

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
Grant Application Supplement

Section 1. Applicant Information.

The Forest Hills Neighborhood Alliance (FHNA) is a grassroots, 501(c)(3) project of the Forest Hills Citizens Association, dedicated to educational outreach and preservation of the history and culture of the community. FNHA was incorporated in 2001. Since then, its members have been successful in obtaining historic landmark designation for the Owl's Nest, a late 19th century home designed by Appleton P. Clark, a prominent Washington architect; in projects such as Forest Hills History Day (October 2004); the publication of *Images of America: Forest Hills*, a book detailing the area's distinctive heritage and authored by twelve Forest Hills residents (2006); and the Art on Call Project, sponsored by Cultural Tourism DC in cooperation with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (2009). In 2011 a public Listserv was created, which continues to thrive with new members joining weekly. The Forest Hills Connection was welcomed by the Alliance in 2012 as a "neighborhood monthly e-magazine about, by and for our community." FHNA is the grantee on the DOEE RiverSmart Innovation Grant awarded for restoration and education projects in and around the Broad Branch Stream, and on Casey Trees Community Tree Planting at the site.

Rock Creek Conservancy (RCC) is a 501(c)(3) organization that exists to restore Rock Creek and its parklands as a natural oasis for all people to appreciate and protect. Rock Creek Conservancy is the only organization dedicated solely to Rock Creek and its parks. The creek meanders 33 miles through the Washington metropolitan area, crossing federal lands as well as district, city, county, and state boundaries. Although parkland borders much of the creek, the surrounding development threatens the health and beauty of these natural areas. Rock Creek Conservancy is uniquely positioned to foster outreach, education, and efforts to overcome threats to Rock Creek. Working through a combination of education and advocacy, the Conservancy's strategy is to build partnerships with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and residents to work together to preserve Rock Creek for present and future generations. The Conservancy offers volunteer, outreach, restoration, education, youth, and health programs.

RCC has been particularly active at the Broad Branch Stream site, holding monthly invasive species removal and trash cleanup events with dozens of volunteers over the last year. In addition, they are leading the education components of the site's DOEE RiverSmart Innovation grant, as well as the second wave of planting planned for Spring 2017, and have been intimately involved in every aspect of implementing both the DOEE and Casey Trees grants at the site.

Section 2. Project Information.

Background. Since 2012, Broad Branch Stream and its Linnean Tributary have been the focus of significant investment by the District Department of Energy and the Environment and other organizations. In 2014, DOEE completed an award-winning \$2.2 million restoration of Broad Branch Stream and its woodland surroundings, bringing the stream above ground and creating new habitat for birds, amphibians, and other wildlife. In 2016, DOEE awarded a \$19,960 RiverSmart Innovation Grant to the Forest Hills Neighborhood

Alliance and Rock Creek Conservancy to continue restoration and improvement of the site for wildlife habitat as well as community use. The site is also the focus of a 2016 Casey Trees Neighborhood Tree Planting Grant, valued at over \$20,000.

Together, the DOEE and Casey grants will support significant work to improve the Broad Branch Stream site. This includes:

- Development of a comprehensive planting and trail plan by a sustainable landscape design specialist, in consultation with the National Park Service, Casey Trees, and DOEE
- Creation of walking trails by Potomac Appalachian Club volunteers
- Planting of over 100 native trees, 150 shrubs, and 300 perennials and grasses by Casey Tree volunteers in November 2016, and by RCC volunteers in Spring 2017
- Removal of several tons of invasive species and trash by Rock Creek Conservancy volunteers through monthly volunteer events in 2016, 2017 and beyond
- Installation of dog refuse stations, trash receptacles, and seating areas
- Citizen science projects to monitor stream health, and bird and amphibian species through E-Bird and FrogWatch
- Education for homeowners and businesses in the Broad Branch Stream watershed about what they can do to help reduce stormwater runoff and pollution through the RiverSmart Homes program

Describe the purpose of this grant and how the grant funds will be used. To protect their investments in this site, both the DOEE RiverSmart Innovation Grant and the Casey Tree Grant require FHNA and RCC to maintain the new tree and shrub plantings for three years following their installation. This includes watering the plantings during the hot summer months, June through September, weeding and pruning, and monitoring deer protection around the plantings.

The ANC grant funds will provide a stipend for a college student majoring in forestry management or a related field to monitor, water and maintain the new plantings for twelve weeks during the summers of 2017, thereby ensuring the success of these plantings during the critical establishment period. There are no funds in either of the current grants to support this activity.

DOEE is contributing a water pump and hose to this effort, so that water can be drawn directly from the stream.

A description of the internship opportunity is attached. The entire amount of this ANC Grant will be used to support the activities of this intern, who will be supervised by RCC staff. In identifying an appropriate intern, strong preference will be given to Washington DC residents.

Describe the public benefits of the project to be supported by the grant.

FHNA and RCC envision the Broad Branch Stream park as the “green heart of Forest Hills.” Benefits to the community include the following:

- **Recreation.** The Broad Branch and Linnean Stream sites are used by many families and individuals in the Forest Hills and Chevy Chase communities for walking, playing, bird

watching, and dog walking. The proposed planting and other installations will enhance and preserve the beauty and of these areas, as well as provide seating and picnic areas.

- **Wildlife habitat.** One of the DDOE's primary goals in restoring and daylighting the Broad Branch and Linnean streams was to provide a healthy habitat to support pollinators, birds, amphibians, and small mammals.

Since the completion of DDOE's work in May, 2015, numerous species of birds have been seen or heard there, including a nesting pair of Barred Owls and their fledglings; a flock of Wood Ducks; numerous pairs of Mallard Ducks; a Cooper's Hawk; Pileated, Red Bellied, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Flickers; and many Cardinals, Goldfinches, Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrens, and others. Of particular note: DC's own state bird, the increasingly rare Wood Thrush, has been heard in the woods. Red fox have been seen in the woods, and the streams now support six species of frogs, which are being monitored by FrogWatch, as well as salamanders.

The planned installation of additional native trees and shrubs, as well as wildflowers, will provide food, cover and nesting habitat for these birds, as well as support pollinators, amphibians, and small mammals.

- **Educational activities.** Much of the surrounding Forest Hills and Chevy Chase neighborhoods are uphill from Broad Branch Stream. As a result, during even moderate rain events, there is a great deal of stormwater runoff into Broad Branch Stream and, ultimately, into Rock Creek and the Potomac River. This stormwater carries pollutants and causes serious erosion. The District's RiverSmart Homes program offer homeowners and communities a number of measures to reduce this stormwater runoff. FNHA and RCC will use activities at the Broad Branch Stream site to promote the adaptation of RiverSmart Homes measures by local residents and businesses, and to educate site users about the importance of picking up and properly disposing of dog waste and other refuse.
- **Community kick-off event.** On Sunday, October 16, 2016, FHNA and RCC will host a community kick-off event to celebrate the Broad Branch Stream restoration, and introduce the community to the exciting work that is planned at the site in the coming year. City Councilmember Mary Cheh, ANC3 members, and leaders from the District Department of Energy and the Environment, National Park Service, Casey Trees, Rock Creek Conservancy, the Potomac Appalachian Trails Club, RiverSmart Homes, and other local leaders will be present. Activities will include a tour of the site, resource and education fair, native plant sale, and refreshments.
- **Volunteer opportunities.** There are numerous opportunities for the community to get involved in supporting and sustaining the Broad Branch Stream site, including the Casey Neighborhood Tree Planting on Saturday, November 5; monthly invasive species removal events hosted by Rock Creek Conservancy; a second shrub and wildflower planting scheduled for spring 2017; citizen science projects such as FrogWatch and E-Bird; and more. Through such volunteer engagement, FHNC and RCC hope to build a culture of stewardship in the surrounding community.
- **Internship opportunity for college student.** For a college student majoring in forestry management, environmental studies or a related field, this is an excellent opportunity to

gain experience in their chosen profession. The intern's work will be overseen by RCC staff.

Other funding.

See above. The budget spreadsheet for the DOEE Innovation Grant is attached.

Project timeline.

The work plan for the DOEE Innovation Grant is attached, highlighting use of requested ANC Grant funding as well as the timeframe for all grant activities.

ANC Commissioner's Involvement.

The Project Manager, Katrina Weinig, has met with ANC3 Commissioner Andrea Molod several times, including at the site, and has been in regular communication both with Ms. Molod and with ANC3 Commissioner Mary Beth Ray about planned work at the Broad Branch Stream site. Both Ms. Molod and Ms. Ray wrote letters in support of the DOEE Innovation Grant, and have been invited to attend the October 16 community kick-off. There is no other involvement in this project by ANC commissioners.

Detailed description of project costs.

See above. Budget spreadsheet for DOEE grant is attached, highlighting how ANC Grant funds will be used.

List of attachments.

1. Grant Application Supplement
2. Broad Branch Stream Site Tree and Shrub Planting List
3. DOEE Innovation Grant Budget spreadsheet.
4. DOEE Innovation Grant Work Plan