Thriving Gardens Grant: Improvement Projects

Vermont Community Garden Network (VCGN) is seeking proposals for Garden Improvement Projects that improve an aspect of your community-based garden. Grantees receive funding, training and planning assistance to move forward garden improvements and support the growth of a thriving garden or garden program.

Before starting the application please review the following details. The following document allows you to preview the questions PRIOR to filling out the application. To complete the application go to: https://tinyurl.com/rwvktcv. We recommend that you also type and save all of your answers separately, as you will not be able to save or print your final online application.

For more details on grant benefits, requirements, etc. go to VCGN's "Thriving Gardens Grant" page, the "Garden Improvement Projects" section: http://vcgn.org/what-we-do/thriving-gardens-grant/.

Eligibility

- Any existing community-based garden
- Garden is located in Vermont
- Applicant is a VCGN Member (http://vcgn.org/membership/)

What does a thriving garden look like?

This will depend on your own garden’s goals and unique culture. However, elements we’ve seen over the years that encourage a successful, thriving garden include: a place where people want to be, with robust soil, plants and garden ecosystem, that provides equitable space and opportunity for your community to learn, gather and grow their own food.

Examples of projects

- Soil health: a new compost system; soil health workshops
- Community building: community events; picnic tables and garden art
- Educational enrichment: gardening 101 classes; bulletin board and educational signs
- Biodiversity: pollinator-attracting plants; perennial plantings

This grant does not fund

Funds from this grant are intended to support improvement projects. These funds do not cover ongoing or recurring expenses such as coordinator stipends, annual plants, water bill, etc.

Timeline

- Application open: January 8, 2020
- Applications due: February 19, 2020
- Grantees announced: by March 11, 2020
- Reporting due: October 8, 2020

Questions? Please don’t hesitate to call (802-861-4769) or email Libby (libby@vcgn.org).
Applicant Contact Information

- 1st Primary Contact Name *
- 1st Primary Contact Title/Role in Garden
- 1st Affiliated Organization (if any)
- 1st Primary Contact Email *
- 1st Primary Contact Phone *

- 2nd Primary Contact Name *
- 2nd Primary Contact Title/Role in Garden
- 2nd Affiliated Organization (if any)
- 2nd Primary Contact Email *
- 2nd Primary Contact Phone *

Garden Info

- Garden Name *
- Garden Physical Address (where garden is located) *
- Website and/or social media for garden (if applicable)

Connection to VCGN

- Are you or is your garden a VCGN member? Yes/No *
  
  To be considered eligible for the VCGN Grant the applicant or the applying garden group must be a VCGN member. More information and online membership sign-up can be found at [http://vcgn.org/membership/](http://vcgn.org/membership/).

- If you are applying under an individual VCGN membership (rather than your garden or organization), please list the name associated with the membership.

- Has your garden received a VCGN Grant before? Check all that apply.
  
  - Gardens for Learning
  - Green Thumbs at Work
  - Garden Flood Relief Grant
  - School Community Garden Grant
  - VCGN Mini-grant
  - Thriving Gardens Grant
  - Other

- If you are a previous VCGN grant winner, what year(s) did you receive your award? How did you use the award?
Garden Background

The following information will be used to fill out the picture of your garden/garden program as well as to populate our online Garden Directory.

- **Primary Garden Contact Name**
- **Garden Contact Email**
- **Garden Contact Phone**
- **Which of the following community-based garden types best describes your garden?** *select 1*
  - Community (individual plots +/or shared space)
  - School (PreK-12, for school use only)
  - School/Community (school and community use)
  - Education (primary use education, not at school)
  - Housing (for housing community residents)
  - Workplace (for employee use)
  - Other
- **What year was your garden established?**
- **How many people participate directly in the garden?** *Estimate is fine*
- **Describe your garden/garden program. Include details about the population involved, types of activities that take place in the garden, and other relevant details.** *Limit 80 words*
- **Does your garden offer (or plan on offering) summer programming for youth focused on gardening and food/nutrition education?** Yes/No*

Garden Improvement Project

- **Select the key issue(s) for your garden/garden program you want to improve through your proposed project?** *
  - soil health
  - overall garden health
  - communications
  - community building
  - education/learning opportunities
  - pest management
  - gardener accessibility
  - other
- **If you selected "other" above, list other key issue(s) you hope to improve through your proposed project.**
- **Describe your proposed Garden Improvement Project.** *
  Include details about: how you plan to address the above issue(s) through your project (i.e. activities planned, materials and other resources needed) and how you determined a need for this project at this time. Limit 350 words
- **Explain the benefits you hope to see as a result of this project. Who specifically will the project benefit? How will the project benefit them? (your garden, gardeners, and the greater community)** *Limit 250 words*
- **Total amount of funding requested through Thriving Gardens Grant ($400-$1000 funding range):** *
What training and other non-financial support will help your group successfully complete your project?*
How do you plan to sustain this project beyond the scope of the grant?* Limit 250 words
Please list everyone (individuals, groups of people, organizations, businesses, etc.) who has already committed their support in planning and/or carrying out the project.*
Please list anyone additional (individuals, groups of people, organizations, businesses, etc.) who you plan to contact to get involved in planning and/or carrying out the project.*

Grant Requirements
The following are requirements for all Garden Improvement grantees. Please mark all activities for which your group can commit. If you cannot commit to one or more of the following, please explain in the Additional Information section.*

- At least 1 person attend a Grow It! Workshop (in-person, located regionally in VT - April).
- At least 2 people participate in a planning call (March).

Attachments
Total file uploads (photos and budget) cannot exceed 10 MB.

- If applicable, please attach 1-2 photos that help illustrate the need for your proposed project. (i.e. photos of your garden, examples of success, limitations)
- Using this template (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ea7TuYa19kl0pE1UsE8SHvL6zi_n8gil/view?usp=sharing) please attach a detailed budget for your Garden Improvement Project, with project costs and inputs needed (financial and in-kind).*

Additional Information
Anything else you want us to know? Questions?