

## Love Your Block Evanston Application Scoring Rubric 2026

All applications will be reviewed by City staff and the Love Your Block Steering Group, led by the respective Councilmember of the targeted ward. The scoring rubric below will serve as a guide for evaluating applications. City staff will consider the Steering Group's comments and scores when making final grant award recommendations.

Category	0 Points	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points
<b>Project Description</b> <i>How well does the project improve or beautify a public space, exterior private property, or block?</i>	The project has minimal or unclear improvement to public spaces or exterior private property.	The project has some visible improvements or beautification to a public space or exterior private property.	The project clearly enhances a public space or exterior private property. It is well-described, aligns with the mission, and demonstrates a positive community impact.	The project has a substantial, transformative impact that visibly enhances the appearance of a public space or exterior private property.
<b>Community Involvement and Partnerships</b> <i>Does the project bring people together? Will there be neighbors, residents, community groups, or organizations involved?</i>	There is no neighbor or neighborhood awareness; the project appears to be individually led.	Neighbor or neighborhood awareness or assistance, but limited collaboration.	At least two neighbors are engaged in planning or implementation.	Strong community buy-in — multiple neighbors, households, and/or local partners actively collaborating with clear roles and shared ownership.
<b>Budget</b> <i>Is the budget realistic, transparent, and cost-effective? Are requested funds appropriate and leveraged with volunteer or in-kind support?</i>	The project budget is not included or is inappropriate for the work described (e.g. \$5 for installing a community garden)	The overall project budget is appropriate in scope but lacks details on expenses.	The project budget is appropriate for the scope of the project and includes details of expenses.	The project budget is appropriate for the scope, includes expense details, and demonstrates creative use of neighbors, partnership or leveraging of other resources (e.g., business sponsorship or donated materials).
<b>Longevity</b> <i>Will the project's benefits last? Is there a realistic plan for upkeep and community stewardship in place?</i>	No plan for maintaining the project beyond its completion.	Minimal consideration for longevity. Lacks a clear maintenance strategy.	The project includes a plan for maintenance or continued impact beyond completion.	The project has a strong plan for long-term maintenance and potential for continued growth.
<b>Impact</b> <i>How does the project's impact show up at both the individual level (empowerment/ civic pride) and the community level (unity, visibility, long-term benefits)?</i>	Little or no evidence of collaboration; project led by an individual with minimal community involvement or visible change.	Limited collaboration between neighbors and/or volunteers and a lack of visible improvement.	Clear neighbor or volunteer involvement and visible site improvement.	Strong, well-documented collaboration among neighbors and/or volunteers leading to a transformative, long-term improvement that visibly enhances site and/ or block/neighborhood
<b>SUB-TOTALS</b>				

Total Score: \_\_\_\_ / 15