



Garden Court Community Association

Dear Neighbor,

Enclosed is the application kit you requested for the Garden Court Block Improvement Grant.

The kit consists of:

1. Grant purpose and rules
2. Guidelines for estimating costs
3. Application form

We look forward to receiving your application. Completed applications are due February 1st; grants will be announced on March 1st.

The basic procedure is:

- Block members develop collective vision and apply for a grant;
- Project Team reviews block application and awards grant;
- Block Coordinator is offered to help maximize results and offer technical assistance;
- Block members sign contract outlining project budget, timeline, specifics, and responsibilities;
- Project takes place;
- Block submits final report: accounting of costs, volunteer hours, results and photos.

For more information, go to the Garden Court Community Association website:

<http://www.gardencourtca.org/Home.html>

The Garden Court Block Grant Committee welcomes requests for assistance developing block grant applications and completing these forms to insure a strong application. Please contact

Nancy Geryk at (215) 472 3347 or s.geryk@verizon.net

Sincerely,

The Block Improvements Grant Committee:

Nancy Geryk
Michael Dillen
Erica A. Smith
Mary Allegra

GARDEN COURT BLOCK IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM: PURPOSE AND RULES

Purpose:

To improve the physical environment of blocks in Garden Court, compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood, with priority given to maintenance and renewal of street trees, sidewalks, curbs and front yards. To assist with the expense of these improvements by offering block grants up to \$700 per block.

This would include, but not be limited to, proposals for:

- Basic professional pruning and "limbing up" of existing street trees.
- Installation of new tree pits and planting of street trees.
- Enlargement of existing tree pits.
- Development of tree lawns between street trees to aid in water retention and reduce storm water runoff.
- Sidewalk repair or replacement in conjunction with the above, due to cracking, sidewalk heaving, etc.
- Coordinated garden plantings in front yards.
- Streetscape including trash can enclosures, retaining walls, etc.

Rules:

Eligible blocks must be within the Garden Court boundaries of 45th and 52nd Streets; Cedar Ave. to Locust St.

The block plan submitted as part of the block improvement grant must be approved by a consultant from UC Green before the grant can be submitted.

Grant applications require a dollar-for-dollar match in cash or in-kind services, including volunteer labor.

On the application form, your block must show how it will match the amount applied for.

All applications must be submitted by at least two homeowners from different addresses on the same block who are participating, and at least one Garden Court Community Association member. All three must sign the grant application and be responsible for fulfillment of the grant contract.

Sidewalk/curb repair must be done in conjunction with other greening initiatives. Sidewalk repair without such will not be approved by the grant committee, and is the responsibility of the homeowner.

For garden plantings we recommend perennials for lasting value. However, you may use up to 5% of your grant towards annuals for immediate impact.

The grants committee will provide names of professional arborists, concrete removal services, and masonry workers upon request.

It is recommended that each block receiving a block improvement grant have at least one block representative complete the Tree Tenders Training Program offered by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and join the other Tree Tenders of University City in this volunteer effort to maintain our urban forest. Call for details:

(215) 988-8844 or www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

Retain a copy of your application for your records and mail a copy of the completed application form and block plan diagram to:

Block Improvement Grants
Garden Court Community Association
P.O. Box 16654
Philadelphia, PA 19139-0654

GUIDELINES FOR ESTIMATING COSTS:

Use the estimates below to determine the amount your block wishes to apply for. You will need to get actual estimates for contracted work once your grant is approved.

(FYI: One square yard is the same as nine square feet.)

NEW STREET TREES

(assumes installation by volunteers):

Trees will cost \$150-250 depending on size (Approx. \$225 per ball and burlapped tree, \$175 per container tree, and \$150 per bare root tree.)

Add concrete removal cost if a new or enlarged tree pit is needed. Tree pits should be a minimum of 12 *square feet* with 18 *square feet* recommended. Please specify tree preference(s).

The grant committee will need to approve tree species by Fairmount Park Commission's street tree standards.

PROFESSIONAL TREE PRUNING:

Approx. \$250 for minimal pruning of a 25 foot tree. Multiply the number of trees needing pruning to get your estimated cost. Pruning multiple trees at one time will give better cost efficiency.

TREE STRIPS:

This is an estimate for one (1) square yard (9 square feet) of dry-laid, water-permeable hardscape, assuming a running bond and using a 4x8 inch brick paver that is set in stone dust on a compacted sub grade. A weed barrier is included.

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Materials: | \$30.00 per <i>square yard</i> |
| Labor: | \$60.00 per <i>square yard</i> |
| Total: | \$90.00 per <i>square yard</i> . |

Multiply by total square yards needed. (Include concrete cutting and disposal costs if necessary; and remember conversion of square feet vs. square yards.)

Tree lawns may also be left bare, or planted with sod or perennials.

CONCRETE CUTTING

(to create tree pits or tree lawns through volunteer labor):

Approx. \$75/day for rental of a small diamond saw from Diamond Tool on Grey's Ferry Ave.

OR

\$100/day for use of large diamond blade saw owned by the block grant committee.

BROKEN CONCRETE DISPOSAL:

Approx. \$175 per truckload of broken concrete. Concrete rubble must be clean of other debris and piled on the street for easy access by truck. The piles must be consolidated.

CONCRETE BREAKUP & DISPOSAL:

Approx.. \$5 per square foot for removal (break-up and disposal) of existing damaged or weathered slabs of concrete with \$250 minimum charge.

CONCRETE REPLACEMENT:

Approx. \$16 per square foot or \$250 for first sidewalk 4x4 feet square plus \$125 for each additional square. This includes break-up, disposal, forms, and materials for new concrete.

EXAMPLE OF ESTIMATING MATCHING CONTRIBUTION:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Estimated total cost of a project: | \$600 |
| Amount of grant application: | \$300 |
| Cash match needed from the block: | \$300 (dollar for dollar match) |

Other kinds of match examples:

1. Volunteer labor. For example, 10 volunteers planting trees for two (2) hours each = 20 volunteer labor hours. Each hour is valued at \$20.85 = \$417 in volunteer labor to count as a match for a tree grant.
2. An "in-kind" match. For example, the market value of items needed for a new tree lawn, such as brick pavers, topsoil, wood mulch, perennials, etc, equaling \$110 could be used as a match for a grant of \$110 to pay for concrete removal.

GARDEN COURT BLOCK IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Show calculations on a following page.

Mail completed application and block plan diagram to:

Block Improvement Grants
Garden Court Community Association
P.O. Box 16654 Philadelphia,
PA 19139-0654.

Block(s) submitting grant proposal:

Applicant contact person for block grant:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Amount applied for: \$ _____

Match method: (amount must be at least same amount applied for)

Cash \$ _____

In-kind materials and services (describe here and then show calculations on the next page):

Volunteer labor (describe):

_____ people x _____ hours each at \$20.85/hour = \$ _____

Signatures of 3 homeowners on block (*Indicate at least one Garden Court Community Association member):

Block member(s) to participate in Tree Tender Training (recommended):

Show calculations for cost estimates and match on this page.

Please provide a diagram of the block showing the relative locations of proposed improvements.

Indicate address numbers

The form contains two large, empty rectangular boxes with thin black borders, positioned side-by-side. These boxes are intended for the applicant to draw a diagram of the block, showing the relative locations of proposed improvements. The text 'Indicate address numbers' is placed to the left of the first box.