

Applying for funding

Your group may wish to apply for funding to help improve your park. When applying for funding it is really important that the funder you apply to is willing to give funds for projects similar to yours (It would not be advisable to apply for an environment grant if you wanted to set up a sports project, for example). By reading through the information provided with the application form you will be able to work out what the funder is willing to give money for.

When filling in applications, please bear the following points in mind:

1. If filling in a paper form, photocopy the application first. It's good to have a spare copy in case you make any mistakes.
2. Don't be too extravagant with your first bid, it is better to apply for smaller amounts of money when you first begin. Funders like to see experience of dealing with money and projects before they offer you a large sum of money.
3. Make a list of the funders aims and objectives and make statements about how your project will reach these aims and objectives.
4. Funders like projects which meet the needs of local people. If you have completed a piece of consultation that shows that your project will meet these needs, try to refer to it in the application.
5. Funders also like to fund projects which include more than one group or organisation. Refer to the fact that you work in partnership with Oxford City Council and any other groups or organisations.
6. Before filling out the application make sure that you have a full project proposal that covers how the project will be managed. Funders like to give money to groups who are well organised and would be ready to start the project as soon as the money is available.

Awards for All

A lottery based grants scheme aimed at local communities. They award grants of between £500 and £5,000 in a simple and straightforward way.

It funds projects that enable people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

T: 01483 462943

E: south.east@awardsforall.org.uk

W: www.awardsforall.org.uk

7. Try not to ramble, include everything that you feel you need to write but write it in the shortest way possible.

8. Make sure you mention any match funding you have received. Equipment, facilities or staff given in kind can be classed as match funding; speak to the parks department to get a cost for these items.

9. Make a checklist of any extra information other than the application form which needs to be returned to the funder, such as a constitution or financial records. Tick each item as you put it in the envelope.

New Opportunities Fund

A lottery based grants scheme aimed at education, health and environment initiatives.

The fund will support projects that improve the quality of life for people and communities, addressing the needs of those most disadvantaged in society and encouraging community participation.

T: 0207 211 1800

E: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk

W: www.nof.org.uk

Council Grants

Oxford City Council gives a range of grants to local community groups whose work benefits Oxford City residents and helps the Council achieve its vision and objectives.

T: 01865 252597

E: grants@oxford.gov.uk

W: www.oxford.gov.uk/grants

10. If you are not successful with your first bid, don't give up, try and try again! Some funders will give you an explanation of why you were not successful if you request it in writing.

11. Try to get a copy of a successful application for that funder, this will show you what kind of things the funders are looking for. Many 'friends of' groups apply to the same funders so another "friends of" group may be able to offer you some help.

12. Finally, remember that the parks department is always available to offer help and support to your group.

