The Public Space Improvement and Community Cleanup Grant is designed to bring awareness to our community’s appearance, cleanliness, and to encourage pride in our town, with a special emphasis on community cleanups, community gardens, and native plantings in shared community spaces. The La Plata Beautification Commission invites residents of the Town of La Plata, Homeowner Associations, school projects, scout groups, civic organizations, businesses, and other community members to submit the following application for review.

Projects will be evaluated on:

1. Long-term benefit to the Town of La Plata
2. Impact of the aesthetic improvement
3. Uniqueness of the project idea
4. Plan for continuing maintenance of project
5. Additional resources used (money, time, labor, etc.)
6. Timely completion
7. Accessibility by the public

This application is your tool to convince the Beautification Commission your project deserves a grant. A narrative outlining the specifics of your project, before pictures, design plans, and other related information is encouraged, but not required.

Please fill out the following form and submit to La Plata Beautification Commission, in person to 305 Queen Anne Street, mail to PO Box 2268, La Plata, Maryland 20646 or via e-mail to legislative@townoflaplata.org.

If your project is approved and you are awarded grant funds, your project must be completed within 90 days of receipt of funds, or reimbursement will be required. Should you require additional time you may contact the Commission to request an extension. Proof of completion is required.

Project Title: _______________________________________________ Total Project Cost: ____________________

☐ Native Plantings/Pollinator Gardens – Up to $700 (see approved plants in U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Watershed)

☐ General Beautification, Community Gardens, and Cleanup Projects – Up to $500

☐ Downtown Shingle Sign Project (CB Zone) – Up to $200

Project location/address:

Will this be a group project? If so, how many people will participate?

Project Description:

What materials or plants do you plan to use?

Activities and Methods for Completing Project:

How do you plan to maintain the project once completed?

Contact name, phone number, mailing and email address:
Native Plantings/Pollinator Gardens

Native plants are well adapted to local environmental conditions, maintain or improve soil fertility, reduce erosion, and often require less fertilizer and pesticides than many alien plants. These characteristics save time and money and reduce the amount of harmful run-off threatening the aquatic resources of our streams, rivers, and estuaries.

Native plants also provide excellent sources of food and shelter for wildlife. As natural habitats are replaced by urban and suburban development, the use of native plants in landscaping can provide essential shelter for displaced wildlife. Designing with natives allows the creation of distinctive natural landscapes including woodlands, meadows, and wetlands with unique regional character. In addition, native plants attract a greater variety of butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds, and other wildlife than traditional lawns. In fact, the greater the variety of native species included in a landscape, the more likely uncommon or rare species will be attracted to an area.

You can support La Plata’s environmental sustainability by planting native flowers, shrubs, and trees. Not sure which plants qualify? Check these resources:

- Town of La Plata Recommended Plantings List (https://townoflaplata.org/environmental)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Watershed (https://mdflora.org/publications/forsale/nativeplants.html)
- Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center (https://www.nativeplantcenter.net/)

Community Cleanup Projects Grants

Is there an area in your neighborhood that needs some cleaning? Have you looked around the Town and noticed an area that needs some attention? Can you gather your friends and neighbors to help? If the answer is yes, a Community Cleanup Grant may be for you.

The Community Cleanup Project Grants are intended to help community members improve their neighborhood or other areas in Town that could benefit from an organized cleanup effort. Grant funding can be used for equipment, supplies and materials for the cleanup, t-shirts, prizes, food and water and other items for the participants.

If additional support is needed, we can help with that too. Dumpsters and a heavy equipment lift can be provided under certain circumstances. Use the narrative to describe your plans, send an email to the Beautification Commission through Legislative Services (legislative@townoflaplata.org) or call 301-934-8421. The Town of La Plata wants to support your efforts to “Keep La Plata clean, green, and beautiful!”
Shingle Sign Grants

The Shingle Sign Grant program was designed to encourage the addition of “visual interest” in the downtown Central Business by supporting Businesses in the Central Business Zone for the installation of shingle signs in the downtown core. Through this program, the Town will provide up to $200 reimbursement for the purchase, preparation, and installment of a shingle sign.

Requirements:

1. All Shingle Signs must be in compliance with Town Code and be in conformance with the approved Common Sign Plan, where applicable.
2. The following Shingle Sign example has been pre-approved by the Design Review Board for use through the Shingle Sign Grant program:
   a. Example Source: MetalCraft Industries
   b. Example Product Name: Sign Bracket Kit Deluxe Scroll Style
   c. Example Product SKU: X-KIT-DSB-24 (24” width) or SKU: X-KIT-DSB-36 (36” width)
   d. https://metalcraftindustries.net/sign-bracket-kit-deluxe-scroll-style/
3. Any other style of Shingle Sign must be approved by the Design Review Board in accordance with Town Code.

Town Code Excerpts:

SHINGLE SIGN—A small building sign that projects outward, typically at a ninety (90) degree angle, and hangs from a bracket or support that is located over or near a building public entrance.

191-65 - Signs allowed without a permit.
The following signs are allowed without a permit under § 191-65 of this Article and do not count toward overall allowed sign area:

   G. Shingle signs. one (1) shingle sign is allowed per entity, provided that each sign satisfies the following:
      1. Design standards:
         a. Maximum sign area nine (9) square feet;
         b. Maximum height three (3) feet;
         c. Minimum spacing from façade six (6) inches;
         d. Maximum width three (3) feet; and
         e. Maximum depth six (6) inches.
      2. Must be located within eight (8) feet of an active pedestrian public entrance;
      3. Must be located below the second-floor windowsill;
      4. Must provide eight (8) feet of clearance when hung over a sidewalk unless a four (4) foot wide planter is provided below the sign and at least sixty (60) inches of sidewalk clearance is maintained in conformance with the accessibility requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act; and
      5. May not be internally illuminated