

**Geauga Park District
Research Grants Program
2010**

Purpose

Geauga Park District offers a research grants program to support work that occurs partially or wholly on Geauga Park District lands, and that promotes the Park District's mission to preserve, conserve, and protect the natural features of Geauga County. Research themes must have relevance to Geauga Park District sites, species occupying these sites, or overall natural resource management objectives.

Qualifications

Applicants for research grants must be faculty or staff members of universities, colleges, or secondary schools, or active employees of non-profit organizations or commercial firms, or individuals with a documented knowledge of ecology, zoology, botany, geology, or other applicable field of endeavor.

Considerations

Research topics may include, but not be limited to (1) organismal investigations, (2) habitat management, (3) biomonitoring of species or communities, (4) biotic inventories, (5) conservation issues, (6) broad ecological investigations, including water quality and geologic features, (7) archaeological investigations, or (8) human/nature interface, such as visitor impact, and (9) cultural history of parks. A list of research priorities for 2010 is in Attachment A. Consideration will be given to other topics by qualified researchers. Additional ideas for projects may be investigated by contacting the naturalist or resource management staff at Geauga Park District (440-286-9516, extension 1128).

Grant recipients must sign a contract that will stipulate the work to be performed. At least 50 percent of the funds will be withheld pending submission of the final report. Subcontracting is not permissible. Grant requests will be reviewed by a team of Geauga Park District staff members based upon the evaluation criteria. Final determination for the research grants to be awarded will be made by the Board of Park Commissioners and the Executive Director, Geauga Park District.

Rules and Guidelines

1. Grant requests can be made for totals ranging from \$250.00 to \$3,000.00 for a one-year contract and \$500.00 to \$6,000.00 for a two-year contract. Requests for amounts over \$3,000.00/\$6,000.00 may be considered for partial funding. Overhead or indirect costs may not exceed five percent. Budget items may include:
 - Materials and supplies (requests for nonexpendable items may require that the items become the property of Geauga Park District);
 - Salaries; and
 - Computer/data processing (not computer software).
2. Recipients are not eligible to receive more than one research grant in the two-year contract period.

3. All proposals must be typed (single spaced) and received by Geauga Park District on or before December 31, 2009. Only complete applications received by that date will be accepted.
4. Proposals should be submitted on the form provided by Geauga Park District. Additional pages may be included, but the proposal must not under any circumstances exceed four pages (not including the researcher's qualifications).
5. Researcher's qualifications — a maximum two-page profile of the individual(s) performing the work.
6. Applications will only be accepted in paper format (no electronic submittals). Two copies of all of the grant application must be submitted to be considered complete. Proposals must be submitted to:
Tami Gingrich, Field Naturalist
Gauga Park District
9160 Robinson Road
Chardon, Ohio 44024
7. A final report for a one-year study is due November 1, 2010. A final report for a two-year study is due on November 1, 2011. All final reports will become the property of Geauga Park District.
8. Review and scoring of all proposals will be performed by Geauga Park District staff. The Executive Director will inform all applicants about the outcome of the review and will dispense money to successful awardees.
9. If the Executive Director, upon receipt of the proposals, finds that two or more applicants are proposing essentially the same work, the respective applicants will be alerted of this fact in the hope that the work can be done cooperatively. This does not necessarily imply a reduction in funding.
10. Publications, public and private presentations, and other products derived from work funded by Geauga Park District must include acknowledgment of Geauga Park District.

Geauga Park District is allocating a sum of money in 2010 towards the research grants program.

Procedure

1. Grants may be effective for a one-year (2010) or two-year (2010/2011) time period.
 - a. Grant information will be sent out by October 1, 2009.
 - b. Responses will be due no later than December 31, 2009.
 - c. Geauga Park District Board will award grant recipient(s) at the January Board meeting.
 - d. Award recipients will be notified after the Board meeting.

2. Allocation of grant money for a two-year contract shall be as follows:
 - a. Reimbursement of equipment and/or supplies and initial payment to grant recipient(s) will be made by December 1, 2010, not to exceed 50% of the grant award.

- i. Equipment and/or supplies will be reimbursed (excluding tax) upon receipt(s) of the bill of sale; and
- ii. A payment to grant recipient(s) shall be made by December 1, 2010, provided:
 1. A progress report is provided to Geauga Park District no later than November 1, 2010;
 2. Payment for a **one-year** contract shall be made upon a final report, due on or before, November 1, 2010;
 3. Final payment for a **two-year contract** shall be made upon receipt of a final report, due on or before November 1, 2011. All final reports shall become the property of Geauga Park District; and
 4. The amount of the payment and the equipment and/or supplies shall not exceed 50% of the grant award.
- iii. The final report should contain, but not limited to, management objectives, including Geauga Park District's efforts in preservation, conservation practices, and protection efforts.
- iv. Geauga Park District may request, at its discretion, that the grant recipient(s) make a presentation to the Park staff in person.
- v. Geauga Park District may request, at its discretion, that the grant recipient(s) present a public interpretive program.