

## **Saint Paul Audubon Society Grant Applicant Guidelines**

People or organizations requesting funding must complete the brief grant application.

Priority is given to projects or activities that work on SPA's priority focus areas (Education, Conservation, Policy/Advocacy)

Priority is given to projects or activities within SPA's geographic area (Ramsey and Washington Counties)

The Board will review applications at the March and November Board meetings. Applications must be received by January 15 and September 15. Email this document to: [general@saintpaulaudubon.org](mailto:general@saintpaulaudubon.org). In a genuine emergency, appeals outside the application window may be considered.

The Committee or Board may approve total funding, partial funding, decline, defer, or request more information on an application.

Grant recipients are requested to provide a short article about the project (with pictures if possible) for Chapter publications and be available for a 5-minute presentation at a member meeting.

Grants typically are for \$500-\$2000 and are awarded to projects or activities in areas such as

- Environmental Education
- Habitat restoration, preservation, or expansion
- Supporting opportunities for birders and birding trip leaders
- Diversifying participation in birding and nature activities
- Providing nesting support or native plants
- 501(c) (3) organizations

Preference is given to activities and efforts in Ramsey and Washington Counties that further our focus areas of education, conservation, and policy/advocacy.

## Saint Paul Audubon Society Grant Application

Please complete all fields. Use N/A if not applicable.

**Organization:** Frogtown Green

**Tax ID#:** 71-0969337

**Fiscal Agent (optional):**

**Tax ID# (optional):**

**The person making the request:** Patricia Ohmans, founder and co-director, Frogtown Green

**Email:** info@frogtowngreen.com

**Phone:** 651-757-5970

**Project name:** Frogtown Birds!

**Amount requested:** \$5,000

**Date of request:** September 13, 2024

**Date funds needed:** As soon as allocation allows; ideally by January 1, 2025

**A brief overview of the organization, including its mission statement (links to information are acceptable):**

Frogtown Green is a neighborhood-scale environmental initiative operating in the Frogtown community of Saint Paul. Since 2009, our volunteer-led initiative has grown multiple successful programs. Current programs and sites include:

- three community gardens and greenspaces;
- a 12,000 square foot pollinator habitat garden;
- a free tree planting program (more than 1,000 shade and fruit trees planted to date in neighborhood residences and public spaces);
- a 25,000 square foot environmental learning “commons” for sustainability education;
- an annual festival featuring environmental sustainability activities; and
- weekly youth environmental education workshops year-round.

This work occurs against a backdrop of climate change and large-scale ecological stress and is all the more important in Frogtown because of the neighborhood-scale environmental challenges our neighborhood faces. We have less greenspace per capita than any other Saint Paul neighborhood; less tree canopy than any neighborhood besides downtown; and fall in the 96<sup>th</sup> percentile for critical pollutants and toxins in the state.

Moreover, Frogtown is characterized by social vulnerabilities that exacerbate the harms of poor environmental health. With 35.3% of residents living below the poverty line, more than one third foreign-born, low levels of English literacy and education, and a predominantly young

population, Frogtown is particularly at risk to the stresses brought on by current and impending climate change.

Broadly speaking, Frogtown Green’s existing programming focuses on youth and community education; the development of sustainable behaviors for a changing climate; and environmental conservation and advocacy. While each of these areas have been adequately addressed by our programs, our environmental conservation focus has greatly benefited from the Audubon Society’s 2022-2024 support for expansion of our programming to engage with birding, bird-related education, bird observation, habitat creation and conservation. (Please see recently submitted final report on the results of that multi-year funding.)

Frogtown’s ethnic, racial, and financial landscapes greatly contrast those historically represented by the birding community; hence we see great opportunities for impact in the projects we are proposing to continue, as well as the new projects we would like to undertake, with SPAS support. These projects will make birds a more prominent feature of our urban landscape, while simultaneously encouraging the interest of a more diverse generation of bird enthusiasts and advocates in our community.

**A description of the project, including location, activities, goals, timeline, and expected completion date (or is it for operational expenses?):**

We prefer funding to be designated as un-earmarked, which gives us greater flexibility in finding cost-effective ways to improve and expand our programming. That said, we pledge to administer and carry out the following annual programming described below.

<i><b>Project</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>	<i><b>Goals</b></i>
<p><b>Pollinator-friendly prairie garden planting for bird habitat</b></p> <p><i>Spring and fall 2025</i></p>	<p>Purchase and <b>install plantings</b> (such as seed-bearing shrubs and small trees) at Frogtown Green’s 12,000 square foot pollinator gardens along Pierce Butler Route.</p> <p><b>Increase bird-friendly plantings</b> plantings at a smaller pollinator patch and a large rain garden at the Lily Pad.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit resident volunteers to assist with plantings</li> <li>• Emphasize the importance of small-scale habitat creation and maintenance, even at the household level, to support urban bird populations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tree planting</b></p> <p><i>Spring-fall 2025</i></p>	<p>Purchase supplies and <b>support planning and coordination of Frogtown Green’s successful tree planting program</b>, expanding it to include even more trees with seeds and/or fruit that is attractive to insects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of bird-friendly trees on private properties and public spaces in Frogtown.</li> <li>• Emphasize the importance of trees as homes and food sources for birds.</li> </ul>

	and birds. Emphasis will be on native forms of bird-attractive trees such as birch, beech, and oak, as well as native fruit trees and shrubs, such as serviceberries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Frogtown Green’s tree-related programming to explicitly include birds and habitat conservation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bird watching stations</b></p> <p><i>Spring 2025</i></p>	<p><b>Create and maintain a bird-watching station</b> at each of two community garden sites; the Lily Pad and Our Village Community Garden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer immediate and direct opportunities for gardeners and visitors to each garden to see birds up close and increase their bird knowledge.</li> <li>Increase feed and habitat options for birds visiting Lily Pad’s rain garden and Our Village’s fruit tree orchard.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Urban bird walks</b></p> <p><i>Spring and fall, 2025</i></p>	<p><b>Offer at least two bird walks or bird-related events</b> at Frogtown Park &amp; Farm, in collaboration with SPAS members.</p> <p>Repeat spring bird sketching and fall “birds i&amp; trees” walks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue and expand successful programming from 2022-2024</li> <li>Strengthen relationships between Frogtown Green and SPAS members and friends</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chimney Swift tower</b></p> <p><i>Early spring, 2025</i></p>	<p>Repair and repaint chimney swift tower erected in 2021 with SPAS support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain existing resource for threatened urban bird species.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Climate Carnival</b></p> <p><i>Late summer, 2025</i></p>	<p>Include bird-related exhibits and activities at Frogtown Green’s annual sustainability festival.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase Carnival attendees’ awareness of SPAS programs and activities</li> <li>Increase Frogtown residents’ sense of agency in addressing climate-change related impacts to insect and bird populations.</li> </ul>

**If approved, will these dollars be the sole funding mechanism for this project? If not, please list other partners and funders.**

Current Frogtown Green funders include Audubon Society; Banbro Inc; Board of Soil and Water Resources; Capitol Region Watershed District; Friends of Parks and Trails; Individual donations; MN Dept of Natural Resources; MN Dept of Agriculture; Minneapolis Foundation; Mortenson Foundation; UMN Clean Energy Resource Teams; US Forest Service; St Paul Foundation.

No funders other than SPAS designate support specifically for birds and birding.

**Which of SPAS’s priority focus areas does this project address?**

Frogtown Green operates in Saint Paul, Ramsey County. Our proposed programming addresses all of SPAS’ priority focus areas, including education, conservation and policy/advocacy.

**Is this a one-time request, or are future requests anticipated? (Include frequency):**

This is a one-year request, but we would greatly appreciate repeat funding for 3 years, as per our previous funding from SPAS. Continuous annual funding makes it possible for Frogtown Green to develop and sustain bird-related programming, greatly improving its chances for success and impact.

**How will you determine whether the project is successful?**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Annual success metrics</i>
<b>Pollinator-friendly planting for bird habitat</b> <i>Spring and fall 2025</i>	Purchase of enough bird- friendly and insect-friendly trees and shrubs for 1,000 more square feet of pollinator garden at West Minnehaha Recreation Center and the Lily Pad. Installation of two additional weather-proof signs at both locations.
<b>Tree planting</b> <i>Spring-fall 2025</i>	At least 50 bird-attractive trees planted in the Frogtown neighborhood in each year.
<b>Bird watching stations</b> <i>Spring 2025</i>	Regular maintenance and restocking of two bird observation stations, including fresh, clean water daily. Visits by at least 5 community members per week to the station at Our Village.
<b>Urban bird walks</b> <i>Spring and fall 2025</i>	8-10 participants at each of two events
<b>Chimney Swift tower</b> <i>Spring 2025</i>	Documented nesting swifts in the repaired tower (if possible)
<b>Climate Carnival</b> <i>Fall 2025</i>	Attendance of 400 individuals at 2025 Climate Carnival

**Who will benefit from this project, and how will you measure these benefits?**

Frogtown is a racially, ethnically, and economically diverse neighborhood. Planted pollinator garden areas, the swift tower and the birding stations will be visible to all passersby and will also be seen by gardeners and visiting education groups. Trees will be offered to neighborhood residents in areas with the least tree canopy, as reported by city forestry sources.. Birding presentations will be family friendly and thus appeal to all ages.

Please note that as an environmental organization, *we benefit more than people*. It is not an exaggeration to count among our “beneficiaries” the thousand-plus trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses we have planted, as well as the many thousands of pollinating insects and birds and small mammals that inhabit our organically maintained green spaces.

<b>Program or Site</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
Bee Line	Pollinator plantings along 2.5 mile stretch of roadway	6 gardeners per week during season, most repeats
Climate Carnival	Annual event featuring sustainability activities and resources	350 individual attendees , adults and children
Communications	Monthly community newspaper column on sustainability topics	Newspaper is delivered door-to-door to Frogtown’s 5,000 households
	Monthly Frogtown Green newsletter highlighting program activities	Newsletter is emailed to 1,100 subscribers
FrogLab	Nature-based education at local rec centers, weekly, year-round	30 children (attendance varies at this drop-in program but average weekly attendance is 30)
Lily Pad Garden	Community gathering space and urban mini-farm	12 farmers 50 individual attendees at weekly programs held on-site
Outreach at partner events	Tabling and information sharing at events hosted by partner organizations: St Paul Parks & Recreation; Springboard for the Arts; Environmental Justice Coordinating Council; Summer Smarts Program	100 individuals (average of 20 visitors who received information from Frogtown Green at each event)
Our Village Garden	40-bed community garden	120 individuals (40 households, estimated average 3 members per household)
Tree program	Free tree giveaway and planting to neighborhood residences and public spaces	300 individuals (100 households, estimated average 3 members per household)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>968 program participants/ beneficiaries (plus 5,000 newspaper recipients per month)</b>

**How can Saint Paul Audubon assist in the success of your project/organization?**

We have greatly appreciated the enthusiastic involvement of SPAS members Kiki Sonnen, Cathy Croghan, Kathy Robbins. Without their expertise, our bird-related programming would be of far lower quality! We also appreciate the moral support and encouragement we've received from Rebecca Flood and Greg Burnes. We look forward to even more overlap between members of SPAS and our resident volunteers and program participants.

Approved by \_\_\_ Board \_\_\_ Committee Name\_\_\_\_\_ Amount:

v.7 6/20/23

