

## Destination Infrastructure Grant

### Grant Details

The Spruce the Bruce Program assists communities with improvements that make them more attractive, pedestrian-friendly, and distinctive. Improving the destination infrastructure of our core attractions and secondary activities will contribute to visitor experiences and impressions. Positive experiences generate return trips, longer stays, and word-of-mouth advertising.

The **Destination Infrastructure Grant** encourages local stakeholders, organizations, and municipalities to upgrade and invest in our destination infrastructure. These grants match local cash contributions up to **\$2,500.00**.

### Usage of Funds

A Destination Infrastructure Grant may be used towards capital investments that improve the quality of our attraction products. This may include (but is not limited to) capital improvements to core attractions like the Bruce Trail, Saugeen River, Rail Trail and area beaches and may include upgrades related to parking, restrooms, staging and lookouts. It also may include signage that improves visitor experiences such as interpretative/ historical plaques, kiosks and route markers (i.e. for cycling or hiking). Projects that connect Destination Infrastructure to the downtown core will be given priority.

### Eligibility Criteria

#### **2017 Eligible Communities for Destination Infrastructure Grant include:**

Ripley, Lucknow, Walkerton, Mildmay, Lion's Head, Wiarton, Southampton, Port Elgin, Kincardine.

In order to qualify for a Destination Infrastructure Grant:

- Applicants must be a municipality, established or incorporated group or a stakeholder group in partnership with an incorporated group, and must have municipal support.
- Applicants may only have one grant application per category per intake and the project must be complete prior to an additional application
- Projects must not have commenced prior to the awarding of the requested grant.
- **Projects must be completed by October 31st, 2017. Extensions are not granted. If money is not spent it will be deemed an incomplete project and you will need to reapply next year.**
- Applicants must provide a minimum 50% cash contribution (except in situations where there are multiple funding sources) towards the total cost of the project for which they are applying for a grant.

- If applicant receives addition funding sources, they are required to provide a minimum 33% cash contribution
- Taxes are the full responsibility of the applicants.
- Eligible Project costs must be actual cash outlay to third parties acting at arms length and which can be documented through original invoices or proofs of payment
- Projects must demonstrate a contribution to the overall destination infrastructure of Bruce County

## **Review Criteria**

The Economic Development Grant Committee will review applications against the following criteria:

- date/timing of the application
- balance of funding available and any previous applications made at the time of application
- project's potential to provide long term economic benefit.
- evidence of the applicant's ability to fulfill responsibilities related to the project installation and maintenance
- project's "fit" with the objectives of Spruce the Bruce and/or the local municipal direction

## **Application Process**

Applicants must complete an online application in order to be given grant consideration. You can save your application online and return to it later.

Incomplete applications cannot be accepted. Applications require the following:

- Lead Applicant Name: (Municipality / Group) / Street Address (Location) / Tel / email
- Contact (if different from applicant) / Mailing Address (if different) / Tel / email
- Detailed project description.
- Attach any sketches and include a before picture of the project. (upload digital files)
- The extent to which this project reflects the mission of the Spruce the Program
- Who will be doing the work (Please list any contractors involved):
- Description of your organization and its role and function in the County of Bruce with regards to the creation or maintenance of Destination Infrastructure (one additional page may be attached)
- Who will be doing the work (Please list any contractors involved):
- Do you have any partners in this project? If so, list them and their contributions. You can attach letters of support.
- The proposed timeframe for the work (start date, completion date) – must be completed by October 31st 2017

- Quote(s) of the project cost and a current picture of the project site
- Budget Details (taxes not included):
  - Proposed Total Cost of Project
  - Applicant Contribution
  - Other Contributions (ie. Funding from other organizations)
  - Other Grant Contributions: (ie. Provincial, municipal, or NGO)
  - Grant Request
  - Grant % of Total Cost:%