



**Keep Cobb Beautiful
Dig'n The Dirt
Grant Program 2023-2024**

Garden programs provide a dynamic environment where children can learn and play at the same time. They experiment, discover, gain confidence, build self-esteem, and gain an appreciation for work required to bring food to the table.

The purposes of the Dig'n The Dirt Program are two-fold: 1) to provide opportunities to school children through school gardens to experience and study nature, and 2) to learn how to grow and appreciate fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Garden lessons can be integrated across the curriculum and children can overcome nature-deficit disorder with just a few hours of wonder in the garden.

When you choose to plant a garden with children, the world is on track to becoming a healthier place. Share with us your plans for your school garden and how it will impact your students and the community.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. *Dig'n The Dirt* grant, you must be a Cobb County school (public or private, including Marietta City Schools), planning to garden during the **2023-2024** school year with at least **15 children between the ages of 5 and 18**. This includes after-school programs.

Application period and deadline

Application period is **October 20, 2023**, through **December 1, 2023**. **Applications must be received by December 1, 2023.** Email it to KeepCobbBeautiful@cobbcounty.org.

Grant package

This year, each grantee could receive up to a maximum of **\$800**. The award amount will be based on the size and scope of the project and the number of awards granted.

Judging

Judging will be performed by the Greening Committee made up of KCB Board members who will select the grantee(s) based on the criteria below. All decisions are final.

Judging Criteria

The Committee will score each application based on the criteria listed with the awards going to those applicants with the highest scores:

- Educational focus (or curriculum standards integration)
- Innovative use of resources
- The number of students involved
- Administrative support/Staff involvement
- Social aspects of gardening (leadership development, team building, community support, etc.)
- Community service component (supplying produce to a homeless shelter, etc.)

**APPLICATION
KEEP COBB BEAUTIFUL
DIG'N THE DIRT GRANT
2023-2024**

Please Print

Contact _____ Position _____

School _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Principal _____

Please answer all questions. You may submit photographs with this application.

1. Do you currently have a school garden? Yes No

If yes, how many years? _____

You may submit photographs of your existing garden, or of your intended garden area.

2. Have you previously received funds from Keep Cobb Beautiful for a garden program? Yes No

3. Are you a Title I school? Yes No

4. Project Overview: Briefly explain your primary goals and how the grant money will be spent.

5. How many students do you anticipate being actively involved in the garden? _____

6. Approximately how many hours per week will each student be in the garden? _____

7. Approximately how many hours per week will each student be engaged in activities related to the garden? _____
8. Explain your administration and staff commitment.
9. Explain what you plan to plant in the garden.
10. Explain your plans for any harvest.
11. Explain how the garden will be cared for during the summer (non-school months).
12. Describe the sustainability features of the garden including but not limited to compost activities, innovative watering methods, use of recycled materials, etc.)
13. Do you currently have a garden curriculum in place? Yes No
If yes, please provide a copy of a sample lesson plan with this application.
If not, what resources do you plan to use to develop garden-based lesson plans?
14. How will you measure the success of the program (expected outcomes)?
15. What is your budget for this project? (Include completed worksheet.)
16. What other sources of funding do you have, or plan to have?

17. Do you have partnerships with the business and/or local community groups? (PTA, County Extension, etc.) Yes No Explain

18. Do you currently have a Junior Master Gardener Program? Yes No

19. Is your school currently a Cobb Green School? Yes No

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL AND WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON YOUR GRANT APPLICATION

20. I have a curriculum, a working garden and am available to act as a mentor Yes No

21. I'm just starting a garden and would like to be considered for the mentoring program Yes No

Application is due on December 1, 2023.

Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. will require an interim report documenting gardening activities with photographs and examples of classroom activities by June 1, 2024, and a final report by December 1, 2024. Omission of these reports will prohibit your school from applying for any garden grants from Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. in the next grant cycle. The reporting form is located on KeepCobbBeautiful.org under Forms.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Educational focus or curriculum standards integration meeting the purposes of the grant (20 pts)

Innovative use of resources (15 pts)

The number of students involved (15 pts)

Administrative support/Staff involvement (15 pts)

Social aspects of gardening: leadership development, team building, community support (10 pts)

Entrepreneurship (5 pts)

Community service (5pts)

TOTAL (85 pts possible) _____

**OFFICIAL KEEP COBB BEAUTIFUL
DIG'N THE DIRT GRANT AWARD
PROGRAM RULES**

Program. The goal of Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc.'s *Dig'n The Dirt* grant program is to create sustainable educational programs, activities, lessons, or events to excite students about creating a better planet through gardening. The grant(s) will be posted on the Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. website (www.keepcobbbeautiful.org) for use by the community for helpful guidelines, created by educators for educators, on how to develop innovative educational programs.

Sponsor. The KCB *Dig'n The Dirt* grant program is funded by grants and contributions, and sponsored by Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc., 1772 County Services Parkway, Marietta, GA 30008.

Eligibility. The KCB *Dig'n The Dirt* grant program is open to all Cobb County public and private schools (including Marietta City Schools), limit one application per school. Applications not containing the required information will be disqualified. Verification of eligibility may be required. By applying, KCB grant program entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules.

Entry. The KCB *Dig'n The Dirt* grant application period begins **October 20, 2023** and ends on **December 1, 2023**. The application must be submitted no later than **December 1, 2023**. The program must be completed by **December 1, 2024**.

Judging.

Judging will be performed by the Greening Committee made up of KCB Board members and KCB staff who will select the grantee(s) based on the criteria below. All decisions are final.

Judging Criteria. The judges will select the grantee(s) whose submissions receive the highest point totals based on the criteria below:

- Educational focus or curriculum standards integration (20 points)
- Innovative use of resources (15 points)
- The numbers of students involved (15 points)
- Administrative support/Staff involvement (15 points)
- Social aspects of gardening (10 points)
- Community service (10 points)

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 85

Selection and Notification. Grantee(s) will be selected from all qualified applications and announced on or about **January 17, 2024**, by Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc., whose decision will be final and binding.

Use of Grantees' Names. Eligible Grantee acknowledges and agrees that the name and city will be posted online at www.keepcobbbeautiful.org, and possibly at the Cobb County Schools website (www.cobbk12.org). Further, Grantee(s) agrees to grant Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. and Cobb County Schools the right to publish the lesson plans, activities, and outcomes of the *Dig'n The Dirt* program. Grantee may also be requested, after award of the grant, to participate in further promotional activities.

Grants. Each Grantee could receive up to a maximum of \$800. The award amount will be based on the size and scope of the project and the number of awards granted. Under no circumstances are grantees eligible for grants which exceed the cost of the submitted budget in the application.

Reporting Requirements. Each grantee will be required to file **two** reports with the Keep Cobb Beautiful Education Committee. **The first report will be an interim report due by June 1, 2024. The final report will be due by December 1, 2024.** The reporting forms will be available online. The reporting forms will be available for download from our website <http://www.keepcobbbeautiful.org>. If the grantee **does not submit** the reports with documentation regarding expenditures and curricular integration by the due dates, Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. reserves the right to demand that the grant amount be refunded in full immediately. Failure to meet this reporting requirement will negate the school from future *Dig'n The Dirt* grants. If the school is a previous recipient of grant funds, all previous reporting requirements **must have been or will be met** to qualify for additional funds.

Grant Restrictions. Each eligible Grantee may receive only one grant. Before grants are released, Grantee(s) must execute an Affidavit of Administrative Support, attesting to support from the school administrator, as well as verifying that the grant funds will be used for their stated purpose.

Unlawful Conduct and Disqualification. Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any Grantee and terminate the grant who a) tampered with the application process; b) is an ineligible school; c) submits more than the allowed number of applications; d) conducts or administers the submitted program inconsistent with the program application, these rules, or the stated purpose and goal of the *Dig'n The Dirt* Program.

Release. By acceptance of any grant, the grantee(s) agrees to release, hold harmless and indemnify Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc., any other sponsors, subsidiaries, affiliates, suppliers, distributors, advertising/promotional agencies, representatives, award package suppliers, and each of their respective parent companies and each such company's officers, directors, employees, and agents (collectively "Released Parties") from and against any claim or cause of action, including but not limited to, personal injury, death or damage to or loss of property, arising out of participating in the Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. *Dig'n The Dirt* grant program, or receipt, use or misuse of any grant awarded herein.

Limitation of Liability and Remedies. NEITHER THE SPONSOR NOR ANY OTHER RELEASED PARTY SHALL HAVE ANY LIABILITY WITH RESPECT TO ANY APPLICATIONS THAT ARE INCOMPLETE, LATE, GARBLED, MUTILATED, ILLEGIBLE, DELAYED, MISDELIVERED, LOST, DAMAGED, STOLEN, DELETED OR LOST DURING TRANSMISSION, MISDIRECTED OR OTHERWISE NOT TIMELY OR ACCURATELY DELIVERED OR DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET OR UNDERSTAND. ENTRIES RECEIVED BY US THAT ARE INCOMPLETE, LATE, GARBLED, MUTILATED, ILLEGIBLE, DELAYED, MISDELIVERED, LOST, DAMAGED, STOLEN, DELETED OR LOST DURING TRANSMISSION, MISDIRECTED OR OTHERWISE NOT TIMELY OR ACCURATELY DELIVERED OR DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET OR

UNDERSTAND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS AND WE WILL NOT DELIVER ANY NOTICE OF SUCH INELIGIBILITY TO THE PARTICIPANT.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, SHALL THE RELEASED PARTIES BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, SPECIAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR EXEMPLARY OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONJUNCTION OR CONNECTION WITH ENTRANTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE KCB GRANT AWARD PROGRAM POSTING ON OR ACCESS AND/OR DOWNLOAD OF ANY MATERIALS OR INFORMATION FROM ANY WEBSITE OWNED, OPERATED OR CONTROLLED BY KEEP COBB BEAUTIFUL, INC. OR COBB COUNTY, AND/OR ANY GRANT (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ITS ACCEPTANCE OR USAGE) AWARDED TO GRANTEE(S) IN CONNECTION WITH THE KCB GRANT AWARD PROGRAM, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AND, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, DAMAGES FOR BODILY OR PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, EVEN IF THE RELEASED PARTIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES OR LOSS, ENTRANTS AGREE THAT THE AGGREGATE LIABILITY, IF ANY, OF THE RELEASED PARTIES ARISING OUT OF ANY KIND OF CLAIM (WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT, OR OTHERWISE) SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00).

Indemnification. Each Eligible Grantee agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from and against any loss, damage or expense (including court costs and attorneys' fees) that Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc., and/or any of the Released Parties together with each of the parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies, and each of its and their successors or assigns, may suffer or incur as a result or in conjunction or connection with the KCB Grant Program, or the grant awarded to any grantee (including, without limitation, the receipt and/or use of said grant).

Grantee(s) List. The list of grantees will be available at the Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. website www.keepcobbbeautiful.org.

Force Majeure. The failure of Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. to comply with any provision of the Official Rules due to an act of God, hurricane, war, terrorism, fire, riot, earthquake, actions of governmental authorities outside the control of Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc., or other force majeure event shall not be considered a breach of these Official Grant Program Rules.

I have read and accept the terms of these Official Rules for application to the Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. *Dig'n The Dirt* Grant Award Program.

Print name

Title

Signature

Date

Affidavit of Administrative Support

I hereby aver that I shall support this application for the Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. *Dig'n The Dirt* Award Program for a school garden and that funds received from this award will be used for the intended purpose. **If the funds are not used per the agreement, or the grantee does not submit the interim report by June 1, 2024, and/or the year-end report by December 1, 2024, with documentation regarding expenditures and curricular integration,** the grant amount will be refunded in full to Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc. immediately upon demand. Further, the school will be prohibited from applying for any future *Dig'n The Dirt* garden grants from Keep Cobb Beautiful, Inc.

To be signed by the school's Principal and the Garden Coordinator.

Print name

Title

Signature

Date

Print name

Title

Signature

Date

2023-2024 GARDEN BUDGET WORKSHEET

ITEM	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
SAMPLE: Kid-sized garden gloves (maximum 20)	10	3.00	30.00
TOTAL			