



# 2021–2022 Get Outdoors Grant Application

Visit [vof.org/go](http://vof.org/go) for more info.

Submit questions and completed application to [grants@vof.org](mailto:grants@vof.org).

Applications due by 11:59pm on March 11, 2022.

Note: This application and any materials provided may be shared with the public without any notice to applicant.

## Application Assistance

VOF staff are available to assist at any time during the application process. Please contact the grant program manager at (434) 282-7054 or by email at [grants@vof.org](mailto:grants@vof.org) to discuss the GO Program or potential ideas for a proposal. We can help determine a local VOF staff contact who may assist with developing your application, telling the story of the project, scheduling a site visit, or selecting support materials for submission.

## Applicant Information

Organization name

Type of applicant/ partner organization	Individual	Non-profit	Local	State	Regional
	Tribal	VOF	Other	<i>Other types of entities must contact VOF prior to application to determine eligibility.</i>	

Contact person

Mailing address

Phone number

Email address

Partner organizations (if applicable)

## Project Information

Project name

*This name will be used in public relations and grant documents should funding be awarded.*

Project location (latitude/longitude required,\* other location info such as street address or tax parcel ID optional)

Latitude:

Longitude:

Other:

If project is located on property not owned by the organization applying for funds, does the landowner agree to the proposed use of their land?    Yes    Not yet

If you selected "Not yet," please describe arrangements in place with the landowner.

Grant funding request (min. request \$500, max. request \$25,000)

Would you like to be considered for any other VOF grant program if eligible?    Yes    No

\*See application guide for directions on using Google Maps or contact [grants@vof.org](mailto:grants@vof.org) to ask for help getting lat/long coordinates.

## Application Questions

1. Provide a brief (500 characters max) summary of this project in the space below. Please note this summary will be shared with the public and replicated for press releases and grant documents should funding be awarded.

2. Describe the project. Include a detailed explanation of the project including the purpose, planned deliverables, and desired goals/results.

3. Describe the community being served by this project and community support for this project. Describe how the community has been involved in the development of this proposal and/or will be involved in the implementation of this project. Describe how community support is shown for this project or projects of this type.

4. How does this project address a specific need in the community or provide a unique service to the community?

5. Describe the timeline/plan of work for this project. Include who is expected to do the work and when. Work that has already been completed toward the project should be mentioned here.

6. Describe how funds will be budgeted for this project. If the scope of the project is larger than the GO grant request, include any additional funding from other partners, grants, volunteer hours, or materials or services donated.

7. Provide any other information about this project that makes it unique/special. If the location of the project or the focus on the project has special significance to the community, please describe it here.

## Supplemental Material

Up to 4 pages of supplemental material, 5 digital photos, and/or 5 minutes of digital video/audio may be submitted to support the project proposal. The purpose of the additional material should be to inform VOF about the unique qualities of the project and the community benefitting from the project. Creativity is welcome, but the supplemental material page limit is firm. Anything beyond four pages will not be considered. See application guide for additional information and examples of support material.

Supplemental material included?

Yes

No

DuPont Elementary is the Heart of Hopewell!! The symbolism is at the core of the proposed moniker. Students come to school to be energized, excited, renewed, refreshed, and ready to return to their home and community. The back and forth nature of traveling to/from school resembles the action of a working heart.

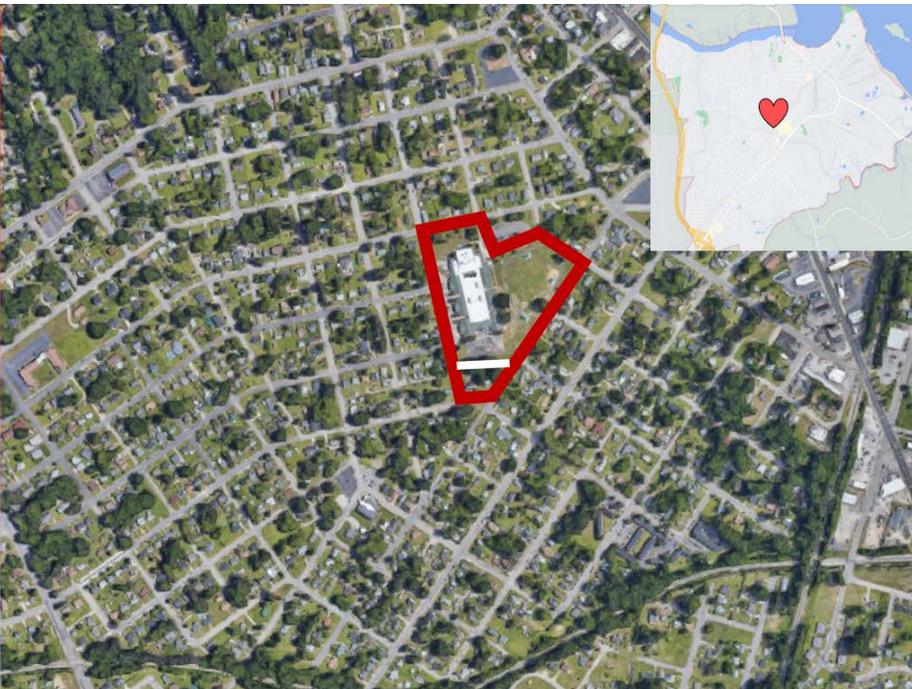
DuPont Elementary is the...  
**HEART OF HOPEWELL!**

Centrally Located within Hopewell Proper & Neighborhood

Even the streets encompassing DuPont exhibit a heart shape. Amazing!

DuPont is the heartbeat & lifeblood of the community, desiring to be healthy & vibrant!

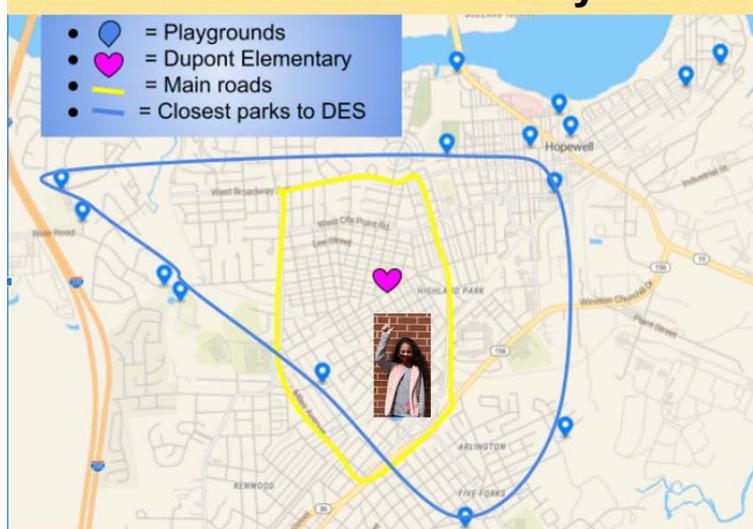
White line represents proposed project site – simple yet transformational!



When reviewing the City-owned parks in Hopewell, only one park is situated within the busiest streets in Hopewell - Westwood Park; however, it is currently the park with the most needs. DuPont aspires to provide a wellness resource to the "Heart"! Thomas Jefferson's quote and park statistics speak volumes to play.

**DuPont is Located in a Play Desert**

- = Playgrounds
- = Dupont Elementary
- = Main roads
- = Closest parks to DES



[NRPA statistics](#)

**29%** of increased incidence of childhood obesity in neighborhoods without a park or playground.

**5x:** Likelihood of a child being a healthy weight if there is a park or playground within a half mile, compared to children without a nearby play space (Singh).

**Thomas Jefferson:**  
"Give about 2 hours every day to exercise, for health must not be sacrificed to learning. A strong body makes the mind strong."  
15 (Simon) Break a Sweat, Change Your Life

Although Hopewell, as a whole, faces challenging health factors, poor infrastructure, and other daunting obstacles, the city has historically showcased resiliency through tough times. Hopewell's nickname is the **Wonder City** for its amazing comeback after a fire in the early 1900s, and DuPont aspires to continue the strong legacy of persevering. In addition, the school and community partners have rallied together to recognize our needs and tackle the problems ahead. Over the past two years, Hopewell's Recreation and Parks Department and John Randolph Foundation have been instrumental in being our catalyst for change. Their positive influence includes 3 outdoor learning classrooms and a walking path within the fenced-in property during instruction. With their continued support, more partners are now joining DuPont's forces. As a result, we plan to transform the space from abandoned, trashed, and useless to a walkable, sustainable, and equitable area that addresses critical needs for the neighborhood.

In early February 2022, DuPont was awarded the aforementioned VDOT Walkabout Mini-Grant (feasibility study). The Walkabout is an excellent opportunity for community stakeholders to experience pedestrian and bicycle conditions, share perspectives, and build consensus around potential solutions. On March 10th, VDOT officials conducted the Walkabout with representatives, including the City Engineer, Rec. & Parks Director, Superintendent, School Board Official, Greater Richmond Fit4kids, F.O.L.A.R. Trails Director, Heather Barrar, and Sheriff's Department, just to name a few. Our goal was to target short, mid, and long-term goals to improve the sidewalks, crosswalks, and side streets that connect to DuPont. That same evening, a Ward 3 meeting (DuPont's zone) was conducted to get neighbors' perspectives on anticipated improvements and/or neighborhood concerns. This VOF GO grant will help us reach one of our main goals focused on safety and equitable access for our deprived neighborhood. On April 22nd, 2022 (Arbor Day), volunteers from the Hopewell Manufacturing Association, including West Rock, Advansix, American Water, Ashland Specialty, and Evonik's, will restore the Heart of Hopewell. The event will center on restoring the environment and beautifying the campus. We will use this opportunity to clean up and enhance the landscape around the proposed site of the asphalt pathway. On March 7th, we received more positive news about community support, including a grant from the DuPont Spruance site. Their community giving board elected to donate **\$16,000** to our school for a project associated with the blacktop that will support STEM and active outdoor lessons.

The community support is powerful; however, this wouldn't be possible without our students. Hopewell City Public Schools is a leading innovator in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For example, Hopewell is the first school division in the history of Virginia that supports a year-round calendar for the entire division. Also, the school supports "deeper learning" initiatives that focus heavily on student choice, voice, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking skills, by answering real-world

problems. This project applies “deeper learning” concepts by including Ms. Youman's class as the central contributor to impacting the DuPont community and creating a lasting legacy!

Mrs. Youmans Class project included answering this driving question:

“How can we make DuPont an equitable wellness hub for the community?

As students were working on this project and students were walking by the towering oak trees alongside the proposed site, one of the students proclaimed:

**“I feel like I am taking a walk in the woods!”**

-5th Grader - Aubrey Arnston

The rest of the supplemental resources will be used for the students to use their voices and actions, demonstrating leadership, communication, and innovation by resounding for positive changes for the betterment of DuPont, with a concluding concept of what the students are envisioning.

When answering the driving question, three teams of students were formed. A design team, video team, and LOVE sign team. Below is a video from the video team. First, the school librarian, Ms. Evans, helped the students develop a script, communication skills, and video editing skills. Next, the students collaborated and then met with Ms. Evans to create a video that accompanied a presentation given and shown during a School Board Meeting on March 10th. As mentioned before, our school is tackling three projects at the moment, including a playground, blacktop, and community wellness loop. The students addressed all three concerns and delivered an informative, self-thought, and self-made video.

*Please double-click on the picture and then hit the play button.*





The image above includes information from the LOVE sign team and the Design team. Students were able to apply their artistic and mathematical skills to develop their interests. The LOVE sign team met with Jackie Shornack, Hopewell's previous mayor and project lead, on the only LOVE sign in Hopewell. Jackie informed the girls on theming, size, colors, etc. A central theme of this project is health and wellness, so the students have created some amazing ideas that tie into that theme. The design team is heavily involved with the land area, property lines, and purpose. Students considered installing a community pool, skate park, fitness equipment, community garden, and biodiversity, just to name a few. Students learned the value of understanding property lines and liability concerns to help make decisions. The students decided on a community garden and fitness equipment, with the possibility of minor additions along the path. The students learned about square footage within the area and mapped out the feasibility of placing certain items into the small available space. The students will continue their efforts and ideas into April, May, and June to complete the vision for future implementation. Additionally, these students will be representing at RVA Toolbank community construction as they enter 6th grade in the fall of '22.

