

Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund

For Allston-Brighton

Application for Funding, 2024

Total Amount Requested

\$240,289.91

Applicant Organization Name: Pollinator Networks, LLC		
Organization Address: 50 Symmes St	City: ^{Rosindale}	Zip: 02131
Contact Person: Miriam Shenitzer		
Title: Manager		
Telephone Number: 617.953.2857		
E-Mail Address: pollinator.networks@gmail.com		

Application submission(s) must be authorized and signed by an authorized signatory of the Organization.

Name and title of Authorized Signatory:

Beth Fried

Signature of Authorized Signatory:



REQUIRED APPLICATION CONTENTS

Applicant Information

1. Name of entity(ies) applying for funding and name of project.

Pollinator Networks LLC is applying for funding for site improvements to the John Powell Pollinator Garden

2. Background on applicant(s): type of organization, e.g. 501 (c) 3, public agency, etc.; organization leadership.

Pollinator Networks is an LLC. Pollinator Networks is applying for HAPRFF funding independently. Miriam Shenitzer is the legal manager of the LLC. Beth Fried is the co-manager with equal decision-making and signing powers.

3. Primary contact person name, phone number, e-mail.

Miriam Shenitzer, 617.953.2857, pollinator.networks@gmail.com

4. Key personnel involved in the project:

Beth Fried and Miriam Shenitzer of Pollinator Networks, My Lam of Escazu Development, James Davis of Azores Masonry and Hardscaping, Dina Gentile of Corbett Irrigation, Brad Gould of Hartney Greymount.

5. Any partner organizations/property owners to be involved in the project.

The property is owned by the City of Boston and under the control of the PIC.

6. If the applicant is a non-profit organization, provide qualifications and prior history of executing similar projects.

Pollinator Networks LLC has successfully created sixteen pollinator habitats in cooperation with multiple business and non-profit partners in Allston/Brighton. These partners include: Allston Village Main Sts., Brighton Main Sts., McNamara House, Corcoran Management, Charlesview, Inc, Congregation Toras Moshe, Herter Community Garden, Continuum, and Boston Green Academy. Pollinator Networks created the John Powell Pollinator Garden using HAPRFF funding during the COVID lockdown and has continued to water, weed and maintain the garden successfully since then.

Project Information

1. Briefly describe the proposed project. Include a description of the site with a map and identify all property owners. If the applicant is not the sole property owner, please include letters of support from the property owner(s).

Pollinator Networks received an initial HAPRFF grant in 2019 to transform the Everett Embankment in Lower Allston located in the neighborhood north of I-90. With HARFF funding the garden was transformed from a neglected, trash- and needle strewn eyesore into a flourishing pollinator habitat. The initial project involved soil and invasive weed remediation, planting, watering, and maintaining a native plant pollinator garden of over 6,000 square feet of Boston public land. The next round in 2020 involved adding the final portion of the embankment to the native plant habitat. Since its creation, the garden has been maintained and supported by Pollinator Networks, community volunteers, and business partners. The environmental needs of maintaining this important green space for the future is the goal for the present round of HAPRFF funding.

This initial garden is the keystone of the network that we have created in Allston and Brighton, which has grown to include gardens and planters at McNamara House, Herter Community Garden, Charlesview, Inc, Union Square, Trader Joe's/Continuum, Congregation Kadimah Toras Moshe, Brighton Center and others. We are currently developing a pollinator garden at Boston Green Academy in Brighton. The generous initial support of the HAPRFF has successfully propelled this project forward within the last four years.

This critical green space enhances the aesthetic environment and lived experience of Allston residents. Improvements have enhanced public safety, mitigating an unsavory public site. Before HAPRFF funding of the garden in 2020, neighbors had expressed their safety concerns about using the surrounding sidewalks and stairway.

However, the current state of the embankment walls is still a public safety hazard and needs urgent repair.

Local businesses, neighbors and volunteers have become invested in their garden. They have supported us during implementation and look forward to maintaining their garden for the future. Your funding will insure the preservation of this critical green space and pollinator habitat.

We have supported and will continue to support the goals of improving accessibility and connectivity for non-vehicular modes of transportation by creating a safe park and safe access to the commuter rail.

Tending a garden promotes community collaboration as neighbors meet and work together towards a common goal. Local businesses join the effort and promote community collaboration, civic and cultural growth.

Allston is a dense, urban landscape, and the large pollinator garden on a forgotten embankment showcases how a neglected public space can be transformed into a thriving public asset.

Because the garden is surrounded by asphalt streets, cement sidewalks and buildings with no contiguous green space, its watering needs have been extensive. Watering involves funding two hydrant meters and running hoses across the street to connect to a network of over 600 feet of hoses and sprinklers requiring manual adjusting over 3-5 hours. The slope of the embankment causes lack of absorption and runoff issues.

The garden is surrounded by masonry retaining walls dating back almost 100 years. They have not been maintained and are deteriorating. What is more, the walls at the north corner of the garden have been hit by cars and trucks multiple times and need extensive repair work.

Pollinator Networks is thus applying for funding to undertake critical site improvements to the John Powell Pollinator Garden. This funding will allow us to repair the site's retaining walls, terrace the site to prevent harmful runoff and erosion, and install a sustainable drip irrigation system. These improvements will

help the garden continue to thrive and serve the Allston neighborhood as a pollinator ecosystem and much-needed green space.

See attached for site map and letters of support and site control.

2. Describe public benefits of the project with reference to review criteria.

The public benefits of green spaces are well known: they help support our mental and physical health, and mitigate the effects of climate change. Pollinator gardens have the added benefit of combatting the tragic loss of bees, butterflies, bats and birds. The gardens that we have created in Allston/Brighton benefit the pollinators and the residents. The John Powell Pollinator Garden has enhanced the aesthetic quality and user experience of the public realm by transforming a problem area into a flourishing green space. The Garden is appreciated daily by commuters passing by on their way to the commuter rail station at Boston Landing. They formerly avoided the spot because of safety concerns. The community has demonstrated their support through volunteering, donating, and providing recorded testimony.

Pollinator habitats provide critical nourishment and shelter for bees and butterflies. These in turn are critical for supporting the pollination of trees, plants, gardens and green spaces in the surrounding neighborhoods. The sizable square footage of the garden means that it has a sizable positive impact on the neighborhood.

3. Explain why HAPRFF funding is required.

Pollinator Networks have used other funding sources for other projects in the network; however, a project of this scope requires serious financial investment. Many grants are simply too small. Others, like the CPA, cannot provide the needed investment because of their funding qualifications. They will only fund new projects.

4. Explain if this project/funding would be part of a larger phased project, and if HAPRFF funding would be sought for future phases.

This project/funding represents the final major phase in the creation and maintenance of the garden.

5. Timeline (start date, end date, milestones).

Phase 1: Masonry repair, summer 2024 upon completion of relevant permitting.

Phase 2: Terracing and tree-well creation October 2024.

Phase 3: Construction for on-site water connection, beginning November 2024 extending through 2025 depending on permitting process and city construction schedules.

Phase 4: Setting up solar powered drip irrigation system once water is connected; replanting begins June 2025.

6. Project maintenance requirements, protocols, and sources of funding.

Continued maintenance and funding will be provided by Pollinator Networks as has

been the case since 2020.

7. Anticipated project sustainability/life span.

This project will sustain the site for the indefinite future.

8. Anticipated regulatory review and necessary permits.

We are working with My Lam of Escazu Development, who has done over a dozen projects bringing water to city-owned properties and will secure permits from City of Boston Offices. Shani Fletcher of GrowBoston recommended Escazu as they have worked on several projects together in the past. Todd Liming of the Public Improvement Commission has given us letters of permission and a checklist of permits to be attained by Escazu.

1. Budget, including anticipated total cost and percentage to be funded by the HAPRFF.

Pollinator Networks Budget for John Powell Pollinator Garden Site Improvements 2024	
Project Name: John Powell Pollinator Garden Site Improvements	Date: May 18, 2024
Organization: Pollinator Networks, LLC	
Item	Cost
Install Solar drip irrigation system Corbett Irrigation SCOPE OF WORK: INSTALLATION REMARKS: · Install 3 Netafim drip irrigation zones to water pollinator gardens, approximately 1,750' · Install mainline and control wires network with ample expansion capability · Install wireless rain sensor. Controller Options listed: · Install solar powered control system	\$14,873.73
Repair surrounding retaining walls SCOPE OF WORK Repair and rebuild frontal wall damage Repair and rebuild complete damage to corner wall Repair and rebuild 150 square feet of missing back wall Repair and tuck point all areas on stone and concrete wall where pointing is missing	\$18,958.20
Install water source on site	
Utility Survey	\$3,800.00
Civil Engineering for PIC process	\$30,000.00
Water and Sewer Line Installation--assumes water connection within 40 ft of the waterline in the street	\$40,000.00
1 water spigot, summer time use only	
Concrete Pad	\$3,000.00

Water Meter Housing	\$3,000.00
Plumbing Water line and backflow preventer inside housing with spigot	\$4,000.00
Project Management and Coordination	\$10,000.00
Repair of sidewalk and concrete	\$11,000.00
Repair of retaining wall	\$20,000.00
subtotal	\$124,800.00
Landscaping Design Pollinator Networks	\$5,000.00
Terracing: Hartney Greymount	
materials	\$7,500.00
installation	\$5,400.00
Tree care and pruning by Harney Greymount Arborist	\$3,500.00
labor	\$8,000.00
Plant Replacement	\$4,200.00
subtotal	\$28,600.00
total	\$192,231.93
project management 15%	\$28,834.79
contingency 10%	\$19,223.19
GRAND TOTAL	\$240,289.91

2. Other funding sources, if applicable, and amount and status (e.g. funds granted, requested, date when status will be known).

We have submitted an application to the Grassroots Fund for \$4,000; status will be known mid-June 2024. City Realty and the Church of Scientology will continue to fund the water meters we use for irrigation.

3. Images, renderings, and other relevant information.

see attached

1. Site map
2. Photo of masonry wall
3. Before Photo
4. After Photo
5. Photo of Multilingual Signage

4. Letters of support.

see attached

6. Allston Civic Association Director, Anthony D'Isidoro
7. City Councilor Liz Breadon
8. Director, Allston Village Main Streets Alex Cornacchini
9. State Representative Brian Honan

5. Letters of Permission:

see attached

Todd Liming, City Engineer, PIC Boston.

10. All repair consent

11. Hookup consent

12. Civil Engineering Letter Escazu