Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park
Jon Harr Student Research Support Program

Policy and Application Form

1) An annual research support budget will be established by the Board and members of the Research Committee will be named at the beginning of each fiscal year (June Board meeting).

2) The Research Committee will have full authority to allocate the budgeted funds based on the evaluation of submitted proposals, with preference given to student proposals. Proposals will be evaluated based on established criteria (see Appendix A, "Appropriate Research for the Park").

3) Requests must be submitted utilizing the appropriate approved form (Appendix B, available on the web site and by request).

4) Materials requested for purchase using grant funds should be identified as either expendable supplies or equipment. All equipment purchased with funds provided by Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park will become the property of Friends and will be made available for future use. Transportation and conference costs are generally not covered.

5) Any student applying for research funds must have an advisor to oversee their progress and/or monitor their research project.

6) The number of grants and amount for each grant will be determined by the committee based on the total amount of money available, and the number and quality of proposals submitted.

7) All proposals submitted prior to September 15 will be given full consideration. No funds will be allocated before all proposals submitted by that time have been fully considered.

8) For all proposals submitted by September 15, the Research Committee will make final determination of monies to be granted, and will notify all applicants by October 15.

9) For any proposals that are not funded, a letter of explanation will be provided. When appropriate, suggestions for improving and resubmitting the proposal will be provided.

10) After all proposals submitted by September 15 have been acted on, additional proposals will be considered on a first come, first served basis (if funds are still available).

11) For approved projects, funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis after submission of appropriate receipts.

12) All approved funds will be spent within 12 months of the notice of award, unless other arrangements are agreed upon in advance.

13) For approved projects, the researcher(s) will be expected to make a public presentation at the Park of the completed project (or a progress report with preliminary findings).

14) At the conclusion of the project, a written paper summarizing the complete project should be submitted to Friends. This paper will be posted on the Friends website (unless copyrighted publication is anticipated.)

15) If the research is published in a journal with copyright protection, Friends will receive a copy of the article. A reference to the article will be posted on the Friends website.

Approved June 16,2025

Appropriate Research for the Park

Research that:

1) enhances knowledge of Steele Creek Park and its ecosystems;

2) furthers knowledge that may be of benefit to the natural resources of Steele Creek Park or the citizens of Bristol;

3) is useful or necessary for management or manipulation of Park resources;

4) involves the connection of humans and nature and the use of natural areas of the Park;

5) serves to encourage and enhance knowledge of natural history and/or research interests and skills of students;

6) is not detrimental to the Park, its natural resources, or esthetic qualities;

7) does not significantly interfere with other recreational, educational, or scientific uses of the Park;

8) is not intended for monetary gain of individual researcher(s), groups, companies, or corporations.

FRIENDS OF STEELE CREEK NATURE CENTER AND PARK
Jon Harr Student Research Support Program
Application Form

Researcher's Name:

Address:

E-mail and/or telephone number:

Student?

☐ No (skip to "Title of Project" below)

☐ Yes (Complete the following items)

☐ Middle School ☐ High School ☐ College Student ☐ Graduate Student

School:

Advisor's Name and Contact Information (Address, E-mail, and or Telephone):

Title of the Project.

Background Information. *Please provide a brief introduction and description of the topic of interest.*

Purpose. *Why do you want to conduct this research? How will it benefit Steele Creek Park?*

Description of the Project. *Provide enough detail for reviewers to have a good understanding what you hope to accomplish (objectives) and how you propose to conduct the research (methods).*

Continue on Next Page

Description of the Project. (continued)

Itemized budget. *List all anticipated expenses. Identify which items are expendable supplies and which are durable equipment. (Note that salaries and travel expenses are generally not fundable through these grants.)*

Additional Funding Source(s). *Please indicate if you have applied for or anticipate any additional funds to support your project.*

Plan to Communicate Research Findings. *All grant recipients are required to present a report of their project and findings to the public at Steele Creek Park at the conclusion of their project. Please indicate if you also plan to present your work to other audiences, to publish your work, or to publicize your work in other ways.*

I have read and agree to the General Guidelines and Timeline for the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park Research Support Small Grants Program.

_____	_____	_____
Researcher	Advisor (if researcher is a student)	Date

Attach additional pages as needed. Total application (including this form) should not exceed five pages.