

2024 Jane R. Parks Memorial Grant Proposal

Mission Statement

To support the community in its pursuit of continuing education through, and contributions to humanity through the creative, spiritual, and replenishing endowments of horticulture.

Jane R. Parks

Feb. 22, 1930 - Feb. 27, 2012

Jane was a passionate educator for 30 years, and a gardener for most of her life. She became a Master Gardener in January 2003.

This memorial grant honors her extraordinary life through teaching and helping others obtain an understanding of the importance and value in growing things of beauty and use, and connecting with others to share the wonders of horticulture.

Through this grant, her legacy of friendship, gardening, humor, and boundless love for life continues.



About the Jane R. Parks Memorial Fund

The Jane R. Parks Memorial Fund was established in 2012 by mutual agreement between the Parks family and the Master Gardeners of North Alabama (MGNA). The family will provide annual funding as described herein, and the MGNA organization will manage the application process at no cost to the organization.

The Jane R. Parks Memorial Grant (JRPMG) allocates monies to support a variety of education/horticultural projects in Madison County, Alabama. The number of requests awarded depends upon the funds available, with yearly distributions to awardees totaling no more than \$1,000 each. Funding requests cannot exceed \$1,000. Organizations submitting applications must be non-profit and have no political affiliations.

Qualifying Criteria for Project Grant Funds

1. The purpose of the project is educational.
2. The funding will be granted to an already existing project, under the sponsorship of at least one adult (18 years or older). The adult must be linked through an official volunteer or hired status with the organization submitting the application.
3. The project promotes community involvement in horticulture.
4. The project has realistic goals and objectives.
5. The funds granted will make a significant contribution to the achievement of the educational goals of the project.
6. The proposed expenditures are reasonable and appropriate.
7. The project will make a difference to the community it serves.
8. The project proposal will include a regular maintenance schedule under the responsibility of the organization-approved sponsor.
9. The project recipients agree to post and maintain acknowledgement of the source (attractive marker provided): Jane R. Parks Memorial Project/Master Gardeners of North Alabama.
10. The applicant (if awarded funds) agrees to provide funding and/or status reports, and photos, of the awarded project before, during and after the completion of the project, to MGNA's Grant Committee Chair. The applicant also will allow MGNA visitors and media interviews (as requested) to ensure fidelity of the program. Failure to do any of this would forfeit your eligibility for future grant awards.

Non-Allowable Project Funding Items

- Wheelbarrows, tillers, birdbaths or other ornamental items
- Hardscape – cement sidewalks, foundations, fencing, or retaining blocks
- Sheds, arbors, walls, terraces, greenhouses
- Grading or wood for signage
- Power equipment – bulldozers, backhoes and/or operator fees

- Correction of drainage

Management Guidelines

Provision and Distribution of the Jane R. Parks Memorial Fund

The family of Jane R. Parks will contribute annually \$1,000 by the first of September beginning in 2012. A minimum balance of \$500 will be kept in the fund after the distribution of grants each year. MGNA will apply any interest accrued back into the grant fund. The Parks family may provide additional funding beyond the \$1,000 yearly supplication, if desired.

MGNA members and MGNA Board members shall recuse themselves of judging any projects where there is an obvious conflict of interest. Every effort will be made to ensure fairness and objectivity when assigning scores for submitted projects. Consideration will first be given to the strongest proposals with the best chances of sustained and/or expanded projects, followed by funding amount considerations.

The funds will be given in the name of Jane R. Parks and MGNA. Awardees will place a marker (provided) near the site. The Parks Family will be responsible for providing the marker, which must receive MGNA Board approval as well.

Invitational e-mails will be sent to schools, nursing homes and other possible interested entities as approved by the MGNA Board to advertise the Jane R. Parks Memorial Fund program.

Additionally, free advertisement via radio, web, and fliers may be distributed for advertising purposes.

Award Fulfillment

E-mails will be sent to all applicants notifying them of award status no later than Nov. 30 of each year.

A list of recipients will be posted on www.mginfo.org and www.Facebook.com/MGofNA, and published in the *Garden Thymes* newsletter.

A Letter of Acceptance will be sent to each Grant recipient and must be signed, dated and returned to the Chairman within 14 calendar days after notification of Grant award.

Awards will be presented during the 2024 MGNA Christmas Social. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to resubmit applications each year.

Jane R. Parks Memorial Grant Application Deadline October 15, 2024

The application is available online at www.mginfo.org/grants.html. Complete the requested information on your computer and submit the application electronically. We will only accept electronically submitted applications.

Questions? Direct questions to the MGNA Grant Committee at grantcommittee@mginfo.org.

Deadline for the MGNA Grant Committee to receive your grant application is

October 15, 2024.