

What makes a legacy project?

Legacy projects are not 'business as usual' maintenance of public spaces – rather, they are projects that make a real and lasting positive impact for future generations. They shape and transform the local geography and have broad community benefits. They become an integral part of the urban fabric and are valued and cherished by the community for generations to come.

We want future generations to be able to point to these legacy projects and appreciate how they have helped shape and change our network of public and open spaces in NSW for the better.

What does a successful proposal look like?

- They are eligible for funding based on the eligibility criteria outlined in the [Program Guidelines](#)
- The project or projects are a compelling demonstration of the four assessment criteria (detailed on page 2 of the [Information Sheet](#))
- The project or projects are not 'business as usual' maintenance of public spaces but aim to make a real and lasting positive impact for future generations
- Funding allocation has been taken into consideration ie. Those councils that were identified in the Guidelines as having an open space shortfall and qualify for the maximum funding allocation will be expected to demonstrate how they are increasing the amount of open space in their LGA.

How can we demonstrate 'significant increase in benefit than is currently provided' if we are proposing the upgrade, extension or replacement of existing infrastructure?

This can be demonstrated by whether the project provides multiple benefits to a broad range of community members. This can include social, health, environmental or economic benefits. For example, general maintenance or minor upgrades are not considered significant.

When can I submit my project proposal?

A link has been provided to Councils and was made available on the website on Monday 8 February 2021. Applications need to be submitted on or before 4pm 10 March 2021.

What if Council's initial projects don't meet the assessment criteria?

Review Council's proposal against the four assessment criteria closely and consider if there may be another project(s) that would better meet the criteria. If you would like to discuss options please feel free to reach out and our team can provide advice.

Can we change the projects that we nominated in our original application?

Yes, projects can be changed if Council decides another project would be more suitable and would better meet the four assessment criteria. If unsure, please feel free to get in touch and discuss with one of our team.



How many projects can Council submit?

There is no limit to the number of projects Council can submit. However, projects will be assessed as a complete proposal. Therefore, Council will need to demonstrate how the projects work together to deliver a significant public spaces legacy for the broader community.

Do projects have to physically relate to each other?

No, projects do not have to physically relate to each other. It is up to you how you demonstrate that the projects work together to deliver a lasting public spaces legacy for the community. For example this could be thematically or geographically.

We have several projects to submit as part of our application. Are you expecting a separate submission for each different project?

No. The Smarty Grants application includes a section where you can provide details of individual projects including size and location. When addressing the four assessment criteria, please refer to the proposal as a whole. If you are proposing multiple projects, you should consider these as a suite of projects that make up one legacy proposal.

What happens if my project is rejected?

We suggest reviewing carefully Council's proposal against the assessment criteria closely to help ensure your project is successful. Our team are available to offer advice and guidance if you would like to discuss project options. We want to work with you to make sure you put forward a successful proposal.

We submitted a project in August with our application. If we haven't been contacted by the Department can we assume it qualifies?

The first phase of the Program was to assess Council's progress towards meeting development assessment improvement targets for the period up to 31 December 2020. It also provided a chance for you to begin thinking about your public and open space proposals.

If, on reflection, Council doesn't believe the initial project put forward will meet the assessment criteria, there will be an opportunity to propose another project that would be more suitable and which would better meet the assessment criteria. If unsure, please feel free to get in touch and discuss with one of our team.

The program mentions that construction and planning of organised sporting facilities is excluded. What if you need to relocate an existing sporting facility to free up the existing open space for an expansion of the passive recreation facilities in that open space?

If the outcome of the project is new, high quality passive recreation space this will be eligible. If the funding is spent on improving and upgrading sportsfields this will be ineligible.





What support will be provided in preparing the project proposals?

We have prepared an [information sheet](#) and hosted a [webinar](#) on 9 February to help support Councils prepare a robust proposal. Our team will also be available to discuss your project options and provide any advice or assistance you might require.

We also encourage you to look at the NSW Draft Public Spaces Charter for further guidance around what quality public and open space looks like.

Why were some Councils allocated more funding than others?

Councils have been categorised according to Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Local Government and Office of Local Government groupings, which is based on broad demographic variables including population, location, size and economy.

The funding for each council reflects the potential positive impact on local economies and job creation arising from their assessment program and—to a lesser extent—the likely cost of delivering public and open space upgrades. Additional funding is available to some councils that have been identified as having a significant shortfall in open space as determined in detailed analysis of open space provision by Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

What if I have an issue with Smarty Grants?

As a starting point, check out the help guide for applicants at www.applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au

If the issue remains, please contact SmartyGrants at:

- service@smartygrants.com.au
- Telephone support 03 9320 6888
- Support Desk Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm AEST, Mon – Fri
- Visit www.help.smartygrants.com.au

Please note, when attaching files to support the application, it is strongly recommended you keep files under 5 megabytes and use concise and descriptive file names.

If we have multiple projects, is it okay to have more than one person project managing them or does there need to be one central Council contact?

Please provide one central contact person from Council for all projects. This will assist with efficient and timely coordination.

When do applications close?

Applications need to be submitted on or before 4pm 10 March 2021. Councils can submit their applications via the link on the Public Spaces Legacy Program webpage.



Who will do the assessment?

An interagency assessment panel of NSW Government representatives, overseen by a probity advisor will complete the assessment.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed on how well they demonstrate the following criteria:

- The project provides a broad range of benefits for the community (ie social benefits, health benefits, environmental benefits and/or economic benefits)
- The project is inclusive and encourages a broad range of community members to use the space
- The project fills a gap in the open space network and/or increases the diversity of recreational experiences and opportunities for communities
- The project benefits the broader district or regional community.

More information on how to address the assessment criteria is included in the Information Sheet that was provided to councils and is also available on the website.

When will Council know the outcome?

Successful nominations will be confirmed on or before 20 April 2021.

MARCH 2021 FAQs UPDATE

Council has a masterplan which has two stages. Can Council fund the detailed design of both stages of the masterplan but use funds from the Legacy Program to only build the first stage of the project?

We encourage councils to match-fund to result in a larger project overall. If it makes sense to masterplan a two stage project in one effort, this will be favourably considered and the Public Space Legacy Program planning/design funding can apply to a larger program where council can commit to delivering its aligned project in a timely way.

However the overwhelming majority of Public Space Legacy Program funding needs to go into construction of a project that is complete by December 2022.

Please contact the Department if you have any queries before you submit your nomination.

Does Council's project have to be completely finished by December 2022?

The nominated project(s) must be completely finished. As per the Guidelines, construction must be complete by 31 December 2022.

Can Council use its internal trades people and resources for construction of the project/s or should contractors be engaged?



If Council has the capability to deliver the project/s in house, Council is able to draw on those resources.

Can Council start construction before 1 August 2021?

Councils can start construction before 1 August 2021 and they can also use their 10% upfront grant funding towards construction. However, the government will not commit the 90% construction funding until after the second monitoring phase is complete on 30 June 2021 and the government has verified that planning targets have been reached.

If Council has already submitted a project under another grant program and do not yet know if it has been successful or not, can Council submit the same project under the Legacy Program in case it is unsuccessful?

Yes but the Department needs to be advised of the details of the other grant program. Council must declare that the project has already been submitted for grant funding under other program/s in the online application form. If there is a chance that the other project may be approved under the other grant program prior to 1 August 2021, Council should nominate a back-up project.

If a project has already received a NSW State Government grant from another funding program, is Public Spaces Program Legacy grant funding able to be spent on the same project?

Councils are required to demonstrate the added value for the community – such as the expanded scope to the project. Council must avoid any double dipping on project funding and must declare that the project has already been submitted for grant funding under other program/s in the application form.

Is it possible for Council to flexibly share funding between nominated projects? For example, if a project is under budget can the savings be transferred to another project?

Council needs to have a clear understanding of the projects at the application stage. Council should outline all the projects they wish to fund and detail the allocation of funds to each. Council needs to clearly articulate the cost of each project to the Department. However, the Department can build terms into the Funding Agreement so that if one project is completed under budget, the savings can be transferred to another project subject to justification from Council about why there are changes to costs and approval from the Department.

Is it possible to have more than one contributing funding partner? i.e. Transport for NSW

Yes, Council can have more than one contributing funding partner, however Council must declare the partner/s in the application form. Council should also advise the Department of any conditions associated with any other funding sources.



Can Council be granted an extension to the application due date to provide time to confirm resourcing requirements?

No, we cannot allow for an extension to the application due date.

Who can we contact if we have more questions or need clarification?

If you have any queries, please contact publicspaceslegacy@planning.nsw.gov.au and one of our team members will be in touch.

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