

Street-front Beautification Grant

Summary: Property improvements on the street-side of the property will be eligible for reimbursement for one-third (1/3) of the total project cost, not exceeding a total reimbursement of \$1,500. Projects in which the total cost is greater than \$4,500 are eligible for the maximum amount of \$1,500. There is no minimum project cost; in fact, small projects (under \$500) are encouraged to apply.

Amount: The Village has allocated \$10,000 for this grant; applications will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once the fund has been depleted, the grant program will end.

Eligibility: Projects are eligible for the Street-front Beautification Grant if they meet the following criteria:

1. **The project is on the street-side of the property.** Corner lots are eligible on two sides; alleys are not streets, and therefore alley-side projects are not eligible.
2. **The project must be a *new* improvement.** Seasonal work such as the replanting of flower beds, trimming of shrubs and other greenery, replenishing mulch, etc. are not eligible.
3. **The project must directly improve the aesthetic appeal of the property as seen from the street.** Simply completing a property improvement on the street-side of the property is not enough; the project must increase the beautification of the neighborhood. Projects that indirectly increase the beautification of the neighborhood, such as lawn care equipment and structural improvements, are ineligible.
4. **The project must be a capital improvement.** A capital improvement is any project for which the useful life is at least five years *and* improves the value of the property.

Application process: Applicants must fill out an application *before* they begin the project. Applications that are submitted during or after project's completion will be denied. To be accepted, applications will outline explicitly which items will be submitted for reimbursement. Larger projects may require an onsite meeting with the Village Administrator prior to accepting the application. *The Village Administrator will have final say on the acceptance of all projects.* Applications that are accepted must then complete their projects, present the Village Administrator proof of purchase for any expense to be reimbursed, and schedule an onsite inspection of the completed beautification project. If the project is approved for reimbursement, the Fiscal Officer will issue a reimbursement check to the applicant. Projects must be completed and reimbursed by December 31st, 2015 at the latest.

Right of refusal: As with any grant, the Village of Botkins reserves the right to reject any project that does not achieve the desired objective. Applying for a project that fits the criteria established above does not guarantee that the project will be accepted for reimbursement funding.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

Painting or siding
Planting of new trees/shrubs
Installation of new flower beds (flowers do not qualify as they are not capital projects)
Porch and front steps installation or restoration
Window installation or replacement
Door installation or replacement
Sidewalk, curb and gutter maintenance and replacement
Installation or replacement of a walkway
Installation or replacement of a flagpole
Installation or replacement of a fence (chain-link do not qualify as they do not beautify)
Installation or replacement of deck or patio
Removal of unsightly structures such as metal antennas and towers
Driveway resurfacing

Examples of ineligible projects include but are not limited to:

Lawn-care equipment
Mulch, flowers, grass seed, tree trimming, and other seasonal landscaping
Regular property maintenance expected by the Ohio Revised Code or Village Zoning Code
Nuisance abatement
Basic structural improvements
Roof and foundation work
Storm water drainage projects
Personal leisure items such as hot-tubs, pools, hammocks, lawn furniture, fire pits, grills, etc.
Any tools or equipment purchased to complete an approved project

STREETFRONT BEAUTIFICATION GRANT APPLICATION

Property Owner: _____ Date: _____

Property Address: _____

Lot Number: _____ Project Completion Date: _____

Description of project (include how the project increases the beautification of the street-front):

Itemized list of project materials and expenses

Description of expense	Estimated Cost (\$)	Eligible (Y/N)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

Total Eligible Project Cost: _____ (Total of eligible materials and expenses)

Total Village Reimbursement: _____ (1/3 of project cost, or maximum grant amount)

If funded, I agree to execute the project as described above and utilize the list of materials and expenses approved by the Administrator. I understand that if the project is not completed as described above and as approved by the Administrator, I will not be eligible for reimbursement. I understand that by failing to submit proof of purchase documentation and/or failing to schedule an onsite inspection after project completion I will forfeit reimbursement. I understand that the Village of Botkins is not responsible for the safety of any persons or property involved in the project.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

USE THIS PAGE FOR SKETCH OF PROJECT, IF NEEDED

For Village of Botkins Use Only

Administrator to Complete:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Administrator Signature</u>
Project funding accepted: (Y/N)	_____	_____

Received copy of proof of purchases:	_____	_____
--------------------------------------	-------	-------

Onsite inspection completed:	_____	_____
------------------------------	-------	-------

Onsite inspection satisfactory (Y/N)

If onsite inspection is unsatisfactory, describe why:

Fiscal Officer to Complete:

Check Amount: _____ Date Issued: _____

Signature: _____