



Metropolitan Public Gardens Association

Founded 1882

GRANT GUIDELINES

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association is able to fund a number of modest grants to enhance and preserve public open spaces within London's 33 Boroughs.

Who we fund

Grants can be awarded to organisations, amenity groups and friends groups who maintain and improve public open spaces. It is important that applications should be concerned only with greenspaces that are open to the public free of charge and on a regular and frequent basis.

These might include:

- archaeological sites
- burial grounds
- church grounds
- city farms
- commons
- community gardens
- playgrounds
- public parks
- public squares
- recreational spaces
- street planting
- townscape features

Grants can also be awarded to garden areas in institutions which the public can visit. The garden area must be free of charge to access and open to the public on a regular and frequent basis. These might include:

- art galleries
- educational trusts
- historic houses
- hospices
- hospitals
- housing estate gardens
- libraries
- museums
- youth clubs

We also support other charities with a similar remit to ours. Those which we currently support are:

- London in Bloom
- London Children's Flower Society
- London Open Gardens

- The London Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

What we fund

Grants may be awarded for the following:

- The planting of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, bulbs, seeds and accompanying growing material (such as topsoil or compost) as part of a carefully planned planting scheme. Where possible we encourage planting to take place directly into the ground as the plants have more space to spread their roots to reach nutrients and moisture, and the ground will not dry out as quickly as soil in containers
- The provision of raised beds and troughs in connection with the above where planting directly into the ground is not possible
- The provision of benches
- The provision of tool sheds
- The provision of tools

Priority will be given to applications that show they have taken account of (where appropriate):

- Sustainable planting (e.g. choosing shrubs and perennials rather than annuals)
- Creating habitats that will improve biodiversity
- Increasing tree canopy cover
- Gardening organically without the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers
- Gardening without the use of peat-based compost
- Economical use of water
- Management of water run-off
- Medium to long-term maintenance and provision of appropriate plans to ensure the long-term life of the project once completed

How to apply

Fill in the application form as fully as possible – photographs and plans can be pasted into the word document or supplied separately.

You will need to include a scale (or dimensioned) plan of the area, photographs, a detailed list of the proposed plants, soil improvers and sundries with accurate costings.

As much detail as possible about your project is helpful, including information about the site conditions such as whether it is sunny or shady, dry or wet soil conditions etc.

With regard to benches, we require that they are secured safely into the ground and that an engraved plaque is attached to the bench inscribed as follows: DONATED BY METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION (MONTH YEAR)

Applications should be emailed to grants@mpga.org.uk. Please contact the Grants Officer if you need further assistance with your application, including help with suppliers for plants, tools and benches.

What we do not fund

- Costs relating to personnel – volunteers, gardeners, researchers etc (including refreshments)

- Any building or architectural materials including paving, fencing, sculptures, garden statuary or ephemera
- Any costs relating to administration or maintenance
- Any costs associated with the maintenance of trees or shrubs such as pruning or crown lifting
- The provision of construction materials
- Training

How much are our grants?

Our grants range from a few hundred pounds up to £1,500 according to the size of the site.

When to apply

Meetings of the Executive Committee take place four times a year when the applications are considered. Deadlines for each meeting are as follows:

- Mid February
- Mid May
- Mid August
- Mid November

Site Visits

Each grant application is examined on its merits and site visits are frequently made by the Grants Committee to assess the application.

PLEASE NOTE: All grants are only to be used for the project specified in the application. In the event that the specified project does not proceed (e.g. due to a shortfall in the total project cost) then you are required to return, in total, the MPGA grant awarded.