



News Release for Immediate Release

January 04, 2016

From: The Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council

Contact: Jan Shupert-Arick, Program Coordinator

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Heritage Grant Application Process Now Open!

2016 Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant Program

"If you dig the conservation of land or like preserving local landmarks, apply now for a grant from the Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant Program funded by the Douglas County Commission," says Shelley Hickman Clark, Chair of the Heritage Conservation Council.

Deadline to meet with HCC Program Coordinator: February 29, 2016. (Required)

Submission Deadline: Grant applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. March 15, 2016.

Non-profit organizations, universities, K-12 schools, or any unit of local government within Douglas County, Kansas may apply. Individuals, families, businesses, or out-of-county organizations or units of government outside of Douglas County must have a Douglas county partner (as listed previously) to apply.

Project categories include agriculture, historic structures, prairie, woodlands, waterways, habitat restoration/preservation, Freedom's Frontier themes, Civil War and pre-Civil War heritage, settlement stories, enduring struggle for freedom, and pre-settlement history. All projects must take place in Douglas County.

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant Program makes funds available for target grants in amounts up to \$89,900 for projects. Funds are also made available for major grants in amounts from \$90,000 to \$124,000.

Application materials including grant guidelines for 2016 will be posted on line beginning January 8 2016 at: <http://www.douglascountyks.org/hcc> Applications are due March 15, 2016 by 5 p.m.

After the Council evaluates the application, specific funding recommendations will be made to the Douglas County Commission in May 2016 for their review and approval.

Questions about the grant program should be directed to:

Jan Shupert-Arick

Program Coordinator

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Sampling of previously funded projects:

Beginning in 2011, the Douglas County Commission has provided grant funding to groups dedicated to preserving Douglas County heritage and natural resources. Projects funded in the past include:

- saving the Turnhalle Building in Lawrence
- providing major funding for the Eudora Community Museum
- protecting agricultural land through conservation easements
- completing the restoration of the Robert Hall Pearson Farm House at the Black Jack Battlefield national landmark site near Baldwin City
- restoration/cleanup of the Kaw River between Lawrence and Eudora
- repairing Clearfield School (a one room school c1900) in Palmyra Township
- funding for new collection and storage space at the Wakarusa River Valley Heritage Museum near Clinton
- funding a systematic inventory for natural areas and habitat in Douglas County
- window restoration at the historic Constitution Hall in Lecompton
- restoring the Receiving Vault at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence
- contributing funds for a permanent exhibition at the Watkins Museum of History that shares the story of Quantrill's raid in 1863
- expanding the protected forest area known as Baldwin Woods south of Lawrence

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