

Community Beautification Water Program

FAQ

What is the purpose of the program?

The purpose is to improve the quality of planting beds and trees in City parks and on street medians by assisting neighborhood associations who would like to water planting beds and/or new trees on City parks and street medians in their neighborhood.

How does the program work?

The City will provide an initial \$1,000 credit to eligible Oklahoma City neighborhood association's water utility account, with subsequent credits provided on an as needed basis, not to exceed \$1,000 annually. Also, limited funds are available for installation of water meters, backflow preventers and frost-free hydrants (hydration equipment), to be installed by the City after verification of need.

Who is eligible to apply for the water credit and/or hydration equipment?

Applications will be considered from incorporated voluntary neighborhood associations located in Oklahoma City and listed with the Oklahoma City Neighborhood Alliance. Home owner associations (HOA's), where the home owner is obligated by deed to maintain common areas, are not eligible.

After the initial water credit is granted how do I receive subsequent water credits?

Applicants must reapply in order to receive subsequent water credits, which cannot exceed \$1,000 annually. Due to the time it takes to process an application, neighborhood associations are encouraged to reapply a minimum of 30 days prior to when they expect to expend all of their current credit amount. The City will not be responsible if funds are depleted in the applicant's account prior to a subsequent credit amount being applied by the City.

How is the water credit provided?

The neighborhood association President must sign an application requesting a credit of \$1,000 to be applied to their City water utility account. After review of the application and any additional information requested, successful applicants will be issued a permit by the Parks Dept., which sets out the conditions that govern use of the water credit by the applicant. After the water credit permit has been issued, the Parks Dept. will process paperwork that authorizes the City Utilities Dept. to apply the credit.

How is the hydration equipment provided?

The neighborhood association President may also apply for installation of hydration equipment by the City, which will be subject to availability of funds and verification of need by Parks Dept. field staff. Parks Dept. staff will meet on-site with a neighborhood association representative to determine the location and feasibility of the proposed equipment. If the location is agreed upon and the project is determined to be feasible, the Parks Dept. will issue a purchase order for installation of the hydration equipment by a private vendor under contract with the City.

What about other installation costs?

The cost to bore under streets and install distribution lines from the water main to the project site, if required, must be paid for by the neighborhood association.

Does the program apply to sprinkler systems?

No. However, the program will grandfather existing sprinkler systems on City parks and medians as long as they do not also water turf. If the sprinkler system from a single meter waters both turf and planting beds/trees, only the percent of the total sq. ft. watered that is planting beds and trees times the amount spent on the previous year's water bill will be allowed for a water credit.

Is the program available for neighborhood frontages and entrances?

No. Neighborhood frontages and entrances are typically owned by the adjacent home owners and are the responsibility of the home owner or the home owners association.

Can neighborhood associations apply for multiple \$1,000 annual credits and hydration equipment?

As funds permit, applications may be considered for multiple \$1,000 annual credits and/or hydration equipment. Prominence and visibility of the project site, along with a demonstrated success in quality

maintenance by the association, will be considered by the Parks Dept. prior to granting any requests for multiple credits and/or hydration equipment.

Are there any other requirements for receiving the annual water credit and/or hydration equipment?

The neighborhood association must agree to keep their utility account current, promptly refund to the City any credit amount paid out to the association due to closure of the account or cancellation/non-renewal of the permit, follow all City guidelines on water usage, maintain the landscape in an acceptable manner, use the water provided only for watering planting beds and/or new trees as identified in the application, and comply with all other conditions set forth in the permit.

Where can I get a copy of the application and additional information?

Applications are available at the Parks and Recreation Admin. Offices, 420 W. Main St., Suite 210, OKC 73102, or you may call 297-3848, or visit the Parks Dept. web site at: <http://www.okc.gov/parks/>

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