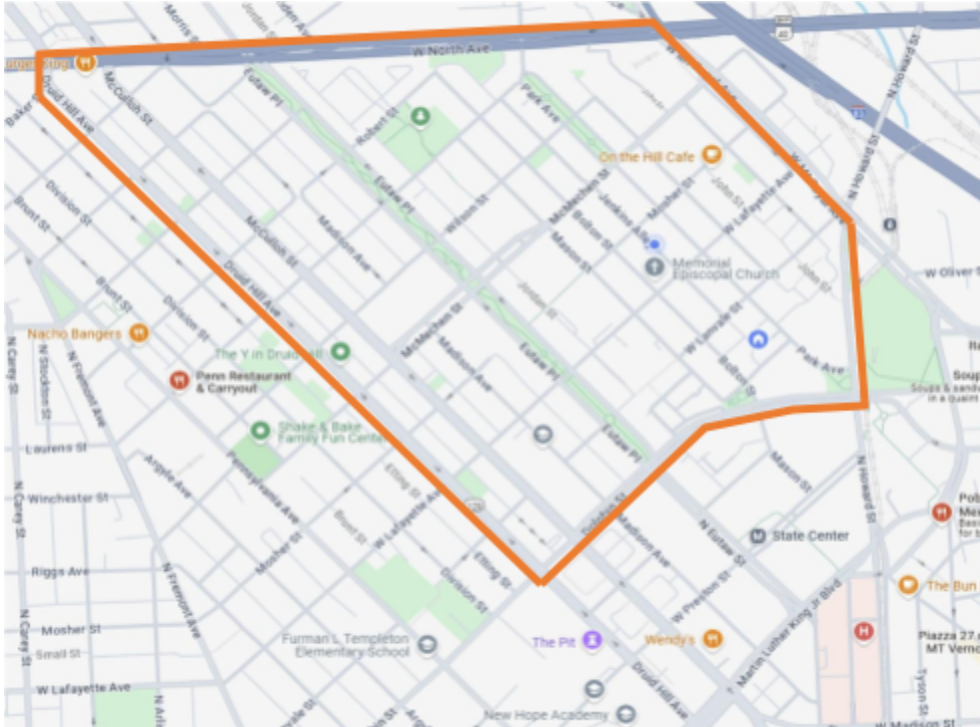


## **Bolton Hill Garden Club Greening Grants 2026**

### **Frequently Asked Questions/Guidance**

#### **Q: Where do you fund projects?**

**A:** We have expanded the geographic area for eligible projects to include Bolton Hill, Madison Park and Marble Hill: defined as the area between the Mt. Royal median to the west side blocks of Druid Hill Avenue and from Dolphin Street to North Avenue.



#### **Q: Who is Eligible to Apply for a Greening Grant?**

**A:** Anyone who is interested in improving public space within the Greater Bolton Hill community as outlined above. Applicants need not be residents, but the proposed project must be located within the boundaries above.

#### **Q: What Types of Projects will you fund?**

**A:** We fund the planting and maintenance of neighborhood parks, public green space, and tree wells. Our priorities are the planting of native perennials, shrubbery and trees. Annuals and non-native plants may be included in the grant request. Related gardening materials, such as mulch and compost, also may be included in the request. We will consider, in the case of tree wells for example, hardscape or labor costs to enlarge, prepare, or contain greening spaces. Projects on institutional green spaces (churches, schools, etc.) are eligible as long as these areas

are publicly-accessible and strongly supported by the institution. Projects on private residential property are not eligible

**Q: How much funding is available? How much may I request?**

A: Funding for the greening grants comes from Garden Club fundraisers (i.e., fall pansy sale, holiday greens sale, and spring plant/garden shed sale). The total amount that we distribute averages between \$6,000 and \$10,000 depending on the success of our fundraising activities. In 2025, we awarded \$10,000 to 11 projects; we expect to have a slightly smaller grant budget in 2026.

Individual project awards are based on the number of applications received and the amount of funding requested. We strive to fund as many projects as possible throughout the neighborhood. Applications for any amount will be considered, however, some may only be partially funded or not funded at all. In the past, requests have ranged from as little as \$75 to over \$2,000. We encourage larger scale projects to secure other sources of funding.

**Q: How will you evaluate proposals?**

A: The following criteria will be used:

- All proposals must be for green spaces accessible to the public that clearly benefit Bolton Hill, Marble Hill or Madison Park.
- We strongly recommend perennials and/or native plants, but proposals may include annuals or non-native plants. We prohibit the use of invasive species.
- We strongly encourage ordering plants at wholesale prices through the garden club. See the next FAQ for more direction.
- Awarded grants will be for sustainable projects with clear maintenance plans.
- We encourage projects with sizable budgets to identify additional sources of funding. Community partnership funding from more than one source is encouraged.

**Q: How do I get information about budgeting for plants at wholesale prices?**

A: The Garden Club has wholesale accounts at Babikow Nursery (which sells annuals, perennials, grasses, and ferns) and at Schott Nursery (which sells shrubs and trees). The Babikow plant catalog, with prices, is [here](#). Please note that some plants in the Babikow catalog, which is printed in January, may not be available when you want to undertake your project, so we recommend having a few backups in mind. The Schott plant availability list, with prices, is [here](#). You may include reasonable delivery charges in your budget. If you have questions about using these online resources or about anything else related to wholesale pricing, please contact [Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org](mailto:Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org).

**Q: What approvals do I need for a public space greening project?**

A: If the property is owned by someone other than you, you will need to obtain written approval or evidence of support for the project in your application. If the property in question is privately owned and the owner is unknown, you can call the owner-of-property hotline at 410-396-3124. If your project involves substantial digging, you'll need to call Miss Utility (800-441-8355) at least one week in advance so that any water/electrical lines can be marked. There may be a fee associated with this service. Also, since Bolton Hill is a historical community, if you're planning a large-scale renovation of a public space you may need to submit your plans to the Architectural Review Committee and CHAP for approval.

**Q: Will the Garden Club fund applications to create or improve tree wells around sidewalk trees?**

A: Yes, we encourage the beautification and improvement of tree wells in Bolton Hill, Madison Park and Marble Hill by planting/enlarging existing tree wells and creating new tree wells. Larger scale projects should have additional sources of funding. There are several tree and tree well initiatives underway. Please contact David Nyweide ([dnyweide@yahoo.com](mailto:dnyweide@yahoo.com)) for further funding information.

**Q: Are there other grant sources available for larger-scale projects?**

A: You may want to check with Lee Tawney ([lee.tawney@gmail.com](mailto:lee.tawney@gmail.com)) of the Bolton Hill Community Association, with the Madison Park Community Association ([greening@madisonparkbaltimore.org](mailto:greening@madisonparkbaltimore.org)), with Marion Blackwell ([willmarionb1510@verizon.net](mailto:willmarionb1510@verizon.net)) of the Marble Hill Community Association, or with Midtown Community Benefits District to learn of other funding and coordination efforts. BMore Beautiful offers grant opportunities at [ecb.baltimorecity.org](http://ecb.baltimorecity.org).

**Q: How do I get reimbursed if my grant application is approved?**

A: Awarded projects will be reimbursed promptly when the project is completed with submission of receipts and “after” photos. If waiting for a reimbursement poses a hardship, we are willing to consider other reimbursement options. Please contact [Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org](mailto:Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org) with your request.

**Q: What if I decide to make changes in the funded project?**

A: If you need to request a revision to your project after you’ve received a grant award letter, you should seek pre-approval from BHGC Grants Committee or you may not be reimbursed for the revised plan. You may send an email to [Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org](mailto:Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org) to request changes.

**Q: How long do I have to complete my project?**

A: The awarded projects should be completed within 10 months of the award or the funding will be reallocated to future projects. You should submit your receipts as soon as your project is completed for timely reimbursement. All receipts must be submitted at the latest by February 1, 2027 for grants awarded in Spring 2026.

**Q: What if I have a question?**

A: Please email us at [Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org](mailto:Grants@boltonhillgardenclub.org). Guidance is available before an application is submitted regarding criteria.

**Q: What information should I gather for the grant?**

A: Gathering the following information will assist you in completing the application fully.

- Primary Contact Name, Email, Address, Phone –

- Project Location
- Individual/Organization applying for the grant
- Project Coordinator, Address, Email, Phone number
- Amount of funds requested/Total cost of project (if different)
- Description of project including benefit to the community –
- Specific species of plants to be used
- Description of the planned maintenance of project
- Itemized budget; amount or source of other funds, if any, committed to the project
- Project Start date and expected project completion date
- Who will conduct the work?
- In the case of projects that impact City property or multiple property owners/renters, please provide signatures/evidence of support for the project
- If the grant is awarded, please provide the name of the individual/organization to which the reimbursement check should be issued, address, email and telephone.
- “Before” photos of green space
- Other information that you would like the committee to consider