



Bridging Communities Community Improvement Mini-Grant 2022

All answers below copied into [form](#) for grant application

In approximately 200 words please describe your group, organization, or individual efforts:

The HFNA Green Spaces Committee exists to steward and strengthen the community green spaces of our neighborhood, Hubbard Farms. The Committee will achieve this by engaging residents in clean-ups, beautification events, community dinners, and other opportunities that create a greener, healthier, more active Hubbard Farms. We envision a neighborhood full of color, with thriving public spaces for the whole community to gather.

The Green Spaces Committee meets monthly and is open to any Hubbard Farms resident who is interested in strengthening the neighborhood's green spaces.

In approximately 200 words please describe any current projects or activities:

The HFNA Green Spaces Committee has identified three primary areas of focus to improve our neighborhood's green spaces in 2022.

First, we aim to provide upkeep and physical improvements to the HF Community Garden, including repair of the broken garden sign, broken swing for children, deteriorating compost bins, and a few raised beds in need of repair. We aim to make the garden a beautiful public space that offers fresh produce to all who live in our neighborhood.

Second, we aim to host multiple community events that revolve around the neighborhood's green spaces. This will create further buy-in and volunteer support, and reaffirm the garden as a gathering place for Hubbard Farmers. Event ideas include a community dinner featuring garden-sourced produce and a children-focused event to make the space welcoming for families in our neighborhood.

Third, we aim to hold regular beautification days through the fall. This would include trash clean-ups on each of the streets that comprise Hubbard Farms and seasonal flower-plantings. This work has already begun, with tulips being planted in late fall of 2021.

Describe in detail the project you are requesting funding for:

Support from BCI will allow us -- the HFNA Green Spaces Committee -- to activate the Hubbard Farms Community Garden into a vibrant neighborhood gathering space, home to native plants, organic produce, and community events.



The Hubbard Farms Community Garden has a small but dedicated group of neighborhood volunteers who -- despite fluctuations in membership -- have maintained the space, which exists adjacent to an affordable apartment complex maintained by Southwest Solutions. Home to 11 raised beds and two rainwater catchment tanks, the half-acre garden produces a wide variety of produce each season, including tomatoes, basil, peppers, eggplant, kale, collard greens, tomatillos, radishes, beets, and more.

However, the garden faces a number of challenges, including the need for funds that can sustain the planting, growing, and harvesting of organic produce into the future. Basic garden infrastructure has not received the attention it deserves and is much needed after years of punishing Michigan winters. Furthermore, few neighbors are aware that the space continues to grow fruits and vegetables that are available to all.

Recognizing the need for a group that would advocate for the garden and engage more neighbors in its upkeep, the HFNA Green Spaces Committee was created in December of 2021. As detailed in our project budget, we seek funds to implement critical improvements to the garden and establish this green space as a thriving community asset for years to come.

Approximately how many people will participate in your project?

50

Approximately how many people will your project have a direct impact on?

1000 (population of Hubbard Farms)