

METROPOLITAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

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.

1. Who we fund:

Grants can be awarded to:

Organisations, amenity groups and friends groups who maintain and improve public open spaces. Applicants must demonstrate efficient management and community involvement. Grants are not awarded to individuals.

It is important that applications should be concerned only with greenspaces which are open to the public. 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

Garden areas in institutions which the public can visit. These might include:

- art galleries
- educational trusts
- historic houses
- hospices
- hospitals
- libraries
- museums
- schools/colleges
- workplace gardens
- youth clubs

Housing Estate Gardens if there is public access.

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

- London in Bloom
- Open Garden Squares Weekend
- The London Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

2. What we fund:

Grants are awarded for the following:

- The planting of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, bulbs, seeds and accompanying growing material (such as compost) as part of a carefully planned planting scheme
- The provision of raised beds, troughs and trellis in connection with the above
- The provision of benches
- The provision of manual hand tools
- Biodiversity projects at our discretion (which could include water features)

For the above, we need a scale plan of the area, a detailed list of the proposed plants and accurate costings. Planting must be sustainable and appropriate to the site.

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)

3. What we do not fund:

We are unable to support the following:

- costs relating to personnel – volunteers, gardeners, researchers etc
- 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 power tools

How much are our grants

Our grants normally range from a few hundred pounds up to £1,500 with occasional exceptions.

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:

End of January, April, July, December

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:

1. We will not consider grant applications that have not been fully completed or do not include a breakdown of costs.
2. All Grants are only to be used for the project specified in the application. In the event that the specified project does not proceed (ie due to a shortfall in the total project cost) then you are required to return, in total, the MPGA grant awarded.