

Lake Barcroft Foundation
Environmental Initiatives Grant Program
Application, Review & Award Procedures
August 2026

Purpose

The Lake Barcroft Foundation (LBF) Environmental Initiatives Grant Program provides financial support for projects that protect, preserve, restore, or improve the natural environment within the Lake Barcroft and the Cameron Run Watershed which encompasses Lake Barcroft and its tributaries. The program is intended to encourage practical community-based projects that provide a meaningful environmental benefit to Lake Barcroft and the Cameron Run Watershed.

Funding Availability

Approximately \$4,500 is expected to be available for Environmental Initiative Grants during the 2026 grant cycle. The amount available may vary in future years depending on contributions to and resources available in the Environmental Initiatives Fund.

Applicants may request grants of up to \$4,500 per project.

LBF may fund multiple projects, partially fund a request, or elect not to distribute all available funds during a particular grant cycle. Matching funds are not required; however, other funding, donated materials or services, volunteer labor, and partnerships may be considered favorably.

Eligible Projects

Projects must take place within the Cameron Run Watershed or demonstrate a direct and identifiable benefit to the watershed. Examples include:

- Water-quality improvement and pollution-prevention projects;
- Stream, shoreline, or riparian-buffer restoration;
- Erosion control and stormwater-management projects;
- Native plantings, tree planting, and habitat restoration;
- Removal or management of invasive plant species;
- Projects that reduce runoff into Lake Barcroft, Cameron Run or their tributaries;
- Wildlife and pollinator habitat improvements;
- Environmental education or community outreach;
- Litter, debris, or watershed cleanup initiatives; and
- Research, monitoring, or data collection related to the health of Lake Barcroft, or the greater Cameron Run Watershed.

Projects that primarily benefit individual property owners without providing a broader environmental or watershed benefit will generally not be eligible.

Who May Apply

Applications may be submitted by Lake Barcroft residents, neighborhood groups, schools, community organizations, nonprofit organizations, environmental organizations, or other entities or individuals undertaking an eligible project. Applicants do not need to be Lake Barcroft residents if the proposed project has a demonstrable connection to and benefit for Lake Barcroft or the Cameron Run Watershed.

Application Requirements

Applicants should submit a completed Environmental Initiatives Grant Application containing:

1. Applicant name and contact information;
2. A description and location of the proposed project;
3. An explanation of how the project will benefit Lake Barcroft or the Cameron Run Watershed;
4. The amount requested and a simple project budget;
5. An anticipated project timeline;
6. Identification of any required permits, property-owner approvals, LBA/LBWID approvals, or other permissions;
7. Information about other funding, donated materials, volunteer participation, or partnerships, if applicable; and
8. Photos, estimates, maps, plans, or other supporting materials, if helpful.

LBF may request additional information before considering an application complete.

Application Review Process

Completed applications will be reviewed by the LBF Environmental Initiatives Grant Committee or other committee designated by the LBF Board. Committee members may contact applicants with questions, request additional documentation, or visit the proposed project location when useful in evaluating the application.

The Committee may consult individuals with relevant environmental, engineering, horticultural, watershed-management, or other technical expertise when appropriate.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated holistically. Factors include, but are not limited to:

1. The anticipated environmental benefit to Lake Barcroft and the Cameron Run Watershed;
2. Potential to improve water quality, reduce runoff or erosion, restore habitat, manage invasive species, or otherwise protect natural resources;
3. The number of people or portion of the watershed areas likely to benefit;
4. The feasibility of the project and likelihood of successful completion;
5. Whether the proposed budget is reasonable and makes effective use of limited grant funds;
6. The applicant's ability to complete and, when applicable, maintain the project;
7. Opportunities to leverage volunteer participation, donated materials, partnerships, or other funding;
8. Educational or community-engagement value; and
9. The availability of funds during the applicable grant cycle.

Projects need not satisfy every criterion to receive funding. In addition, other criteria may be identified during the evaluation process.

Recommendation and Final Approval

After reviewing completed applications, the Environmental Initiatives Grant Committee will make funding recommendations to the LBF Board. The LBF Board has final authority to approve or deny grants and may approve an application in full, approve partial funding, impose reasonable conditions, or request additional information. Grant awards are discretionary, and submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Conflicts of Interest

Any Committee or LBF Board member who has a personal, financial, or other material interest in a grant application must disclose that interest and should not participate in evaluating or voting on that application. Mere status as a Lake Barcroft Association resident is not considered a material conflict of interest.

Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds must be used solely for the purposes described in the approved application unless LBF provides prior approval for a modification. Depending on the project, LBF may provide funds directly to the recipient or reimburse documented expenses.

Recipients should retain receipts, invoices, contracts, or other appropriate documentation. Any substantial change in project scope, budget, location, or purpose must be approved by LBF before grant funds are redirected. Unused grant funds must be returned to LBF unless otherwise authorized.

Project Completion and Reporting

Following completion, grant recipients will be asked to provide a brief report describing:

- Work completed;
- Actual use of grant funds;
- Results or environmental benefits achieved;
- Any significant changes from the original proposal; and
- Photographs or other documentation of the completed project, when appropriate.

LBF may use information and photographs from funded projects to inform the community about the Environmental Initiatives Grant Program and its environmental impact.

Program Administration

The LBF Board may establish application deadlines or funding cycles and may periodically revise these procedures based on available funding, experience with the program, changing environmental priorities, and the needs of Lake Barcroft and the Cameron Run Watershed. The LBF Treasurer and Manager shall maintain a master accounting of all donations to and expenditures from the LBF Environmental Initiatives Grant Program.