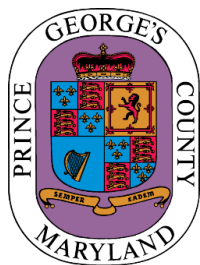




Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program FY27 Request for Proposals



Chesapeake Bay Trust | 108 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403
(410) 974 - 2941 | www.cbtrust.org

At A Glance

The Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program supports the creation and need for community gardens that provide resources to the Prince George's County community while supporting the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan.

Deadline: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted. Submission of applications by the following dates is preferred:

- August 7, 2026
- October 9, 2026
- January 8, 2027
- April 9, 2027

The Trust must receive all applications a minimum of eight weeks prior to the start of the proposed project. The Trust cannot provide reimbursement funding for already completed projects.

Eligible Project Locations: Prince George's County, Maryland, excluding the City of Bowie

Request Amount: Up to \$9,500

Submit Your Application:

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/prince-georges-county-community-gardens/>.

Contact: Whitney Vong, Senior Program Officer, 410-974-2941 ext. 122, wvong@cbtrust.org

This Request for Proposals was updated on 7/8/2026.

Introduction

The **Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program** is a partnership between the Prince George's County Government and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust) to support the creation or expansion of community gardens to promote healthy and locally grown food systems in the County. The mini grant program empowers residents and community organizations to promote sustainability and resiliency directly aligned to support implementing actions of the [Prince George's County's Climate Action Plan](#). This program also offers an opportunity to diverse types of organizations, both those with community-related missions and those with primarily environmental missions, to support projects throughout the County that aid the community while treating and controlling stormwater. *Funding for this program is provided through the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE).*

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (<https://cbtrust.org/>) is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the bays, streams, rivers, forests, parks, and other natural resources of all our local systems, from the Chesapeake to the Coastal Bays to the Youghiogheny River. The Trust, supported in large part by Maryland's Chesapeake Bay License Plate and partnerships with other regional funders, engages and empowers diverse groups to take actions that enrich natural resources and local communities of the Chesapeake Bay region. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded over \$210 million in grants to municipalities, nonprofit organizations, schools, and public agencies throughout Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Trust is committed to the advancement of diversity and inclusion in its award-making and environmental work. As a result, the Trust strongly encourages applications directly from underrepresented groups, and for projects that increase awareness and participation of communities that are traditionally underrepresented, such as communities of color. For a full description of the Trust's efforts to engage under-engaged groups, see our strategic plan at www.cbtrust.org/strategic-plan and <https://cbtrust.org/diversity-inclusion/>.

Program Goals

The goal of the Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program is to fund community garden projects that help address food security and support neighborhood scale implementation of *regenerative agriculture and other sustainable gardening practices*. This mini grant supports both the creation of new community gardens and the expansion of existing community gardens within Prince George's County, excluding the City of Bowie.

Essential components of projects completed through this mini grant include *significant land cover change throughout the year, the growth of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs, the conversion of turf to native plants, soil health improvement, community outreach and engagement, mental and physical wellness, and enhanced community resilience*. Projects completed through this grant seek to promote an outcome-based approach to farming and gardening systems that restore soil health, protect climate and water resources, and enhance productivity of food systems.

Local Jobs and the Community

This mini grant program is focused on building community resilience through empowering our residents to take part in supporting a healthy, locally-produced food system that may lead to some participating community members to consider urban farming as a potential local-based County business or professional pursuit. Prince George's County's "Jobs First Act," County Bill (CB)-17-2011, Sec. 10A-158 to 10A-162 sets the goal of procuring at least fifty one percent (51%) of the dollar volume of its goods and services, including, but not limited to, construction goods and services, to Prince George's County-based businesses and at least thirty percent (30%) to County-based small businesses. Proposals that meet or exceed the Jobs First Act are preferred.

Grant applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the [County's Supplier Development and Diversity Division](#) for County-based certified small business utilization in connection with the implementation of proposed grant projects. County-based business and County-based small business certification under CB-74-2016 (DR2) undergo extensive certification review through their existing minority business enterprise certification procedures, which establish capabilities and their principal places of operation in the County. Consider local Prince George's based businesses when contracting for services.

Eligible Applicants and Locations

The Prince George's County and the Trust welcome applicants from the following organizations:

- ◆ Nonprofit organizations
- ◆ Prince George's County municipalities
- ◆ Watershed organizations
- ◆ Community associations, including Homeowner Associations
- ◆ Faith-based organizations
- ◆ Schools and institutions
- ◆ Green Teams

NOTES TO CONSIDER

Regenerative agriculture

restores the soil and ecosystems while minimizing traditional inputs and disturbances such as fertilizers. Regenerative agriculture practices, such as no-till farming, support the sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide which reduces climate change's impacts.

Community gardens

supported through this mini grant program are required to practice regenerative agriculture and sustainable practices. Additionally, reviewers will look favorably upon projects that donate harvests to the local community.

Applicants that are not based in Prince George's County must have a Prince George's County-based partner, the role of whom should be clearly articulated in the proposal and in a Letter of Commitment from that partner.

Projects that are implemented on public property, property owned by a municipality, a nonprofit organization, community-owned property, and publicly accessible commercial or private property are preferred.

- ◆ Groups that do not own land can opt to rent property to host a community garden; there must be a 5-year commitment from the property to support the project. *Land Rental cannot be purchased with grant funds.*

If you are part of a community that is interested in applying but do not have an organization that can apply on your behalf, please reach out to the Trust.

Projects must be implemented in Prince George's County, Maryland. *Projects in the City of Bowie are not eligible for funding in this program because the City of Bowie manages its stormwater program independently of the County.*

Timeline

Project Timeline: Projects must be completed within 12 months upon receipt of the award. Requests to extend project completion period will be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis.

Deadline

Proposals for the Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program are accepted on an on-going basis until funds are fully expended for the given fiscal year. Submission of applications by the following dates is preferred:

- August 7, 2026
- October 9, 2026
- January 8, 2027
- April 9, 2027

We highly encourage applicants to apply early for the best chance of receiving funding. Check our website and sign up for our [Prince George's County Newsletter](https://cbtrust.org/newsletters/) (<https://cbtrust.org/newsletters/>) for the most up to date information about the status of this rolling program.

The Trust must receive all proposals at least EIGHT weeks prior to the start of the proposed project. The Trust cannot make exceptions to this policy. Additionally, a pre-application site visit with the Trust and Prince George's County DoE is preferred to assess the site's existing conditions. Reach out to Whitney Vong (vvong@cbtrust.org) to schedule the site visit early.

Community Garden Types and Guidelines

The Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program supports both the development of new community gardens as well as the growth of existing community gardens that plan to expand regenerative practices (e.g., land cover change, improving soil health, etc.).

Types of community gardens supported in this program include:

- ◆ Communal Community Gardens: Members of a community work together to raise crops. Members can buy shares (Community Supported Agriculture) or can exchange labor for produce.
- ◆ Private Plots within a Community Garden: Individuals can use a plot within a community garden to care for and manage independently.
- ◆ Food Forests: Mimicking local ecosystems and forest-like structures to increase the biodiversity, efficiency, and sustainability of food production systems. Forest layers from canopy, to understory, to shrubs, to ground cover produce an array of foods while functioning as a plant community.
- ◆ Community Orchards: Members of a community manage a plot of nonnative, noninvasive edible trees and native edible trees.

Creating or Expanding a Community Garden

This program supports the creation or expansion of a community garden that practices sustainable and regenerative agricultural techniques and serves and engages the local community. Existing community gardens must demonstrate a fully operating garden space when applying to this program. Reviewers will look favorably upon cost-effective ($\leq$ \$8 per square foot) garden projects. The typical funding requests per square feet of garden space are as follows:

- Creating or expanding less than or equal to 400 square feet of garden space = up to \$5,000
- Creating or expanding more than 400 square feet of garden space = up to \$9,500
- Creating a food forest that is equal to or greater than 1,000 square feet = up to \$9,500

If your request exceeds the funding thresholds for the amount of garden space you are creating or expanding, provide a robust and thorough budget justification.

This program seeks projects that incorporate a comprehensive community engagement and education aspect into their proposal.

Examples of community engagement can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Hosting public classes, informational sessions, and/or workshops about regenerative agriculture and community gardening
- Highlighting the Community Gardens mini grant program in outreach material and mentoring applicants who want to apply for a new community garden under this program;
- Conducting tours or community events in your garden to share techniques and lessons learned and to encourage others to garden in their communities;
- Providing technical assistance to new community gardens (i.e. sharing knowledge on regenerative agricultural practices, best plants to plant during certain seasons, and sustainable methods of pest control)

Guidelines for Community Gardens

1. Eligible plants supported through this mini grant program include:
 - a. Native, edible plants or trees
 - b. Non-native*, non-invasive edible plants or trees

- c. Native plants or trees, including native plants that can be used to produce fiber, basket materials, teas/tinctures, or other herbal products
 - d. Non-native*, non-invasive winter cover crops
- *If you have any questions about a plant's eligibility through this program, reach out to the Trust.*
- 2. Garden beds can be in-ground, raised, or a combination. Soil tests are required regardless of what type of garden beds are proposed.**
- a. Soil tests are an allowable expense through this program. If including a soil test in the budget, allocate \$50 in the budget to complete testing through the University of Delaware (<https://www.udel.edu/canr/cooperative-extension/environmental-stewardship/soil-testing/>). *Any soil tests that are completed prior to your application are not reimbursable. If you need assistance conducting a soil test, reach out to the Trust prior to submitting your application and refer to the "soil testing resources" section in Appendix A.*
3. Other allowable project supply costs related to the implementation of the project include mulch, compost, soil, gardening tools, educational signage, non-synthetic fertilizers (bone meal, fish emulsion, compost), and equipment rentals.
 4. Examples of non-allowable project supplies include, but are not limited to, fences, permits, pesticides, bird netting, prepared food, land rental, insurance, stipends.
 5. Water sources are recommended to be within 100 linear feet of the community garden. If water sources are further than 100 linear feet, please contact the Trust for help determining water sources for your community garden.
 6. The community garden must be available to all members of a specific community year-round. If there are any limitations on access, proposals should clearly indicate when the garden will be open and how community members will have access.
 - a. For example, if a school applies to host a community garden, the community garden must be open and available to all members of the school's service zip code (not just students and teachers) during designated hours with a sign clearly displaying those hours.
 7. Gardens must be designed and managed sustainably using regenerative agriculture techniques. (See Appendix A for more information on these techniques).
 8. Community gardens supported through this program cannot use bird netting and pesticides, such as neonicotinoids.

Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program

Grantees awarded through the Community Gardens Mini Grant Program can leverage the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate \(RCR\) Program](#) to assist with costs needed for ensuring proper water at your site. The RCR program offers rebate incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install practices, such as rain barrels and cisterns, that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce pollution, and improve local stream and river health.

If you are thinking of installing rain barrels or cisterns at your community garden site, consider the RCR program so you can reallocate costs in your community garden budget to support other expenses, such as more seeds, soil, and compost.

Read more about this program here:

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/prince-georges-county-rain-check-rebate/>

Online Application Submission Instructions

We have a new online award management system, hosted by SmartSimple! The Trust uses this online system for the application process, and if awarded, project management. **Please login to SmartSimple to access your awards and applications.** You can access SmartSimple in two ways:

1. Through our website: <https://cbtrust.org/login> and clicking the link “Log In to the Bay Trust Awards Portal”, **or**
2. The Chesapeake Bay Trust’s SmartSimple page: https://chesapeakebaytrust.us-1.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp

If you have applied to the Trust in the past, your profile and award data has been migrated to our new system. You can access the new system by entering the same email you used in our former system (Blackbaud), click ‘forgot password’, and follow the prompts to create a new password. If you are a new applicant, click the blue “Register” button on the landing page and follow the instructions.

See <https://cbtrust.org/login> for help setting up your account and finding funding opportunities.

By submitting an application to this program, applicants acknowledge that: 1) they are compliant with federal employment and non-discrimination laws and 2) they have not been debarred, convicted, charged or had a civil judgment rendered against them for fraud or related offense by any government agency (federal, state or local) or been terminated for cause or default by any government agency (federal, state, or local). In addition, all final products will be provided to the funding partners for use and distribution at the sole discretion of the funding partners.

Online Application Form

You will be asked to provide the following information on the online application form. Some items are required in order to submit your application. Refer to the online application for details.

Eligibility Quiz: This three-question quiz is meant to assist you in determining if your project meets the requirements of this award program and that your staff/organizational structure best supports a successful application.

Applicant Information Tab: Provide the organization’s name, mailing address, phone number, organization type, mission, and EIN number. Provide the Executive Officer and Project Leader’s name, title, address, phone, and email address.

- Both an Executive Officer and a Project Leader, two separate individuals, must be identified for all applications.
- The Executive Officer and Project Leader must both be able to make decisions on behalf of the organization either as a board member, an

Watch our video on how to apply and how to submit an application using our online system at <https://cbtrust.org/login/>.

DEFINITIONS

The **Executive Officer** is the individual that oversees the organization (e.g., Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, etc.) and has the authority to sign/execute award agreements on behalf of the organization. The Executive Officer information is tied directly to all the organization’s applications and should not vary from application to application. If the Executive Officer could be listed as the Project Leader in a future proposal, we recommend listing a Board Member or other higher-ranking position of the organization as the Executive Officer in order to reduce the variation in the Executive Officer across applications.

The **Project Leader** is the individual who will be responsible for all project coordination and correspondence with the Trust. The email address entered here **MUST** be the same as the email address you used to log in to the online system and will be used to submit the application. The Project Leader is the primary point of contact for the application. Applications in which the email address associated with the Project Leader in the applicant information tab of the online opportunity does not match the email address used to submit the application will not be considered for funding. The Trust cannot conduct any official correspondence with contractors or other project partners. If at any time the Project Leader cannot continue in the position, the organization must contact the Trust and assign a new qualified Project Leader.

employee, or other approved position recognized by the organization but not a contractor of the application.

- To avoid conflict of interest issues, individuals associated with for-profit entities to be engaged in the project cannot serve in either role.

Project Information Tab: Provide a project title; project description; timeline of major tasks, the watershed, county, and legislative district in which the project is located, the latitude and longitude coordinates of the project location, and the proposed project start and end date.

(Optional) Deliverables Tab: Provide estimated metrics for your proposed project such as project participants and outreach and restoration outcomes. Enter only those that apply to your project; leave others blank.

(Optional) Volunteers Tab: Provide a description of volunteer activities, the number of volunteers, and total number of volunteer hours.

(Optional) Project Partnerships: Provide a list of project partner organizations or contractors, individuals, their areas of expertise, and their role(s) in your project.

Applicants are encouraged to upload a letter of commitment for the project from each partner describing in detail the partner's role or contribution to the project. Applications including strong letter(s) of commitment often receive higher scores. If not submitted with the application, letter(s) of commitment may be required prior to the release of any awarded funding. To better understand the Trust's definition of and policy on Letter(s) of Commitment, visit our Forms and Policies webpage: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/additional-applicant-awardee-resources/>.

Narrative & Supporting Documents Tab: Use the link below to download the **required** narrative questions template. Complete all questions and upload the completed document as a Microsoft Word or PDF file.

[Community Gardens Mini Grant Narrative Questions](#)

Budget Tab:

1. **Application Budget** - You will be asked to enter items into the various budget categories. Totals will be automatically calculated on the page. Additional guidance on the budget can be found at <https://cbtrust.org/login>.
2. **Additional Budget Justification** - This online application component will ask you to provide a descriptive budget narrative to justify and explain costs. If the success of the work is contingent upon award of other funds, make this clear in your budget justification section.

Terms and Conditions Tab: Agree to the specified terms and conditions for the program for which you are applying.

(Optional) Demographics and Survey Tab: Provide voluntary demographic information. Provide information about your organization's current diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) efforts and future goals. Provide information on your experience with the application process.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used by reviewers to score your proposal:

Most Important Criteria:

- ◆ **Consistency with the Request for Proposals (RFP) and program goals**
 - From a water quality perspective, is this project converting turf grass, impervious cover, or invasives into a community garden?
 - Does the garden adhere to sustainable practices (e.g., year-round succession cropping or cover crops, minimal tilling, close spacing/interplanting, composting, soil health management, pollinator plantings, integrated pest management)?
 - Is the project proposed consistent with the intent and goals of the grant program?
 - Is the community garden publicly accessible?
- ◆ **Cost Effectiveness/Budget**
 - Is the budget appropriate (at or below \$9,500 requested) and cost effective ($\leq$ \$8 per square foot)?
 - Are the budget line items justified in the project narrative? In-kind and cash match is not required but viewed favorably.
- ◆ **Likelihood of Immediate Project Success**
 - Will the project last for a long time (five to ten years) or otherwise have lasting impact?
 - Will additional resources be needed to maintain the value of the project, and if so, has that issue been addressed in the proposal?

Important Criteria:

- ◆ **Justification**
 - Does the applicant justify the need for the project and the practices proposed? Does the proposed project support broader goals of the organization and/or other existing community efforts?
 - Is this project converting turf grass into a community garden (either a new community garden or an enhancement of an existing garden; new is preferred)?
- ◆ **Demonstration Value**
 - Does the project have demonstration value and/or transferability? How can this project be used as a model or pilot for future efforts? How will this project support the County's goals, (e.g., Climate Action Plan, stormwater management, planting and using edible plants, community engagement, or others)?
 - Is it clear how the community will be engaged with the community garden?
- ◆ **Partnerships and Community**
 - Are the people and groups needed to do this work included in and supportive of the project (e.g., landowner, neighbors, rights of way owners, etc.)?
 - Are any key partnerships required, and if so, are these partnerships included in and supportive of the project?
 - If the lead applicant is not a member of the community served by the project (e.g., an external non-profit doing work on land owned by another entity, such as a health providing facility), is a transfer of "ownership" to the community built into the project and the ability of the community to carry the work forward likely?
 - How robust is the applicant's community engagement plan?
- ◆ **Audience Need**
 - Based on applicant provided information, is the audience being engaged in the project identified as historically under-engaged or under-served through indicators such as, but not limited to, communities that were at any point historically redlined or graded as "hazardous" by the Home Owners' loan corporation, socioeconomic status (communities in which median household income is equal to or less than 75% of state-wide median household income or have high poverty and unemployment rates (<https://www.census.gov>)?)
 - Is the proposed community garden located in a food desert, an area where it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food? Food deserts in Prince George's County can be viewed

- on the Food Access Research Atlas, an interactive map created by the Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx#.UfGK3mQ6Xfu>.
- Will the garden provide produce to a local food pantry, supplemental meal program, or school/ senior center lunchroom? Will the garden include a plot that food insecure neighbors can harvest from? Will it be a communal urban farm where community members can exchange labor for food?

Funding partners reserve the right to fund projects and budget items that advance its mission and meet its specific funding priorities and criteria.

Application Review Process

All submitted applications are scored by technical experts in the field supported by this RFP and discussed by a review committee. Reviewers score all applications based on the evaluation criteria listed in the “Evaluation Criteria” section above.

The funding partners reserve the right to fund projects and budget items that advance their missions and meet specific funding priorities and criteria.

Awards and Notifications

All applicants will receive a letter stating the funding partnership’s decision. An application may be declined, partially awarded, or fully awarded. If approved, the Trust will send an award agreement with award conditions and due dates of contingencies and reports. The Trust will release the award payment to the requesting organization following satisfaction of any phase 1 payment award contingencies, including upload of the signed award agreement. In cases where the awardee fails to submit a report or other requirement by the due date, the Trust reserves the right to terminate the award agreement and require a refund of funds already transferred to the awardee.

When the project is complete, awardees are required to complete final reports that may include but are not limited to submission of all receipts for supplies, invoices for subcontractors/contractors, and copies of timesheets for personnel time used (timesheets must include date, name, time worked per day, and coding to tie the time worked to the award).

All financial back-up documentation should be grouped and numbered to correspond to the budget line item reported as spent. Organizations with outstanding final, progress, or status reports will not be awarded additional grants.

Contact

For technical assistance, project guidance, and/or assistance with drafting a budget, contact the Program Manager, Whitney Vong at (410) 974-2941 ext. 122 or vvong@cbtrust.org. For more information on the program visit the program’s webpage <https://cbtrust.org/grants/prince-georges-county-community-gardens/>.

Appendix A: Community Gardens Information and Additional Resources

What is a Community Garden?

A Community Garden is an outdoor space collaboratively gardened or cultivated by a group of people to produce locally grown vegetables, fruit, or produce for the benefit of the group and the wider community. These plants can include plants native to Maryland; non-native, non-invasive edible plants; plants used to produce fiber, basket materials, and teas/tinctures or other herbal products; and cover crops. Community gardens supported in this program do not include invasive plants, which are non-native plants that can cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health.

It is important to note the emphasis on the community and group aspect of this mini grant program; community gardens can serve as a collective gathering space that can also transform contested or underused land into a unifying, placemaking public space within a neighborhood. The benefits of community gardens are expansive, including:

- ◆ Increasing carbon sequestration
- ◆ Serving as a demonstration site for the community
- ◆ Reducing impervious cover
- ◆ Preventing stormwater runoff from entering waterways
- ◆ Increasing food security and making fresh produce accessible
- ◆ Enhancing community engagement and connection
- ◆ Beautifying the landscape
- ◆ Creating opportunities for education and learning
- ◆ Improving community health

Who uses a Community Garden?

Community gardens are ideal for individuals living in multifamily homes or single-family homes that do not provide enough space for personal gardens. It is also a great way to introduce gardening to community members who want to learn how to grow their own food but are unsure of how to begin. Community gardens may differ in what each community chooses to grow, but the commonality of all community gardens is that the community gardens are actively maintained by the gardeners themselves. For the purposes of this mini grant program, implementing sustainable and regenerative farming practices is required.

Additional Resources:

- Prince George's Soil Conservation District- Community Gardens (including a list of current community gardens within the County): <https://www.pgscd.org/urban-agricultural-conservation/community-gardens/>
- Prince George's County Food Equity Council: <https://www.pgcfec.org/>
- University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center: <https://go.umd.edu/hgic>

Soil Testing Resources:

- (Preferred) University of Delaware Extension Soil Testing Program: <https://www.udel.edu/canr/cooperative-extension/environmental-stewardship/soil-testing/> (order a "Home Lawn and Garden Soil Test with Lead" kit for \$22.50)
 - If a soil test is being requested using grant funds, the Trust will request that awardees order a test from the University of Delaware.
- University of Maryland Extension Soil Testing: <https://extension.umd.edu/resources/yard-garden/soils-compost-and-fertilizer/soil-testing/>
- Oil-In Soil Test Kit (recommended, but not required): https://www.whiteoakenv.com/products/oil-in-soil-test-kit?_pos=1&_sid=c16c8a8d6&_ss=r

Native Plant Resources:

- University of Maryland Extension Recommended Native Plants for Maryland: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/recommended-native-plants-maryland>
- Chesapeake Bay Trust Native Plant Species Selection Guide: https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/External_Final-Trust-Draft-Plant-Species-Selection-Guide-Oct2021.pdf
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Native Plant Center: <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/native-plant-center/>
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service PLANTS Database: <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

Regenerative / Climate Resilient Gardening:

- University of Maryland Extension Climate Change and Gardening Articles: <https://extension.umd.edu/resources/yard-garden/climate-resilient-gardening/climate-change-gardening/>
- Green Bay Botanical Gardens: 5 Ways to Start Regenerative Gardening for Better Soil Health: <https://www.gbbg.org/regenerative-gardening-for-soil-health/>
- New York Soil Health-Resources: <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/>

Sustainable Garden Management:

University of Maryland Extension- Managing City and Suburban Yards and Gardens to Sustain Insect Communities: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/managing-city-and-suburban-yards-and-gardens-sustain-insect-communities-fs-2022-0633>

Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

University of Maryland Extension- IPM - Prevent, Identify, and Manage Plant Problems: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/ipm-prevent-identify-and-manage-plant-problems>

NC State Extension-Integrated Pest Management: <https://ipm.ces.ncsu.edu/>

BayWise Food Gardens:

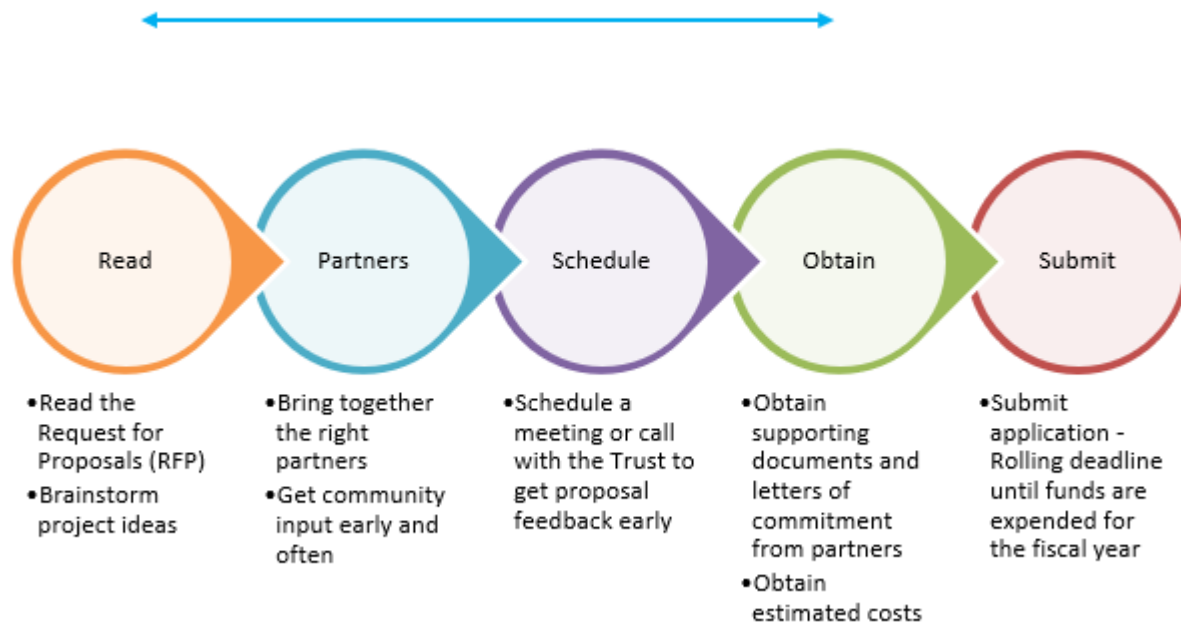
University of Maryland Extension- BayWise Food Gardens: https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-05/Bay-Wise%20Food%20Garden%20Yardstick%202020%20for%20Downloading_0.pdf

Appendix B: Guidance for New Applicants

This guidance outlines the steps needed to develop project ideas and grant applications for those who are new to water quality projects. Many steps are involved in developing a project. Some involve engaging partners or obtaining expert technical advice. For example, experts can help the applicant to select a proposed project location, project type, and estimated costs to enable an applicant to develop an appropriate budget request.

The following steps are a general framework to submit in a grant application. Please note that applicants are welcome to contact the Trust for assistance during any of these steps in project development.

Craft a project proposal



Step 1: Read

- a. The first step is to thoroughly read through the Request for Proposals (RFP). If you have any questions after reading through the RFP, contact the program lead listed on the program website.
- b. Brainstorm on general project ideas. Observe the environmental issues in your community and develop project proposals designed to target those issues.

Step 2: Partners

- a. The most successful projects seek community input early and often (often after each of the steps below), and work with the landowner at the first step.
 - i. Community input provides the history of the site and the buy-in needed for a successful project. Build this community input into your project idea.
 - a. Community meetings are a venue at which to exchange information and discuss the proposed project with the project stakeholders.
- b. Partnering with technical experts can strengthen your proposal and boost the success of your project. Contact local environmental groups that can assist in carrying out your project idea.

Step 3: Schedule

- a. Schedule community meetings to obtain community input, as frequently as necessary in order to maximize buy-in and future project success.
- b. New applicants are especially encouraged to contact the program lead prior to applying, to discuss project ideas and get feedback on proposals.

Step 4: Obtain

- a. Determine the work necessary in order to complete the project and determine the associated costs for this work including timelines. Be as specific and detailed as possible; look up costs or get quotes if needed.

- i. The Trust strongly recommends that applicants get at least three cost estimates or quotes from three service providers.
 - ii. Conduct a site visit with potential contractors. Based on the site visit, request the firm's scope of work and estimated costs
- b. Obtain Letters of Commitment from project partners. Letters of Commitment should detail the specific role the partner will play in your project. To better understand the Trust's definition of letter of commitment, see the Letter of Commitment Guidance and Policy at https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Chesapeake-Bay-Trust-Letter-of-Commitment-Policy_072422.pdf (source: this link is found under the "Additional Application Resources" section on our Applicant Resources, Forms, and Policies page: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/applicant-resources-forms-policies/>).

Step 5: Submit

- a. Before submitting your application, review your entire application and supporting documentation once more to ensure you have all the necessary components.
 - i. Read through your narrative responses. Are all questions fully addressed and answered in detail? Avoid one sentence responses.
 - ii. Review your supporting documentation. Are all required supporting documents included in your application package? Are all Letters of Commitment uploaded?
 - iii. Review your application budget. Are all line items justified in the narrative and budget justification section of the application?
- b. Once you have ensured all necessary components have been included in your application package, make sure everything is uploaded to your online application and that all required information is entered in the online system.
- c. Submit! You will know your submission was successful when you receive an automated email confirmation.