



Connecting Heritage, Nature and People in the Weaver Valley

SaltscapE Community Grants

Funding of up to 80% of project costs is available for not-for-profit organisations. The SaltscapE Community Grant Fund is made available through Heritage Lottery support and administered by the SaltscapE Landscape Partnership (SLP) scheme.

Who can apply?

Small grants of up to 80% of project costs are available to voluntary and community groups working within the SLP project area. Groups applying for a grant must be a 'not for profit' organisation; a local community, voluntary group, registered charity, parish council, social enterprise or school.

How much is available?

There is £1000 available in each funding round, it is expected at this will support multiple projects. The grant can be used for both revenue costs (i.e. training, room hire) and capital costs (i.e. equipment, building). Applicants will also benefit from the support and expertise of the partnership.

What projects will receive support?

Grants will be awarded to projects or groups looking to: conserve and restore important features connected to the regions salt heritage; improve access to the salt landscape; provide opportunities for people to learn new skills and to celebrate the unique landscape of the Weaver Valley. Priority will be given to projects which complement or enhance the core work of the SaltscapE Landscape Partnership. This could include but is not limited to:

- Help towards the cost of recruiting and training volunteers
- Help towards the cost of equipment for habitat management work
- Help towards improving access i.e. path resurfacing, installation of new infrastructure
- Help towards creation of interpretation, signage or promotional materials or events
- Help towards setting up a new group
- Help towards delivering a heritage event
- Contribution towards group running costs or volunteer expenses to deliver any of the above.

Match funding your grant

Groups are required to contribute 20% of the project cash costs to be eligible for a SaltscapE Community Grant. Volunteer contributions should also be valued and will be considered as additional match funding towards your project (in addition to the required 20% cash contribution).

When are the deadlines?

There are two funding rounds for 2015: 24th March and 25th August. Grants must be spent within 6 months of award.

Applying for a grant

If you wish to discuss your project idea before submitting an application or get some advice on completing the form, contact Alison on 01606 723160. Please e-mail your completed application to alison.lomax@groundworkcheshire.org.uk or by post to Alison Lomax, Saltscape Community Grants, Saltscape Landscape Partnership c/o Groundwork Cheshire, Yarwoods Arm, Navigation Road, Northwich, Cheshire, by the deadlines advertised.

We will acknowledge receipt of all completed applications within 1 week. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been successful within 3 weeks of the funding round deadline.

If your application is successful you will be sent a Grant Agreement which must be signed and returned. Your grant will not be paid until we have received this from you. If your proposal is not selected, we will explain why you were unsuccessful and suggest potential improvements where possible.

Grant criteria

Grants will only be awarded to clubs, groups and organisations and not directly to individuals. If you have an idea for a project but are not associated with a group or organisation, please contact us, we may be able to support you to take your idea forward in collaboration with someone else.

In order to apply your group needs to have a current bank account in the name of the organisation. Saltscape cannot make grant cheques payable to individuals, even if they are an official of the organisation. If you are associated with a group which does not have a current bank account, please contact us, depending on the nature of your application we may be able to look at alternative ways of distributing the funding.

The funding cannot be used to subsidise things that are already happening, but for additional work that meets our partnership aims. You cannot claim funding for work that has already taken place. Any spend prior to your grant being awarded by Saltscape will be ineligible for funding.

Once awarded you cannot significantly change the use of the grant award from your original proposal without first discussing the changes with the grant administrator. Grants will not be given for political or religious activities. The grant will not pay for any VAT costs.

Organisations/groups must have the appropriate public liability and employer's liability insurance for the activities they provide. Organisations working with children, young people and vulnerable adults must have safeguarding policies in place including the necessary DBS checks.

Payment of your grant will be made in advance of expenditure, following notification that your application was successful and receipt of the signed Grant Agreement. Funds will be released in one payment. If grant funding is used inappropriately we may demand reimbursement of any funds already paid out, or take other measures to recoup the funds.

In order to promote the scheme to other potential applicants we ask that you publicise the support of Saltscape as much as possible. Therefore any publicity materials or resources produce as part of the project are required to be approved by the grant administrator prior to publication.

All grant recipients will be required to explain how they used their grant within three months of spending it. We ask that you return a short End of Project Monitoring Report to confirm that the money was spent on the approved purpose.