

Thriving in Nature Detailed Application-Grant Form 2026

The **Thriving in Nature Fund** will provide grants to charitable organisations which deliver one or more of these results:

- Enhancing **mental or physical health and wellbeing** through engaging with and caring for nature, green and blue spaces and the rural environment, including agriculture.
- Boosting **skills, training and job opportunities** through engaging with and caring for nature, green and blue spaces, and the rural environment, including agriculture.
- Expanding **access to nature**, green and blue spaces and the rural environment for underrepresented groups.

Our definitions

- Nature: larger natural spaces *outside* of villages, towns and cities such as open countryside and woodlands.
- Green spaces: *controlled* often small natural spaces *within* villages, towns and cities such as parks, local nature reserves, community gardens and grassed areas.
- Blue spaces: water. This includes rivers, canals, lakes and wetlands.
- Agriculture: urban and rural farms, community food growing, including allotments.

The grants will promote sustainable practices and help small organisations grow, ensuring Oxfordshire's green and blue spaces are fully used. For more information on the fund and general eligibility please look at our [fund guidance document](#).

Our commitment

We offer full support to applicants throughout the process via drop-in sessions, detailed guidance and FAQs to make applying simpler.

We aim to award **£250k** and we are allocating **at least 20%** to organisations with an annual income **under £50,000**, to support smaller and less established groups.

We will make two levels of grants:

- **Small grants** of up to £10,000 to be paid over one year. To be eligible for a small grant a group's annual income should be under £50,000 per year.
- **Large grants** between £10,001 and £50,000 to be paid over two years. To be eligible for a large grant a group's annual income should be between £50,001 - £500,000.

Grants will be paid in advance on an agreed schedule and will be subject to light-touch annual review. This will include a short progress report and a conversation with a member of the OCF Grants Team.

We aim to keep monitoring and evaluation **proportionate and meaningful**, placing trust in organisations to define and evidence the difference their work makes.

We encourage applicants to consider how their proposed activities can support and protect the local environment. As part of our commitment to sustainability, we will be working with a local ecology expert to review all applications. This will help ensure that projects not only benefit people but also respect and enhance the natural spaces they engage with.

Eligible Costs:

Applications to the Thriving in Nature Fund can request funding in the following categories:

Project costs: these are costs directly associated with the delivery of a project.

Core costs: these are costs that keep your organisation running, such as salaries, rent, utilities, etc.

Capital costs: these are costs related to any physical assets your organisation may need, such as IT equipment or premises.
Please ensure you have understood the types of costs we can fund before proceeding.

The following costs are not eligible:

- Contributions to general appeals or circulars
- Activities where the primary benefit is the advancement of religion
- Activities where the primary benefit is to enable a public body to conduct its statutory obligations
- Activities where the primary benefit is the advancement of animal welfare
- Activities which have already taken place
- Grant-making or equivalent gifts in kind by other organisations (although we can fund provision of necessary goods for a service e.g. food parcels or activity packs)

- Applications from privately owned and profit-distributing companies or partnerships.
- Costs that have already been incurred
- Changes to land/buildings that do not belong to the applicant
- Large-scale construction projects (including fixed structures e.g. playgrounds).

Note on Land Use: Please be aware that for any proposed activity involving land, the land must be owned by the organisation or explicit consent must be obtained to adapt or use it for the purposes of the grant application.

The deadline for applications is midday on Wednesday 15th July 2026.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Charity/organisation details

Please complete the information below

2. Name of charity/organisation *

3. Address of your organisation *

4. Telephone Number *

5. Main Contact Name *

6. Job Title *

7. Contact Telephone No. *

8. Organisation Start Date *

Example: 7 January 2019

9. We are a: *

Mark only one oval.

- Registered Charity
- A Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Unincorporated Club or Association
- Community Benefit Society
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation

10. If other please state below:

11. Company Number (if applicable)

12. Charity Number (if applicable)

13. What was your income in the last financial year? *

14. Please provide a postcode which represents the geographic area you will benefit (e.g. OX1, OX12 etc.) *

15. It is a requirement that 90% of your beneficiaries are in Oxfordshire for this round. Please show evidence of this below *

16. How many individuals do you expect to benefit directly from this funding over the grant period? Please provide a breakdown if possible (e.g. per year or per activity).

Your Organisation's Work

The questions in this section are to help us understand the work you do, why it is so important, and how you are having an impact. You can also send us up to three documents that support your application, which can include previous applications for funding (not just to OCF) or previously used presentations or documents that highlight your activities. These should be sent to grants@oxfordshire.org.

17. Please describe the overall aims and objectives of your organisation and the activities or services your organisation provides. *

Your grant application

18. Requested funds *

Tell us how much funding you would like (max. £50,000)

1. If you told us your organisational income last year was under £50,000 you are only eligible to apply for a grant up to £10,000

2. If you told us your organisational income last year was over £50,001 and under £500,000 you are eligible to apply for a grant between £10,001 and £50,000

Tick all that apply.

- Grant up to £10,000
- Grant - £10,001 and £50,000

19. Exact amount of funding requested (please enter below) *

20. Funding request *

What does your organisation need this funding for?* (Select all that apply)

- **Project costs:** these are costs directly associated with the delivery of a project.
- **Core costs:** these are costs that keep your organisation running, such as salaries, rent, utilities, etc.
- **Capital costs:** these are costs related to any physical assets your organisation may need, such as equipment or IT support.

Tick all that apply.

- Project costs
- Core costs
- Capital costs

21. Please provide a detailed explanation of what exactly you intend to use the funding for and why you believe this is needed. *

We will be assessing your response against the objectives of the Thriving in Nature grants round, as outlined above and in the guidance document.

22. Who are the main people who will benefit from this work? Please describe their characteristics, needs, and why they are considered disadvantaged or underrepresented. *

23. How will your funding request, activity, or project be kind to the local environment and contribute to the health of Oxfordshire's green and/or blue spaces? *

Please focus on how environmental benefit arises through people's involvement, learning and sense of ownership, rather than being the primary aim of the project.

24. How will this funding enable you to grow, or become more efficient or resilient? We want to know how much of a change you think you'll see in your charity with this support. *

25. Please provide a budget breakdown of how you will spend the proposed grant. We have created a simple template that can be downloaded here : [Grant Budget Template](#) this should be submitted to grants@oxfordshire.org. *

When submitting your budget, please include all the costs needed to run your project successfully. This may include staff time, a proportion of running costs that support delivery, training, and monitoring and evaluation. Including these costs helps ensure projects are properly resourced and can be delivered safely and to a high standard.

Tick all that apply.

I agree

26. How does your budget demonstrate good value for money?
Please explain how the costs you are requesting are necessary and proportionate to the outcomes you aim to achieve.
You may wish to mention:

- How your budget is structured and itemised
- How it links to your planned activities and outcomes
- Any use of volunteers, partnerships, or in-kind support
- Whether you will charge the public for any of the activities

Note: Value for money does not always mean the lowest cost per person. Some interventions may be more intensive or long-term and still represent good value.

27. **For non-charity organisations only:**

This question applies only if your organisation is not a registered charity, such as a CIC, Companies Ltd by Guarantee, or a co-operative

Please explain how the activities funded through this grant will be used solely for charitable purposes for public benefit, and how this aligns with your organisation's mission, governance and delivery model.

What does success look like to you?

Please propose outcomes and indicators that are relevant to you and that you will be able to report on. This will help us analyse the potential impact of your application and, for successful applicants, it will go into the grant agreement. Please consider how you would collect information for reporting on these.

Outcomes: Please set 1 - 3 outcomes you will deliver if you receive funding. An outcome is the result or change caused by the funding, usually the benefits that individuals or groups receive from your activities. Eg: young people experience better mental health [by attending weekly sessions].

Indicators: For each outcome you should propose at least one indicator. An indicator is something measurable which can track whether your intended outcome has happened. Eg: the number of young people who report better mental health after 1 year of participation.

Madison Community Foundation has a useful explanation of this kind of measurement: <https://www.madisongives.org/nonprofits/measuring-outcomes>

28. Outcome 1 *

29. Indicator 1 *

30. Outcome 2

31. Indicator 2

32. Outcome 3

33. Indicator 3

34. Monitoring and Evaluation: *

Successful applicants will receive ongoing support from the OCF grants team. This includes invitations to annual in-person catch-ups and access to an online forum designed to share learning and strengthen monitoring and evaluation practices.

We aim to keep monitoring and evaluation light-touch but meaningful - empowering grantees to shape how they demonstrate the impact of their work.

Successful grantees will be invited to a celebration event in May 2027

Mark only one oval.

I agree

I disagree

Financial Information and Consent

35. Will your organisation charge the public for the activities to be funded by this grant? If yes, please give a brief explanation below *

36. Please read the terms and conditions below carefully *

Tick all that apply.

We agree OCF may share this application with members of the OCF grants panel and their assessors

We agree OCF may share this application with potential donors

Please note we are not requesting documents to be attached to this application but will ask for these after the panel meeting in August if you are conditionally offered a grant. Please tick the relevant boxes to confirm that these documents would be available to be submitted swiftly.

37. Bank statement in the name of the organisation dated within the last three months showing the name of the organisation, the sort code and the account number *

Tick all that apply.

Yes

38. Signed Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults Policy *

Tick all that apply.

Yes

39. Signed annual report and accounts OR proof of income and expenditure covering the most recent financial year. If the most recent year is not yet available, management accounts or an income/expenditure document at least up to 31 March 2026 will also be required, if this is not covered in the most recent annual accounts. *

Tick all that apply.

Yes

40. Signed set of rules, terms of reference or constitution *

Tick all that apply.

Yes

41. Contact details for all trustees and/or management committee members with (at least three) identified who must not be family members (address, email and phone number) *

Cheque/bank signatories (at least two) identified who must not be family members

Tick all that apply.

Yes

42. A signed grant agreement, provided by OCF to release funds *

Tick all that apply.

Yes

43. I confirm we have three Trustees, Directors or Committee Members (as relevant to our organisational structure) that are not related to each other *

Tick all that apply.

Yes

44. I confirm we have a minimum of one year of operation; if you have been constituted for less than one year but have been active for longer, you will be asked to demonstrate this activity *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other:

45. If other please note below

46. I confirm that our reserves are a minimum of three months' running costs, and I understand that if they are more than 12 months an explanation will be requested. *

Tick all that apply.

Yes

Further Information

After you submit your application it will be reviewed thoughtfully by two Assessors before our grants panel meeting.

Important dates:

- Applications open on 17th June and close at midday on 15th July
- We will announce awards in the week beginning 24th August

If you need any help or have questions, please don't hesitate to email us at grants@oxfordshire.org. We truly appreciate your interest and are here to support you.

For more information on OCF, please refer to [our website](#).

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