



# 2022 Neighborhood Project Grants

RNeighbors Neighborhood Project Grants are back and offering increased funds from past years to complete projects that:

- Enhance a neighborhood's livability and involvement
- Benefit the entire neighborhood
- Promote a strong sense of community.



Be creative. These non-revenue producing projects can include, but are not limited to, identification signage, bike racks, mini libraries or food pantries, pocket park improvements, physical activity opportunities, local performance artists, butterfly & rain gardens, native plantscaping, and public art projects.

## Total Neighborhood Project Grant Funding

- \$16,000 for general neighborhood grants
- \$3,000 for a neighborhood mural grant

## Project Partners



# 2022 Grant Overview

## Eligible Applicants

- Only one grant application per neighborhood. Multiple projects may be bundled into one grant application.
- Eligible applicants include neighborhood associations. An unregistered group can submit a “letter of commitment” to form a neighborhood association by the end of the grant period in October.
  - A complete list of registered neighborhood associations is [online](#).
  - Creating a Neighborhood Association in Rochester is FREE. For neighborhood registration, or grant application questions, contact René Halasy, RNeighbors’ Executive Director, at [rene@RNeighbors.org](mailto:rene@RNeighbors.org).



## Past Grant Projects Completed

- Sign Toppers
- Welcome Basket Supplies
- Landscaping for Sculptures and Signs
- Educational and Historical Sign Placement
- Fitness Experiences
- Fishes ‘n Apples Swim & Nutrition Program
- Community Gardens, Supplies, and Fencing
- Sculptures
- Live Performances (Musical and Theatrical)
- Park Improvements
- Neighborhoods USA Conference Attendance

## General Requirements

- Successful projects focus on improving a neighborhood’s community involvement and livability.
- Grants are awarded and funds dispersed on a reimbursement basis. All receipts are required along with a Reimbursement form.
  - Large purchases such as park benches or sign toppers can be paid directly from the RNeighbors office.
- Neighborhood associations are limited to one grant application per registered association up to \$2,000, unless applying for the mural grant of \$3,000.
  - The application may encompass many projects in one application. For example, a neighborhood could request \$500 for a community garden, \$200 for a mini library, and \$400 for a unique social event.
  - Project oversight should be directed by the elected Neighborhood Association leaders with designated project leads to ensure cohesion amongst various projects.
  - The mural grant will be divided as \$2,500 to pay the muralist and \$500 for supplies.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. *RNeighbors staff is available to assist with application questions.*
- A budget of all project expenses must be included with the application.
- All projects must adhere to the City of Rochester’s ordinance and approval processes.
- Project photos are required to be submitted and may be used by RNeighbors in publicity.



- A final report MUST be completed at the end of the grant cycle or the Neighborhood Association will be ineligible for grant funds the following year. The final report questions will be provided upon notification of successful grant award to ensure data tracking is easy and accessible from the start of the project. *This information is imperative for RNeighbors to continue receiving grant funds for Rochester neighborhoods.*
- Projects with matching funds and/or in-kind labor (e.g., volunteer time, donated supplies, discounted materials, etc.) will be given greater consideration for grant funding. Examples of eligible match include volunteer labor, donations of equipment, materials or a monetary match from neighborhood association members or donors.
- Allowable expenses include (but are not limited to) project materials, rental equipment costs, specialized labor (arborist, heavy equipment operator, muralist, etc.), landfill fees, supplies (paint, gloves, garbage bags, etc.) and delivery charges.
- Unallowable expenses include grant writing, routine maintenance, ongoing operating expenses, advertising and promotion, sponsorship of ongoing program efforts through another entity (e.g., Police Department's neighborhood dog walker watch program), unspecialized labor costs, food and beverages, facility rental, after-event parties, or any expenditure deemed to be inconsistent with the grant program purpose or not allowed by law or ordinance.

### **Neighborhood Project Grants Timeline**

#### **Application Deadline: Wednesday, July 15, 2022, at 5 pm**

- All applications must be submitted to RNeighbors via email at [rene@RNeighbors.org](mailto:rene@RNeighbors.org).
- Applicants must complete an application and attach necessary supporting documentation. Please read all of the instructions carefully before filling out the application. It is important to fill out the application form properly. If in doubt, ask questions.
- If your request is approved, you must adhere to your application throughout the grant's duration including the project scope and budget, as well as submitting a final report by the deadline. Project circumstances can change and we want you to succeed. Ask questions. RNeighbors can help you navigate necessary changes.
- We'll be highlighting some grants in a video presentation. Scheduling a time to work with RNeighbors and the videographer may be necessary so we can tell your project's success story.

#### **Notification of Awards: Monday, July 25, 2022**

The 2022 grant winners will be posted publicly at [RNeighbors.org](http://RNeighbors.org). All applicants will be notified via email.

#### **Project Completion Deadline: Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

### **Project Evaluation and Selection**

The Neighborhood Project Grant selection team will review the submittals based on their merits and make recommendations to the RNeighbors Board of Directors for final decisions. The Neighborhood Project Grants are competitive, and the number and size of awards are limited by the amount of available funding. Applications will be reviewed and selected based on the project's ability to reflect the following objectives.

- Empower citizen leaders
- Foster a vibrant, healthy and livable community
- Nurture citizen involvement for positive change

**Need More Information?** Contact René Halasy at [rene@RNeighbors.org](mailto:rene@RNeighbors.org).

### **Additional Community Grants (available separate from the Neighborhood Project Grants)**

#### **• Rochester Garden Grants**

The City of Rochester is offering grants for residents and land managers to establish pollinator habitat and water stewardship gardens. The 2022 Rochester Garden Grants applications are open from October 1, 2021 - January 1, 2022.

<https://www.rochestermn.gov/government/departments/public-works/stormwater-management/clean-water-actions/rochestergardengrants>

#### **• RNeighborWoods Tree Grant**

Twice a year, in the spring and the fall, RNeighbors and the City of Rochester offer a grant for a winning neighborhood to receive 25 free boulevard trees. In addition to helping plant the trees, neighborhoods need to work with their neighbors to determine appropriate tree locations with final approval from City Forestry. [www.RNeighbors.org](http://www.RNeighbors.org)