

The Merritt Neighborhood Fund

The mission of the Aquidneck Land Trust is to preserve the island's natural character and open spaces for the lasting benefit of our community. The Merritt Neighborhood Fund was established in 1999 to honor the late Peter M. Merritt, the organization's visionary past president for his decade of leadership. Peter had a vision to someday execute the mission of the Land Trust on a smaller scale to benefit individual neighborhoods across the island.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide neighborhood and community groups with modest funding to support preservation and land use projects to strengthen their community's identity and natural character.

The Fund's modest \$100-\$2,500 grants are designed to encourage the preservation and appropriate use, for community good, of *small* open spaces serving residential neighborhoods across Aquidneck Island and to model the ethic of land conservation and stewardship through community volunteerism. Sample projects include pocket parks, community gardens, and transformation of neglected properties for community recreational & environmental benefit. Like last year the fund will also place special focus on funding some community/educational garden projects. Please note specific questions on the application pertaining to this funding initiative. Also, if your project is awarded a grant, a follow up report will accompany the award letter. This will need to be completed within 6 months of the award.

How to Apply for a 2010 Grant

Follow the funding criteria. Complete the Grant Application Form in its entirety. Include all required and optional attachments. Submit the completed proposal by the Proposal Submission deadline.

Grant Size: \$100 - \$2,500

Proposal Submission

Funding Decision

Deadlines: April 1, 2010

April 15, 2009-May 1, 2010

Funding Criteria:

- **Without exception, all projects have to be located on Aquidneck Island.**
- The subject property and proposed use must be consistent with the purpose of the Merritt Neighborhood Fund and mission of the Aquidneck Land Trust.
- Neighborhood groups and coalitions are encouraged to apply. To assure project accountability, grants above \$1000 will only be awarded if the lead coalition applicant is tax-exempt under IRS section 501(c)3 or a municipal agency. The Aquidneck Land Trust seeks to establish working relationships with neighborhood and community groups to develop the spirit and strength of community involvement and partnership.
- Eligible projects are those which best demonstrate:
 1. Clarity of purpose
 2. Feasibility of proposed improvements
 3. Potential for tangible impact
 4. Ability to engage volunteer, community support
 5. Sustainable funding
 6. Strong project management
 7. Quality of stewardship plan
 8. Community gardens must provide details for the garden's year round sustainability (e.g., for schools how will the garden be maintained and used during summer months).
- The Fund will not make grants to individuals or to fund an organization's general operations.
- All required permits must be issued to the lead applicant before any Funds will be distributed.

For more information, please contact:

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2010 GRANT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Name of Group or Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Grant Amount Requested: \$ _____ **Start & Completion Dates:** _____

Overall Purpose / Mission of Neighborhood Group, Coalition or Lead Applicant: _____

Subject Property Information (please provide a specific address)

Subject Property Address: _____

Current Property Owner: _____

Plat #: _____ Lot #: _____

Describe the Proposed Project. Include: current uses & condition of the property's built as well as natural environment; what is envisioned or proposed; and the management plan to assure the property's stewardship once the project is completed. If you are applying for funding for a community garden, please expand on how you will maintain sustainability of the garden (e.g., for schools how will the garden be maintained and used during summer months). Also expand on if you intend to use any outside support organizations such as the Children's Garden Network for organizational assistance. (Use additional paper if needed)

Government Permits: *If any permits (e.g., municipal, RI Dept. of Environmental Management, CRMC) are required to fulfill this project, attach a copy of each required permit to this proposal*

_____ No special permits needed _____ Special permits are required and are attached
_____ Special permits required, but are not yet issued. Identify specific permit, status, and issuance date.

Financial Information

Total Projected Project Expenses: \$ _____

Total Projected Project Revenues: \$ _____

Project Funding – Confirmed Donations: \$ _____

Project Funding – Pending Donations: \$ _____

Project Funding – In-kind & Volunteer Support: \$ _____

Attachments

- **Detailed project line-item budget. Include a list of all confirmed & pending donors and the amount of the requested donation. Demonstrate financial sustainability.**
- Copy of the lead applicant's IRS Form 501(c)3 tax-exemption letter or commitment from the municipal agency.
- Any other materials or information that will help to strengthen your proposal.