

TOWN OF APEX

Neighborhood Beautification Grant

Community Development and
Neighborhood Connections

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LAST UPDATE

September 12, 2025



Tip: Please contact



CommunityEngagement@apexnc.org should you have any questions about the information found in this document.

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What is the Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program?

The Town of Apex Neighborhood Beautification Grant aims to empower residents to collaborate with their neighbors in identifying projects that can enrich and beautify their neighborhoods. This grant provides direct funding to help neighborhoods collaborate in enhancing both the physical and social aspects of their neighborhood.

Eligible neighborhoods or homeowner associations can propose innovative community beautification projects designed to improve their neighborhood while also benefiting the broader Apex community.

- While the Town will award neighborhoods with funding for the beautification projects, neighborhoods are required to organize within their communities
- Residents must commit to put forth their volunteer time in researching and contacting project contractors who will execute the project labor, if needed
- Residents must collectively build an outreach strategy outlining how neighborhood residents will engage and gather input about the identified project proposal

The Neighborhood Beautification Grant has three eligible project areas: Clean-up Activities, Community Gardens, and Public Space Improvements.



Program Objectives



Promotes community leadership, collaboration, pride, and empowerment



Contributes towards neighborhood engagement and improvement



Application Requirements

- The neighborhood is located within the Town of Apex boundary limits or its ETJ
- The beautification project can be completed within 9 months
- The neighborhood has a bank account in the neighborhood's name
- Prior to applying, a neighborhood representative has attended an information session which gives an overview of the grant program
- Neighborhood or Homeowners' organizations must be registered with the Town of Apex Neighborhood Registry
- The property is currently maintained by the Association or neighborhood and is not privately owned by an individual
- The project is sustainable



Grant Criteria

Funding is available to neighborhoods and all applicants must be registered with the Town of Apex CDNC Community Engagement Division. To be considered, each neighborhood that is managed by a homeowner's association or has a neighborhood association, must have democratically elected officers and does not illegally discriminate based on sex, race, ethnicity, age, religion, physical ability or sexual orientation.

Neighborhoods without a formally established association and elected leadership must consult with the Town's Community Engagement Staff about funding.

The total project funding request may not exceed \$2,000.00. Neighborhoods are encouraged to provide matching funds for approved beautification projects if the total project cost exceeds the grant's \$2,000.00 limit. The ongoing maintenance of a project that receives funding is solely the responsibility of the neighborhood.

Questions about the application process or criteria can be directed to Community Engagement staff at CommunityEngagement@apexnc.org or by calling 919.249.3400.

Completed applications can be emailed to CommunityEngagement@apexnc.org or hand-delivered to the Town of Apex Community Engagement Division at 73 Hunter St., Apex, NC 27502.



Grant Rules

1. Grant applications are accepted the 1st quarter of the calendar year.
2. All projects must benefit the neighborhood and serve a public purpose.
3. All projects must be located in neighborhood public areas.
4. Each neighborhood must demonstrate the need for the project and how the project will benefit the neighborhood.

The grant program is competitive, and funding will be prioritized for the neighborhoods that score the highest. Neighborhoods can receive only one grant per funding cycle and every other calendar year.

The Town of Apex reserves the right to prioritize legacy neighborhoods, older neighborhoods, and those not managed by a homeowner's association. The Town of Apex reserves the right to deny funding for any project.



Eligible Projects

Clean-up Activities

- Neighborhood clean-up projects/stream clean-ups

Community Gardens

Public Space Improvements

- Entrance way signage installation, replacement, or repair
- Art installation
- Landscaping
- Non-residential curb appeal improvements

Neighborhoods are welcome to submit additional beautification proposals.

Non-Eligible Projects

- Improvement/beautification on private property
- Improvement to Town/County owned facilities
- Equipment or materials for programs
- Streetlights
- Community newsletters
- Speed bumps/traffic monitoring devices
- Improvements within gated communities or apartment complexes
- Reimbursement of previous project expenditures





Neighborhood Beautification Grant Scoring Criteria

Scoring Criteria

Possible Points

Project Value and Impact

- The project has the potential to create a positive and lasting impact on the neighborhood

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Resident Collaboration - Project Design and Planning

- Project has involved outreach to an extensive range of neighborhood residents during its initial idea development stage
- Application is supported by documentation that outlines the neighborhood's voting/deciding process proving neighborhood support
- The neighborhood is effectively represented by residents who have participated in the decision-making process and are dedicated to helping implement the project. The project requires active participation and volunteer support for its execution.

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Project Budget

- Budget is reasonable and detailed, contains total project costs, all funding sources including in-kind contributions, and outlines how funds will be spent by line item

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Project Sustainability

- Project shows a reasonable and clear vision for sustaining the project after completion

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The Application Process and Timeline

1. Attend a Neighborhood Information Session in January.
2. Consult members of your neighborhood regarding the project idea and identify which neighborhood leader will complete the application.
3. Submit your application to the Town of Apex Community Engagement Division.
Email: CommunityEngagement@apexnc.org
Mail: Apex Town Hall
73 Hunter Street
Apex, NC 27502
4. Community Engagement Staff reviews project applications to ensure the project meets program requirements. Only applications meeting grant guidelines will be scored.
5. Neighborhoods submitting successful applications will be required to attend a grant orientation to discuss next steps in the grant process and program expectations.
6. Once the grant agreement is signed and funding authorization is in place, Community Engagement staff will notify the applicant that the project can begin.
7. Grantees will be required to provide monthly progress reports to the Community Engagement staff. Please note that all projects must be completed within nine (9) months from the project start date.
8. After the project is completed, grantees must submit photos of the finished work to the Community Engagement Staff, along with a one-page report detailing how the project fostered social relationships and cohesion, and how it benefited the neighborhood.

Grant Timeline



NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH

October 6, 2025



INFORMATION SESSIONS

Nov. 15, Dec. 8, and Jan. 8



APPLICATION OPENS

January 20, 2026



APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 20, 2026



APPLICATION REVIEW

February 23, 2026 - March 9, 2026



GRANT DECISION

March 16, 2026



CONTRACT PREPARATION

April 30, 2026



CONTRACT SIGNING

May 4, 2026



PROJECT INITIATION

May 18, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Neighborhood Beautification Grant?

The Neighborhood Beautification Grant provides funding for neighborhoods to carry out a project that their neighborhood has agreed will help improve a public space in their neighborhood.

2. Who can apply to receive funding for the “Neighborhood Beautification Grant”?

Registered neighborhoods and homeowner associations.

3. How do I register my neighborhood with the Town’s Community Engagement Division?

[Neighborhood Registry | Apex, NC - Official Website \(apexnc.org\)](https://www.apexnc.org/neighborhood-registry).

4. How do I apply for the Neighborhood Beautification Program?

The application will be available online through the Town of Apex’s Community Engagement, Building Blocks website, beginning on January 20, 2026.

5. When is the last day that I will be able to complete an application for the Neighborhood Beautification Grant?

All applications must be completed and submitted by 5:00 p.m. on February 20, 2026.

6. What are the Neighborhood Beautification Grant project areas?

The Neighborhood Beautification Grant has three eligible project areas: Clean-up Activities, Community Gardens, and Public Space Improvements.

7. What type of construction requires a Town of Apex permit?

Please visit the “When is a permit needed” link below to learn more information about beginning a project.

[When-is-a-permit-needed \(apexnc.org\)](https://www.apexnc.org/when-is-a-permit-needed).

8. What can be done without a permit?

Please visit page 2 of the link listed below to learn more about what can be done without a permit.

[When-is-a-permit-needed \(apexnc.org\)](https://www.apexnc.org/when-is-a-permit-needed).

9. What is the maximum amount of funding that a neighborhood can receive if its project is approved?

The maximum amount of funding per grant is \$2,000.00



Application Checklist

- ___ Our neighborhood is registered with the Town of Apex Community Engagement Division
- ___ The project proposal is considered an eligible project
- ___ I have reviewed the Neighborhood Beautification Grant Guidelines
- ___ A member of my neighborhood has attended a grant information session
- ___ Application includes a project timeline
- ___ Application includes a list of names and email addresses of residents who are in support of the project
- ___ Application includes meeting minutes documenting neighborhood consensus to undertake the project
- ___ Application has attached photos in color of the proposed project site and location
- ___ All sections in the application are complete



Questions? Contact Us



www.apexnc.org/CommEngage



CommunityEngagement@apexnc.org



919-249-3400

