

Neighborhood Vitality Grant

Addison City Council 2-13-2024

The logo for the City of Addison, featuring the word "ADDISON" in blue capital letters inside a white circle, which is set against a blue background with diagonal white lines.

ADDISON

Background

A Neighborhood Vitality Grant is being proposed at Council's Direction to address maintenance of residential masonry perimeter screening walls in Addison.

The proposed grant resulted from presentations staff made to Council in September 2022, August 2023 and November 2023 regarding maintenance responsibility of Masonry Single-Family Residential Perimeter Screening Walls. The following determinations were made:

- In most instances the maintenance of existing masonry perimeter screening walls is not the responsibility of the Town.
- Masonry screening walls are a benefit to the Town and the neighborhood they are associated with.
- For the purpose of this discussion a screening wall will be defined as a masonry wall around the perimeter of a residential subdivision.



This presentation will focus on the framework of the proposed Neighborhood Vitality Grant

Purpose

The Addison Neighborhood Vitality Grant Program is a new program established by the City Council in 2024. The program is administered by Neighborhood Services to provide matching funds to help ensure the vitality of Addison neighborhoods.

The sole purpose of this program is to address aging infrastructure by providing funds to supplement the maintenance of residential masonry perimeter screening walls in Addison with the intent to:

- Preserve the physical condition of Addison's neighborhoods.
- Encourage continuity of an area.
- Protect community pride and neighborhood identity.
- Address structural issues that might pose as a safety concern.

By investing in the maintenance of perimeter screening wall infrastructure, the entire community of Addison will benefit. Addison's contribution in the program will address issues that town infrastructure may have caused to screening walls, such as trees adjacent to wall footings, etc.

Who Can Apply?

Both individual homeowners and neighborhood groups, such as an HOA, are eligible to apply for the grant program. Where a formal neighborhood group does exist, the application must be coordinated with the neighborhood group. HOA coordination will help ensure consistency of repairs / materials, economy of scale, planned phasing of work, will help streamline the process and ensure the HOA requirements are met.

Where there is not a neighborhood group individual homeowners may apply for the grant. In this instance, it is encouraged for neighbors to work together and submit a joint application to address maintenance needs consecutively.

A list of Addison Neighborhood Groups is provided below:

- Addison Place
- Grand Addison
- La Mirada
- Addison Timbers
- Oaks North
- Stanford Court Villas
- Towne Lake
- Townhomes of Addison

When Are Applications Accepted?

Grants applications are accepted annually from August 1st – 30th. Applications will be reviewed by Town Staff in September. During this period, staff may request additional information from the applicants to aid with the review process. Applicants will receive notification of grant awards during the month of October. Grants may be awarded during a Fiscal Year other than the one in which the application was received. Staff will have discretion to allow an emergency application outside of the standard timeframe.

Can the Grant Address Existing Damage?

With the intent to protect the vitality of Addison's neighborhoods staff recommends the grant address this issues. Staff also recommends through the acceptance of grant funds the applicant agrees to maintain the wall in perpetuity moving forward.

Match & Reimbursement Information

The grant program is a matching program where the applicant is required to provide 20% of the funds for the project and the Town will reimburse the applicant for 80% of the project. The applicant(s) will be responsible for paying invoices for the work and the Town will reimburse the applicant for the work.

Matching contributions can be made with cash, donations of materials and volunteer hours. Information for in kind donations or time spent will need to be included in the grant application and will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Implementation Process

- Applicants will be notified if their application is awarded in October.
- Applicants are responsible for selecting a contractor and working with them to get the work completed.
- The Town will develop a list of prequalified contractors for applicants to use as a resource.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify and work with reliable vendors and to ensure the necessary inspections and permits are obtained.

Grant Payments

- Applicants may submit two reimbursement requests to the Town. One for project mobilization and a second at completion of the project.

Questions

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