



Invasive Species Grant Program

Purpose:

Invasive species remediation programs are designed to control or eradicate non-native species introduced to an ecosystem and are causing harm to native plants, animals, and habitats. This program aims to prevent invasive species from outcompeting and displacing native species, disrupting ecological processes, and causing economic damage to communities within the municipal boundaries of the Village of Long Grove.

Invasive species are often introduced unintentionally through human activities such as transportation, trade, and recreation. Without natural predators or competitors, invasive species can rapidly spread and dominate ecosystems, altering natural habitats and threatening biodiversity.

Invasive species remediation programs can take various forms including manual removal, chemical treatments, biological control, and prevention efforts. Manual removal involves physically removing invasive species by hand, cutting or pulling out plants, or trapping or hunting animals. Chemical treatments involve using herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals to kill or control invasive species. Biological control involves introducing natural predators, parasites, or diseases that can target and control invasive species populations. Prevention efforts include monitoring and regulating the transport of goods and people to prevent the introduction of new invasive species.

The ultimate goal of invasive species remediation programs is to restore or maintain the health and functioning of natural ecosystems by reducing the impacts of invasive species. By controlling invasive species, native species can thrive, restore natural habitats, and sustain human activities. Additionally, these programs can have positive economic benefits by reducing the costs associated with controlling invasive species and restoring damaged ecosystems.

Eligibility:

Grants are a form of financial assistance often awarded to individuals, organizations, or businesses to support specific projects or initiatives. For the Village of Long Grove Invasive Species Remediation Grant, any business, resident, homeowner, homeowners' association, or contractor is eligible to apply. Only work done within the Village's municipal boundary will be eligible for this grant.



Grant Guidelines and Requirements:

For fiscal year 2023/2024, the pilot program year, the Village of Long Grove is budgeting \$50,000 to be awarded to eligible and approved applicants. The funding will be reimbursed through the General Fund Budget, and the selection of the grant awardees will follow a highly competitive process. The disbursement of funds will be subject to reimbursement and facilitated after eligible expenses are incurred, and program goals and objectives are satisfactorily met.

Under this program awards will range from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$2,000 per project. As a prerequisite for funding all proposals must demonstrate a 50% match contribution (50% grant / 50% match), clearly identifying the match source(s) within the project application. Preference may be accorded to those projects with a matching amount exceeding the minimum requirement.

ASSESSMENT:

Criteria and Evaluation Process:

The process of assessing grant applications shall be conducted through a collaborative review process involving a grant committee comprised of the Village Manager or an authorized delegate, the Chair of the Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee, or a delegated representative, two current members of the Conservancy/Scenic Corridor Committee, and one Village Board Trustee specifically appointed to the grant committee by the Village President.

Ineligible Participants:

Elected and appointed Village officials, their immediate family members, and all members of Village staff are precluded from applying for grant funding. This measure is in place to ensure that grant applications are assessed impartially and fairly, free from any undue influence or conflict of interest. These restrictions align with good governance practices and promote integrity and transparency in the grant application process.

Release of Grant Funds:

Following the completion of the potential grant project the applicant shall submit a final report that documents the activities and outcomes of the project. The grant committee will then review and assess the application packet including evaluating the impact of the project's goals and objectives and its impact on the community.

Upon approval of the application the grantee will receive the grant funds subject to any applicable deductions and in compliance with the terms of the grant agreement. It is worth noting that the grant committee retains the right to request additional information or



documentation to ensure that the grantee has fulfilled all of the requirements and has met the expectations outlined in the grant agreement. This rigorous and meticulous evaluation process ensures that the grantee has used the funds for their intended purpose and has positively impacted the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

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