WLCF Community Granting Program for 2025 – Background information and instructions

In October 2024, Williams Lake Community Forest (WLCF) is rolling out its seventh year of the Community Granting Program. This annual program utilizes approximately 5% of WLCF profits and is aimed at providing support and enhancements for neighbouring communities and residents of the two blocks composing the WLCF. $100,000 has been allocated for 2025, with an 80% / 20% approximate split between grants and scholarships. *For bursary information please click here: https://williamslakecommunityforest.com/community-granting/scholarships-bursaries/*
Capital projects have been split apart from education & outreach projects this year, and there is no longer a different application stream for schools vs community organizations. The grading criteria has been modified, so please review it carefully prior to applying.

Approved in 2014, the WL Community Forest is a fixed area of 28,840 hectares (288 square kilometres) in two blocks in the traditional territory of the Williams Lake First Nation. These two areas are managed to reflect a broad diversity of forest resource values and interests, and generate income through forestry activities. The WL Community Forest LP is a joint partnership between the Williams Lake First Nation and the City of Williams Lake. The Standing Committee on Resource Values and Interests, a group of community volunteers, was established to represent the interests of neighbours, communities and users of the Community Forest land. *For more information, visit https://williamslakecommunityforest.com/about/* The Standing Committee adjudicates the grant applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Who is Eligible for the Community Grants:

1. Community organizations: Registered charities, non- profit and/or community organizations such as 4H clubs, community associations, Parent Advisory Councils, etc. in the defined 'local area'
2. Schools (public, private, Indigenous) including educators
3. The defined local area is the CRD Areas D, E and F, and City of Williams Lake. The goal is to disperse funds across all areas, over time. A map is available on the WLCF website.
4. Applications are **not eligible** if submitted by WLCF Partners (City of Williams Lake & the Williams Lake First Nation) or for those projects normally within the mandate of a partner of the WL Community Forest.

What Type of Projects are Eligible for Funds?
The WLCF Community Granting Program will consider applications under the following focus areas:

1) Creation / enhancement / expansion of recreation structures including trails, signs, kiosks.
2) Capital Improvements to facilities available for public use.
3) Outdoor opportunities relating to sustainable forestry.
4) Education / outreach projects.
5) Environmental stewardship.
6) Other special projects such as community-based culture or arts projects as related to nature.

The goals of the Williams Lake Community Forest are:

- To operate the community forest as a viable forestry enterprise.
- To reflect community values and respect the land.
- To sustainably manage for all forest resources.
- To generate revenue for local economic development and community stability initiatives.
- To realize socio-economic benefits such as local employment and economic activity associated with milling and manufacturing.
- To enhance local partnerships that support forest education and an increased public understanding of forestry.

What is the Timeline for Grants?

1. October 8th, 2024 - Call for proposals begins
2. **November 22nd, 2024** - Proposals are due by 4pm sharp
3. Late December 2024 - Successful applicants will be notified (projects can start in January 2025)
4. November 15th, 2025 - Final project reports are due. Project can extend to Dec 31st 2025 if needed, but the Final Report must be received on time in order to be eligible for future grant funds.

How much can we apply for?

1. Generally, grants will be awarded up to $5,000
2. An extraordinary grant of up to $10,000 may be awarded in rare situations.
3. Grants are typically for 1 year but may be granted for up to 3 years if there are distinct deliverables for each year. Reporting is due in November of each year.

2024 Grant Evaluation Criteria (For Applicant Reference)

The Standing Committee (or subgroup thereof) will evaluate the applications using the scoring system displayed below.

	CRITERIA - updated for the 2024 Application Process	Max Points
1.	Application is practical and well thought-out. Project has clearly defined timelines, tangible outcomes, and clear accountability	10
2a.	Project aligns with one or more of the following 4 focus areas: a. Outdoor opportunities relating to sustainable forestry b. Education / outreach projects c. Environmental stewardship d. Other special projects such as community-based culture or arts projects as related to nature	10*
2b.	*OR these alternate focus areas* a. Creation / enhancement / expansion of recreation structures including trails, signs, kiosks b. Capital Improvements to facilities available for public use	10*
3.	Budget is detailed and clearly includes all project components	10
4.	Application explains who will execute the project, how it will be managed and who is accountable	5
5.	Project has benefits to the community at large	5
6.	Project has long lasting impacts	5
7.	Proponent has demonstrated experience in the successful delivery of similar project(s) and / or has dedicated partners	5
	TOTAL POINTS	**50**
In an effort to distribute funds over the WLCF land base over time, bonus points may be awarded for an applicant group not previously funded by the WLCF Granting Program		

- Projects should be completed, and a final report submitted by November 15th 2025, unless it is a multi-year project. Multi-year projects must submit a status report by Nov 15, 2025 and annually until the project is fully complete.

Eligible Communities		
141 Mile House	Esler	McLeese Lake
150 Mile House	Glendale	Miocene
Alkali Lake	Horsefly	Pine Valley
Big Lake Ranch	Hydraulic	Quesnel Forks
Black Creek	Keithley Creek	Soda Creek
Commodore Heights	Likely	South Lakeside
Dog Creek	Macalister	Springhouse
Dugan Lake	Marguerite	Sugarcane
		Williams Lake

- Year-end reports need to include a fiscal report on how funds were used, a summary of the project, and a narrative of any ways the project may have deviated from the accepted proposal. Templates are available on the WLCF website.
- Throughout the project or at completion, please provide information that can be shared on the WLCF Website.
- All successful applicants must submit their final report prior to applying for more WLCF Granting dollars in a subsequent year.

Applications are due by 4pm local time November 22nd, 2024 at either 177 Yorston Street, Williams Lake, BC. V2G 1G6 or at grants@williamslakecommunityforest.com.