



Protecting Land Forever

Keep Maryland Beautiful Program Guidelines

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) has administered the Keep Maryland Beautiful (KMB) program as described in Natural Resources Article Section 3-210 of the Annotated Code of Maryland since 1967. The KMB includes two longstanding grant programs in partnership with the Maryland State Highway Administration: *Bill James Environmental Grants* and the *Margaret Rosch Jones Grants*. As of this fiscal year, MET is pleased to deploy the new *Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grants* in partnership with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

KMB Program awards funding to community, volunteer, youth or environmental groups for the *Margaret Rosch Jones Grant* and the *Bill James Grants*. The new *Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant* aims to support community-sponsored litter removal, beautification initiative and community stewardship projects.

The goals of MET's conservation easement program also complement those of the KMB program. Each conservation easement negotiated with a private landowner restricts placing of billboards, advertising materials and prohibits dumping of trash. Considerable road frontage is protected by these restrictions, ensuring uncluttered scenic vistas for public benefit.

Applications

The KMB application form sets out criteria and eligibility requirements and is available online at MET's website www.dnr.maryland.gov/met by PDF and by brochure. Applicants are encouraged to provide photographs and supporting documentation, including a list of Board Officers and Members as applicable.

Applicants are also asked to describe how any long term maintenance or other sustainability needs of the project will be met to assure long-term viability and avoid creation of environmental issues from actions supported by the grants.

There is no requirement for matching funding.

Timing

The application deadline for the FY17 round for all three grant programs is Friday, March 31, 2017. Awards will be announced once annually and awardees will be notified of awards no later than May 31.

Funding

Funding sources for KMB grants include the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and MET private fund.

KMB Committees

1. *Margaret Rosch Jones Grant* and the *Bill James Grants Committee* Appointed by MET Board, consisting of MET Staff and MET Board members. A representative of SHA is also appointed to the KMB Committee to fulfill requirements of the MOU.

2. *Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant Committee* to advise and make recommendations on grant applications and approve awards. The committee will include MET members and representatives from DHCD to fulfill requirements of the MOU.

Application Assessment

KMB Committee members rank the applicants according to satisfaction of the criteria. The best application is ranked 1, the second best 2 and so on. Rankings also include proposed grant funding levels.

Grant of Award

KMB Committee funding recommendations presented to MET Board of Trustees. MET Board of Trustees vote on recommendations.

Announcement

KMB awards will be announced upon approval of MET Board of Trustees, and it is anticipated that checks shall be distributed by the end of the fiscal year (June 30th) or early in FY18.

Reporting

Awardees will be required to provide a final report describing the activities funded by the award as well as a summary of project expenditures.

Margaret Rosch Jones Award

The Margaret Rosch Jones Award is for non-profit groups or communities that show continuing plans for a project that has already demonstrated a basic understanding and resolution of an environmental issue.

Purpose

To recognize volunteer non-profit groups or communities for demonstrated environmental education or environmental problem reduction efforts.

Objectives

- To encourage the ongoing work of groups that have been active in educating people in their community about at least one of these concerns: litter prevention, community beautification, and local or statewide environmental issue(s).
- To help local groups eliminate or reduce the causes of a local environmental problem rather than just address the symptoms.

Restrictions

Not for acquisition or development. Applicant must show accomplishments.

Bill James Grant

The Bill James Environmental Grant is for proposed environmental education projects by school groups, science and ecology clubs, and other non-profit youth groups.

Purpose

To encourage groups to initiate projects to stimulate understanding of or reduce environmental problems and to encourage a sense of stewardship for the environment.

Objectives

- To encourage a sense of stewardship and personal responsibility for the environment.
- To stimulate a better understanding of environmental issues and to aid in the elimination or reduction of a local environmental problem.
- To encourage education about growth management – protection of rural areas and sensitive resources and discouragement of sprawling development patterns.

Restrictions

Not for acquisition or development. For new projects.

Clean Up Green Up Maryland Grant

With funding from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Clean Up & Green Up Maryland Grant is a new funding program to develop community-based leadership and volunteer-based activities to eliminate litter and implement beautification and greening initiatives.

Purpose

To encourage community groups and nonprofit organizations statewide to promote neighborhood cleanliness and beautification by increasing litter removal, greening activities, community education, and citizen stewardship.

Objectives

- To support the projects of community groups and nonprofit organizations that are actively engaged in improving the overall appearance of commercial districts and residential areas where people are living, working and visiting.
- To support beautification projects that have litter removal and prevention strategies as a primary focus of improving the community and/or neighborhood.
- To support community cleaning and greening activities that include but are not limited to creating and maintaining green space in downtown districts, establishing clean up teams and regular clean up events and beautification projects that improve the appearance of underutilized or vacant buildings.

Restrictions

Not for acquisition or development. Priority will be given to projects that target cleaning and beautification initiatives in existing communities and/or neighborhoods located within (in this order): DHCD's designated Sustainable Community Areas, Maryland's designated Priority Funding Areas and other areas that are identified as hotspots for negative behaviors such as littering and illegal dumping.