

**The Neighborhood Matching Grants Program** has been helping Charlotte citizens improve their neighborhoods since 1993. The program awards funds to neighborhood-based organizations for projects that will make neighborhoods better places to live, work, play and shop. The program helps to strengthen neighborhood organizations, while encouraging increased neighborhood participation and partnerships with the city and others.

A variety of projects may receive support through the program, including projects that offer public safety, educational, cultural, recreational, organizational and neighborhood improvement. Organizations compete for grants and must match funds awarded by the City of Charlotte with contributions of cash, volunteer time, or in-kind donations of goods and services. Grants ranging up to \$25,000 are awarded three times per year.

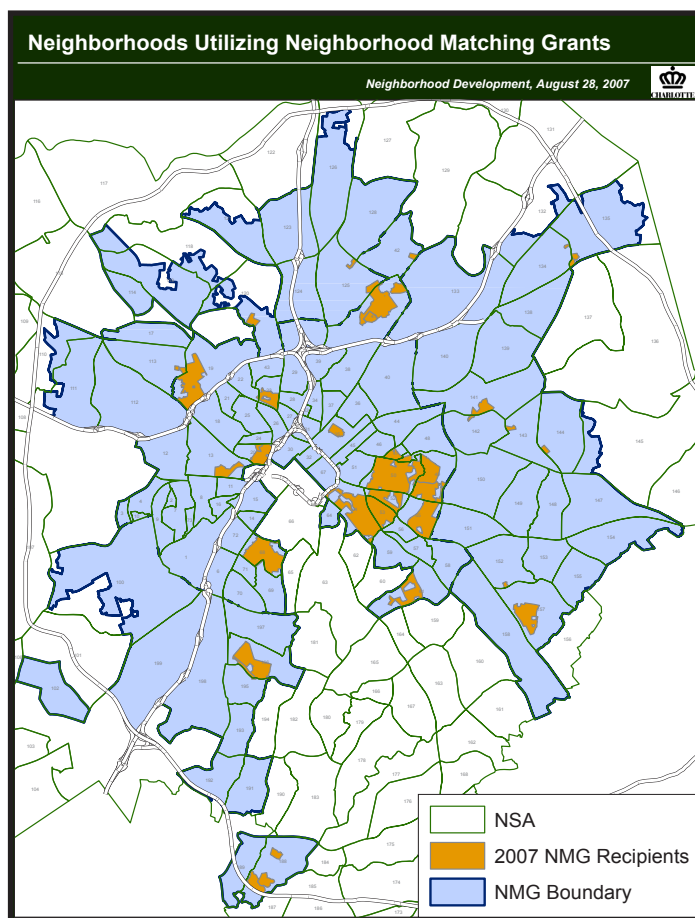
### Grant Review Process

**The Neighborhood Matching Grants Citywide Review Team** is a City Council-appointed board that is responsible for:

- Reviewing applications and determining awards for large grants (\$3,000 - \$25,000)
- Reviewing the status and progress of existing grants
- Acting as an advisory on issues affecting the Neighborhood Matching Grants Fund

The term of service for each member is two years. Current members are Mary Lugenia Boyd, Ralphine Caldwell (Vice-Chair), Jennie Crismore, David Frazier (Chair), Nevada Graham, Ruby Houston, Bernadette Johnson, Melanie Marston, Ruth McCann, Alan Teitleman and one vacant seat.

“As the City of Charlotte continues to grow,” says David Frazier, NMG Board chairman, “programs like Neighborhood Matching Grants are not only important to the neighborhoods who receive them, but are paramount to the quality of life for all residents of Charlotte.” A seven-member interdepartmental review team representing various city departments reviews small grants (grants under \$3000).



*The above map illustrates the locations of the 2007 Neighborhood Matching Grants. Grants ranged from \$225 to \$25,000.*

### Fiscal Year Performance

**In Fiscal Year 2007**, Neighborhood Matching Grants funded 35 projects, totaling \$213,288.53. One of the program's successes was the execution of a special initiative to help support the city's "Let's Band Together" tree-banding campaign during the fall of 2006. The goal of the initiative was to provide an incentive for residents to become involved in the city's campaign to protect the willow oak tree. These special grants were for eligible neighborhoods in the identified cankerworm infestation area. Sixteen small grants were awarded. Special initiative grants in other project categories are under consideration for FY08.

Visit <http://neighborhoods.charmeck.org> or call 704.336.2061 for eligibility, application deadlines and other information.



# Testimonials

## Mark Francis, Montclair

*Neighborhood meeting signs*

Montclair used the Neighborhood Matching Grants Program to finance 25 yard signs to advertise their neighborhood meetings. They display the signs a week prior to each meeting to encourage attendance.



“The process was painless,” Francis said regarding the Neighborhood Matching Grants. “The signs are working very well. We’re seeing a noticeable increase of new faces at the meetings.”

## Alisha Tomlinson, Sharon Forest

*Landscaping, building supplies, re-roofing a well house and a new neighborhood sign*

“The neighborhood response has been phenomenal,” Tomlinson said. “Everyone is pleased. People who were never interested in volunteering before are helping out. People are socializing more.”

Tomlinson said the project has brought the neighborhood together for a common goal. They are forming a Neighborhood Watch and working on solving parking issues.

Applying for a Neighborhood Matching Grant has also opened doors with other city departments, including the Department of Transportation, which is helping Sharon Forest reclaim its rights-of-way and also planting crape myrtles. Tomlinson said the experience has improved the neighborhood’s opinion of city departments.

“We’ve dealt with fantastic people at the city,” she said. “All you have to do is ask.” She’s also very happy with the new look of Sharon Forest.

“There’s a tangible difference when you pull into the neighborhood,” Tomlinson said.

## Ayesha Omer, Merry Oaks

*Tree banding*

Merry Oaks used a Neighborhood Matching Grant for tree banding. “Everyone who participated had a great experience,” Omer said. “We had minimal damage. The banding worked fantastic.”

Omer said that due to the grant, her neighborhood was able to cover the cost to band for disabled and unemployed residents.

## Sheila Mondie, Hunting Ridge

*Fence around condominiums*

The residents of Hunting Ridge are happy with their new fence surrounding their complex. “It’s been wonderful. It’s been a blessing,” Mondie said.

During the summer there was a rise in crime around Hunting Ridge, including more than twenty armed robberies. “What saved us was the fence,” she said. “It’s protecting people from that element [the crime] around us.”



The Neighborhood Matching Grant process went smoothly for Hunting Ridge. “The whole experience was good,” she said. “Very positive.”

Mondie is now working on another project, locking mailboxes. “We need to protect everyone from identity theft,” she said. “It can ruin someone’s life.”

## Darryl Gaston, Druid Hills

*Neighborhood entrance sign with landscaping*

Thanks to Neighborhood Matching Grants, Druid Hills is enjoying a new entrance sign with landscaping. “It was a very worthwhile endeavor,” Gaston said. “The sign is beautiful. We had a sign dedication. We know about celebrating.”

Gaston is now an advocate of the program. “Neighborhood Matching Grants is something I do encourage neighborhoods to participate in,” he said.



**City of Charlotte**  
Neighborhood Development  
704-336-2061  
<http://neighborhoods.charmeck.org>