



**Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee**  
**City of Ann Arbor Public Services**  
**4251 Stone School Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 (734) 794-6356**

## **PROJECT PROPOSAL**

In 1964, Elizabeth R. Dean bequeathed \$2 million to the City of Ann Arbor *“to be held in trust in perpetuity, to repair, maintain and plant trees on city property.”* The trust is managed by the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee which accepts proposals for special tree planting and maintenance projects to enhance Ann Arbor’s urban and community forest.

### **PROJECT EVALUATION & SELECTION CRITERIA**

Projects must provide for open and equal access to all citizens, thereby deriving benefits to the entire community. The Dean Fund Committee has identified the following priority areas where it would like to focus its funding towards.

- Neighborhood streets
- Proposals submitted by neighborhood organizations.
- Major Streets, particularly those that have had significant loss of trees
- Neighborhood parks
- Historic neighborhoods
- Public Housing Sites
- Community Centers

### **PROJECT PROPOSAL INFORMATION**

Please answer the following questions as concisely as possible (attach a separate sheet if necessary). If your proposal is considered for funding, you may be asked to attend a Dean Fund Committee meeting to further explain your project.

**1. Describe the project.** We propose to pilot the Miyawaki method of dense tree planting by creating pocket forests of native species in two or more phases at Buhr Park. It’s important to our goals to start a pilot in 2024, to make the most of the significant community enthusiasm for this project. We have support from a multitude of volunteers, plant donors, and local native plant nurseries. The first phase would consist of a pocket forest of 2,700 square feet in the northwest area of Buhr Park. If all goes as planned, additional areas could be planted in the following seasons.

Here’s a short video that explains the concept: [Pocket Forests using the Miyawaki Method](#)

We have chosen our preferred location based on several factors. It will receive full sun, and is just south of six existing apple trees. These trees are in poor condition and we anticipate the pocket forest will help to protect them. This location would also benefit park maintenance staff by consolidating mowing obstacles, as well as reducing mowed area.

This Project mission sits comfortably within the separate missions of Wild Ones, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, and the Buhr Park Children’s Wet Meadow Project, which are:

- Wild Ones promotes native landscapes in home and community through education, advocacy, and collaborative action.
- Citizens' Climate Lobby seeks to empower everyday people to work together on climate policies towards a livable world.
- Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow Project has, for 27 years, prioritized education and engagement with community and school age children in planting and maintaining wet meadows, a food forest, a perennial garden, and a hickory and spruce tree grove in Buhr Park.

2. Have you sought other sources of funding?  YES  NO

If YES, what other sources: Wildflower Association of Michigan Grant (submitted); Ann Arbor Farm & Garden Grant (submitted); Sustaining Ann Arbor Together Grant (submitted); School and Community Habitat Grant (intend to submit);

3. What is the approximate cost of the project? **NOTE: The budget has been amended; they're now asking for \$3000.00.**  
 < \$500  \$501-\$1,000  \$1,001 - \$5,000  >\$5,001

4. If approved for funding, will you or your group take part in this project?  YES  
 If YES, how?

Monetary Contribution  Maintenance/Tree Care  Project Promotion

Other: Create a handbook and other materials so others may easily replicate the project; document the effects and benefits of the pocket forests

5. Have you talked over your project with people in the area, City staff or City Council?  
 YES  NO

If YES, with whom? Remy Long, Deputy Manager NAP & Land Acquisition; Erika Smith, Recreation Supervisor

[City of Ann Arbor Parks Special Project Application - Pocket Forests at Buhr Park](#) (this application is 7 pages long and has links to site plans, budget info, and detailed descriptions of the project)

Contact Person: Meg Delaney	Phone Number: 734-864-2014
Organization (if applicable): "Native Plant Pocket Forest Project." We are an informal coalition of 3 nonprofit organizations, the Ann Arbor chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), Ann Arbor Wild Ones (A2WO), and Buhr Park Children's Wet Meadow Project (BPCWMP).	Email Address: Margaret_c_delaney@hotmail.com
Are you interested in serving on the Elizabeth Dean Fund Committee? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

**Mail completed proposals to:**

City of Ann Arbor  
Public Works  
ATTN: Dean Fund Committee/Tiffany Giacobazzi  
4251 Stone School Road Ann  
Arbor, MI 48108

**Or Email to:**

[tgiacobazzi@a2gov.org](mailto:tgiacobazzi@a2gov.org)

**Questions? Contact:**

Tiffany Giacobazzi, City of Ann Arbor  
734-794-6356 [tgiacobazzi@a2gov.org](mailto:tgiacobazzi@a2gov.org)