

**Spring 2020 Funding Round**

**Guidance and application form**

Growing Green Spaces is an initiative designed to beautify, enhance, and sustain York's green spaces by growing and supporting green volunteering across the city. In York we are fortunate to have beautiful green spaces that provide habitat for birds, animals, and insects and support physical activity, positive mental wellbeing, and healthy childhood development – as well as brilliant and dedicated volunteers.

Our small grants fund is open to innovative project ideas from voluntary and community groups. We’re interested in creative projects that are designed to attract and develop the skills of a diverse range of volunteers and tap into green spaces’ potential to improve biodiversity, health, and wellbeing.

We welcome ideas that focus on York’s existing green spaces and their horticultural value, but also projects that will green small, neglected spaces. Possible ideas include:

* Edible gardens
* Wheelchair-accessible gardening areas
* Community orchards
* Sensory gardens
* Green ‘friendly’ benches
* Wildflower patches
* ‘Friends of’ groups

Funds requested should range from **£100-£1,500**, but we will consider higher amounts in exceptional circumstances.

For information on past and current Growing Green Spaces projects, visit: https://www.growinggreenspaces.co.uk

The deadline to apply is midnight on **Sunday 31 May**. Please return this form to growinggreenspaces@yorkcvs.org.uk**.** You will be notified about your application within two weeks and funds will be distributed shortly afterwards.

We will be holding an optional microsurgery where you can discuss your ideas with us at York CVS on **Friday 1 May**. To book a place, please email stef.lambert@yorkcvs.org.uk.

**Aims**

We want to:

* Enhance York’s green spaces
* Alleviate social isolation and mental and physical wellbeing problems in York
* Boost the number and diversity of green space volunteers
* Ensure that green volunteering is sustainable and has social value

**We will prioritise…**

* Proposals from areas facing social and economic [deprivation](https://data.yorkopendata.org/dataset/a64b08cf-3b02-4d56-bcf7-fd69f24b8bf5/resource/e7d80331-dab8-42cb-a841-6b511e4eb9da/download/deprivation-in-york-2019.pptx) and/or lack access to green space
* Applications from groups that have not received GGS funding before
* Projects that tap into green spaces’ environmental value and wellbeing benefits
* Ideas that tackle barriers to volunteering and engage a diverse mix of volunteers, including those suffering from social isolation and/or poor mental/physical wellbeing
* Projects that have made efforts to [apply for funding from other sources](https://www.growinggreenspaces.co.uk/resources)

**What will a grant pay for?**

The grant will pay for activities and equipment which will promote volunteer involvement long term, beyond the life of the programme. This can include:

* Designing and delivering new spaces for growing and volunteering
* Online promotion of green space projects to potential new volunteers
* Increasing volunteering management and administration capacity
* Improving existing green spaces with the involvement of volunteers
* Volunteering projects which can lead to work experience or training
* Partnership working with other organisations

**What will a grant not pay for?**

* Ongoing maintenance of green spaces
* Staff who would have been employed by the project anyway
* One-off projects which have no impact beyond the life of the programme

**Tips for applying**

* All applications need to demonstrate the potential for long-term engagement and sustainability beyond the GGS grant and address at least one of the project aims
* The programme of activities will need to be completed late summer 2021
* There is an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience to draw on in York, from volunteer recruitment to edible growing to wildflower meadow management. Chat to local organisations about your project and consult our [resources](https://www.growinggreenspaces.co.uk/resources) page for info before applying

**Who can apply?**

The programme is open to York-based community groups involved in the enhancement of green spaces. These can be informal groups, residents’ associations, organisations who work to tackle mental and physical health and wellbeing, and social enterprises or charities. The programme is not open to private individuals or businesses.

**Application form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of organisation** |  |
| **Other organisations involved (if applicable)** |  |
| **Main contact** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Contact number** |  |
| **Email** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The funding will be used to fund a completely new project** | **Yes / No** |
| **The funding will be used to provide further development of a current project to increase provision** | **Yes / No** |
| **The funding will be used to provide continuation to an existing project which is currently at risk** | **Yes / No** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Provide a brief description of your project, explaining where the work will take place and will address at least one of the project aims.**  (no more than 250 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Why are you the right organisation to carry out this work?**(no more than 100 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **How will you engage and retain volunteers?**(no more than 150 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **How will you ensure that you engage a diverse mix of volunteers?**(no more than 100 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **How will the work be sustained after the end of the project funding?**(no more than 200 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Have you applied for funding elsewhere? Please provide details.**(no more than 100 words) |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please provide or attach a basic breakdown of costs (this can be revised later) and a timeline for the project.** |
|  |

**Please return the completed form to** **growinggreenspaces@yorkcvs.org.uk** **by midnight Sunday 31 May.**