



Outdoor Community Spaces Fund Guidance & Criteria 2025

Applications open: 12pm (noon) on 14th January 2025 – 12pm (noon) on 11th February 2025*

Grants of £500, £1,000, £1,500, £2,000, £2,500 or £3,000

Supporting grassroots groups to improve or transform outdoor community spaces where people can meet and be together, building pride in their local area

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**We expect to be able to offer this grant until noon on 11th February, however, if we have a high level of uptake with this grant, we may be required to close the application window earlier. If we are oversubscribed in your geographical area of operation, we may choose to close individual areas before closing the total grant program. We will communicate with applicants to advise on next steps if this happens.*

Overview

Asda Foundation recognises the importance of having safe and accessible outdoor spaces in communities across the UK, so this year we will be providing up to £500,000 of grant funding to help grassroots groups improve or transform their local outdoor community spaces. Whether it's cleaning up a green space, delivering collaborative growing projects or transforming an unused area for local people to use, the Outdoor Community Spaces Fund can be used to create or enhance an outdoor space near you.

This grant is for projects which meet at least one of the following aims:

- Transform an outdoor area, creating greener and more engaging community spaces.
- Create or enhance community growing projects.
- Enable community clean ups*

In addition, we encourage applications that:

- Increase access to outdoor spaces, particularly for marginalised or vulnerable groups of people. Asda Foundation is committed to enabling as many people as possible to be able to benefit from our funding.
- Bring local communities together – this means outdoor spaces which are open and accessible for a wide range of people on a regular basis.
- Make a lasting and demonstrable difference to an outdoor space.
- Enable groups to undertake a project that truly enhances a local space – applications that focus on just one or two expensive items are unlikely to be successful.

We are unable to consider applications from:

- Organisations based outside the UK or benefitting people/communities outside of the UK.
- Third party grant making organisations (grantees must directly deliver the service/activity).
- Schools and academy trusts, although PTAs (with their own bank account) are eligible to apply, providing that the funding would impact the wider community outside of the school.
- Groups who have a clear affiliation with a particular political party.
- Religious organisations whose services are only open to people of a particular faith.
- Animal charities or groups which have animal welfare as their main focus.

Timelines:

- We aim to review your application as quickly as possible. To ensure everything runs smoothly, please plan for your project or activity to start no earlier than 6 weeks after submitting your application, as we cannot provide retrospective payments.
- Any funding awarded should be used, and your project or activity completed, by the end of August 2025. This ensures your outdoor space is ready for your beneficiaries to enjoy, with the impact visible while the days are long, and the weather is still fine!

*Grants for community clean ups only will be capped at £500.

Funding Criteria

The following list provides some examples of the kinds of items and services that our funding could be used for. This list is not exhaustive, but any items and activities that we fund must still fit within our general criteria as detailed on the previous page:

Examples of what we would fund

Materials to build and transform outdoor areas, such as planters, raised beds, benches, paint

Equipment to be able to deliver a community clear up, such as litter pickers, bin bags, hi-vis vests (*items relating to community clear ups are capped at £500 in total*)

Machinery hire/purchase, e.g. rotavator hire (*this must fit within a more comprehensive application and not be the only element we would fund*)

Permanent fixtures and features, such as sheds, outdoor furniture, pathways, gates and fencing

Gardening tools and equipment, such as spades, wheelbarrows, polytunnels, water butts, compost bins

Plants, shrubs, trees, bulbs etc.

Unfortunately, sometimes we have to say no; below is a list of items and activities that we are unable to fund through this grant. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and The Asda Foundation reserves the right to make funding decisions based on each individual application:

What we are unable to fund

Projects which improve *indoor* spaces

Projects for spaces with restricted or limited access to community members

Non-essential clothing or uniforms

Equipment which will be kept by individuals, rather than the organisation applying for funding

Core running costs, including salaries

Contributions to general fundraising, or sponsorship

Projects which could negatively impact the reputation of The Asda Foundation

Projects which will benefit only one person

Essential Group Criteria

Your group must have...	Details
<p>A total annual income of £250,000 or below</p>	<p>What we need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that your group has an annual income of £250,000 or below. If we're unable to find such evidence, this will be requested. If your group is a local branch or project that is managed by a parent organisation whose annual income exceeds £250,000, you will only be eligible for this grant if you can demonstrate you have a separate bank account, independent annual accounts, and your own constitution. <p>Why we need it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asda Foundation is committed to supporting grassroots organisations, and therefore we have this income limit to ensure that our funding has the most meaningful impact at a local level.
<p>Governing documents</p>	<p>What we need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full copy of your organisation's Constitution (or Articles of Association / Memorandum, if applicable). Your documents should be finalised (i.e. not a draft/template) and must outline your group's name and charitable aims, confirmation of non-profit status, and what would happen to your assets upon dissolution. <p>Why we need it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want to ensure that all groups in receipt of our funding have suitable governance in place. Please refer to this handy guide from the NCVO about what your governing document should be like.
<p>A Safeguarding policy</p>	<p>What we need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Safeguarding policy which is up to date and specific to your group's service users. Further details on our safeguarding guidelines can be found here <p>Why we need it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding is important to ensure the protection of all service users in your organisation. Your policy helps us to understand the processes you have in place and how your organisation handles concerns.
<p>A bank account in your group's name that accepts cheques</p>	<p>What we need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of your group's bank account payee name i.e. a bank statement, paying in slip, letter from your bank. Please check that your bank will accept cheques before completing your application. <p>Why we need it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheques are our only means of payment; we are unable to make payment any other way. We can make cheques payable to your group but we cannot make cheques payable to individuals or to personal bank accounts.

Application Process

<p>1. Read Guidance</p>	<p>It's important that your project or activity meets the aims and criteria of the Outdoor Community Spaces Fund, therefore we recommend that you read this guidance document in full before applying, to make sure your project and group are eligible.</p>
<p>2. Gather your supporting documents</p>	<p>Before completing and submitting your application, you will need to upload copies of your group's governing document, your safeguarding policy, and proof of your group's payee name – we recommend that you gather these documents prior to starting your application.</p>
<p>3. Register</p>	<p>Complete the Eligibility Check on our website - we want to make sure that your group is eligible to apply. Upon completion, you will be directed to our grant management system, where you will be able to log in or register if you are new to the system. After registering for the first time, you will then be sent an email to verify your email address and set up a password.</p>
<p>4. Complete Application</p>	<p>You will find the grant application form In the 'Funding Opportunities' section of your homepage portal.</p>
<p>5. Await Outcome</p>	<p>Once you have submitted your application you will receive an email confirming that we have received your application. As the review of your application progresses you may receive emails updating you of status changes or we may request additional information, so please ensure that you let us have your up-to-date and accurate contact details. Please keep an eye out for these landing in your inbox or, you can log in to your SmartSimple account to view the progress of your application.</p> <p><u>Successful grants</u></p> <p>If your application is successful you will be notified by email. We will also copy in your local Asda Community and Customer Champion, who would love to visit your group and celebrate with you. A cheque made payable to your group will then be posted to the address you provide in your application form.</p> <p><u>Unsuccessful grants</u></p> <p>We receive a lot of applications and sometimes we must make difficult decisions. The decision of The Asda Foundation is final and at our discretion.</p> <p>If a grant is unsuccessful, you will be notified by email. You will be unable to submit a new application but are welcome to apply for any future funding opportunities (provided that any concerns raised by Asda Foundation have been addressed, and subject to any new criteria and guidelines for those future grants).</p>
<p>6. Complete Follow-Up Activity</p>	<p>Following a successful funding award, we want to know how our funding was used and the impact it's made in your local community. You will receive an email link to a post-award impact report for you to complete within our grant management system. We may also ask to see receipts, so please keep these safe!</p>

Example Projects

Here are some examples of applications which we would consider to be a good fit for this grant (please note that these are just illustrative):

Transforming outdoor areas and creating greener more engaging community spaces:

Who: A Community Interest Company wanted to convert an unused outdoor space into a vibrant community garden, including raised beds for growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers, as well as seating areas for social gatherings.

What they did: Funding of £3,000 was used for gardening tools, materials to create the raised beds, other outdoor furniture and cement and gravel to create a new pathway.

Outcome: This project resulted in a brand-new green space for local residents to enjoy, while promoting urban biodiversity and offering opportunities for community members to get into gardening and learning about sustainability.

Creating or enhancing a community growing project:

Who: A residents association wanted to expand their community allotment to run workshops on sustainable gardening, composting, and healthy cooking.

What they did: Funding of £1,500 was used to purchase new polytunnels, seeds and soil, composting bins, and outdoor kitchen equipment.

Outcome: This project helped to promote food security, healthy eating, and environmental education, while also providing a space for social interaction and skill-sharing among the local community.

Enabling community clean ups:

Who: A group who look after a local park recognised that they needed to clear up a small area in their local suburban park. Their usual activities include work to support conservation and wildlife, and organising events like litter picking, tree planting, and wildlife recording.

What they did: Funding of £500 was used to purchase litter pickers, gloves and hi-vis vests, bin bags and bag hoops, and cleaning equipment to remove graffiti from walls.

Outcome: This funding has encouraged more local people to volunteer with the group and made accessible an area of the park that was previously neglected while encouraging long-term community stewardship of an accessible green space.

We're excited to receive your application! If you have any questions or need advice, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by email: asdafoundation@asda.uk