separate project areas.

Before you fill out the grant application, read through the application packet for Class A Neighborhood Projects to make sure this grant is the right fit for your neighborhood group.

As you fill out the grant application, please follow the guidance below. If you have further questions, please contact Frank Mabson at fmabson@lexingtonky.gov for assistance.

1. Group stream focused efforts can provide:

- public education through signage, creek walks, speakers, educational materials, social media and neighborhood level outreach
- public involvement through litter cleanups, plantings
- water quality improvement through cleanups, native plantings
- stormwater runoff reduction through native plantings
- E. coli pollution reduction through native plantings

2/3. Cleanups do not require a permit or consulting firm. Streamside plantings require a permit or consulting firm if the bank of the stream is altered or regraded.

4/7. If the project is located on city, neighborhood or private property, permission is required from the property owner or neighborhood association through an email or letter included with the application. For permission in a city park, please contact Frank Mabson [fmabson@lexingtonky.gov] for the appropriate Parks contact person.

8. Describe where you would like to do your stream cleanup or planting, your audience (neighborhood, other groups), and how you will communicate with volunteers.

For streamside plantings, you will want to have an idea of what kind of plants, the size of the area you wish to plant and how many volunteer hours you will need to complete the plantings. The City's Plant by Numbers program offers a streamside planting guide for both sunny and shaded areas:

<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/PlantByNumbers>

9. Include accurate roles and contact information for your project team. If there are questions about the grant application, they can help with answering them.

10. Your project schedule should take planting seasons into account and have wiggle room if work days must be delayed due to weather. In general, spring and fall are good times to plant.

11. Your budget determines your grant amount, so please be as precise as you can and make sure you include all possible costs. Supplies and equipment you may consider including in your budget:

- Trash Bags
- Litter pickers
- Gloves
- Masks for group activities
- Wheelbarrows
- Trash disposal options – is there a nearby dumpster you are allowed to use? Do you need to contact the City for a truck to pick up extra trash?
- Native plants
- Mulch
- Shovels, rakes or other planting equipment
- Seedling mats
- Bottled water for volunteers
- Educational materials (graphic design, printing)
- Signmaking services (graphic design, sign making, installation)

12. If your project location receives lots of litter from nearby areas, include that information. Educational outreach that includes pet waste, and native plantings reduce E. coli pollution.

13. Think about how you'd like your project area to look in five years. How will your project help accomplish this future?

14. Your target audience includes direct volunteers as well as anyone who may receive educational materials, attend a presentation or view signage at your project location.

16. Include support letters from the community that may be affected by the project, news articles about the project area or any other documentation that supports why this project is needed and that the community supports it.

17. The executive summary should be short and to the point: what is your project, how will it improve water quality, reduce runoff and/or provide education and the estimated cost. Include what makes your project unique, how it relates to the project area's history or community needs, or something else that would make your project stand out from other stream cleanups or plantings.