



This is an informational page. DO NOT MAIL this page with your application.

Illinois Schoolyard Habitat ACTION GRANT PROGRAM

Please read these instructions before completing the application. If you have any questions about the grant after reading the instructions, please contact the IDNR Division of Education at dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov or 217-524-4126.

Eligible Applicants

Teachers, nature center personnel and youth group leaders (grades prekindergarten through 12) in Illinois may apply.

Purpose and Eligible Projects

Projects must emphasize student/youth involvement with planning, development and maintenance and increase the educational and wildlife habitat values of the site. The applicant must be prepared to maintain and commit resources to the project for at least five years. The project must be implemented on school grounds or another public place (for example, a park or nature center/forest preserve district land). Illinois Conservation Foundation sites and Illinois Department of Natural Resources sites do not qualify for funding. Admission fees cannot be charged to obtain access to the site. Plans that include vegetation should use native species. To see lists of Illinois native plants, visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>. Habitat projects may include, but not be limited to, the following activities: enhance or establish and maintain a schoolyard prairie plot, butterfly garden, rain garden, wetland, native tree arboretum, nesting platform or watering station; design and build a bird feeder or feeding station; or construct and install bat roosting boxes. Vegetable gardens are not eligible for this grant.

Applications

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Responses should be typed in standard 12-point font, single-spaced with one-inch margins on each side of the page (exceptions are noted in the application questions). **The original application PLUS three copies of it and all attachments must be submitted.** Do not submit any additional pages (lesson plans, student activities, grant instruction sheets, etc.) that are not specifically requested in the application form. Final applications must be postmarked by November 30, 2016. Applications will be evaluated by a committee, and the committee will make all decisions regarding funding. Evaluation judging criteria will include but not be limited to: **detailed information; student involvement; educational value; benefit to wildlife; and the habitat project management plan.** ALL applications must include a completed and signed W-9 form for the school or organization. <http://www.irs.gov/>

Application Deadlines

Preliminary Application: If you would like for your application to be reviewed for common errors that regularly cause disqualification, you must mail your application package no later than October 31, 2016. You will be notified by email of any of these common errors and given until November 30, 2016, to submit revisions. If you do not submit the revisions by the final deadline, your application will be disqualified. No one is required to submit their application for the preliminary review. This procedure is entirely voluntary.

Final Application: The final application packet must be postmarked by November 30, 2016.

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Eligible Costs

Funding requests should focus on items necessary for enhancement or development of wildlife habitat, such as native plants, seeds, mulch and lumber/hardware for constructing nesting/roosting boxes and platforms.

Ineligible Costs

Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to, the following items: consultant fees, bird seed, bird baths, fuel, equipment, tools, equipment rental, signs, labor, books, Web site development, land acquisition, chemicals (fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, insecticides), certification fees, decorative items.

Use of Chemicals

According to the Illinois Pesticide Act, a pesticide license is required of **anyone** applying pesticides in a public space (minimum age to receive a license is 16 years). If you are considering applying any type of pesticide (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide) to your habitat area, please contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture at 1-800-641-3934 for further information.

Project Time Line

The project must be completed before November 30, 2017. More information will be provided to grant award winners.

Preliminary application packet (optional): postmarked by October 31, 2016

Application packet: postmarked by November 30, 2016

Notification to all applicants: by February 1, 2017

Submission of final report: by November 30, 2017

Funding and Payment

The maximum annual award is \$1,000 per applicant. Funds are provided on a reimbursement basis. Only purchases approved by the grant committee from the original application will be reimbursed. Only the school or organization will be reimbursed. Reimbursements are not made to individuals. Successful applicants are eligible to apply for additional funding in subsequent years. Generous donations from the Jadel Youth Fund, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation and others help make this program possible.

Reporting Requirements

Students should be involved with development of the final report. The final report may be submitted electronically or as a hard copy. The final report should contain information on how students were involved with the project and educational opportunities the habitat provides. Before-and-after photos of the schoolyard site and photos of the students working in the habitat should be included in this report. Original receipts for purchases must be submitted. Additional information on reporting requirements will be provided to successful grant recipients.

Publicity

Successful grant recipients will be required to acknowledge the funding sources in any project publicity or printed materials produced. Details will be provided in the award letter.

Submit application packet to the following address.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Education
Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271



Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

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Project ID # _____ (for IDNR use only)

Illinois Schoolyard Habitat

ACTION GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM

Submit the original, completed application PLUS three copies of it and its attachments. Do not submit any additional pages (lesson plans, student activities, grant instruction sheets, etc.) that are not specifically requested in the application form. The application package must be postmarked by November 30, 2016. One completed W-9 form is also required.

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING THE APPLICATION.

Type of Project:

- Bird Nesting Boxes
- Butterfly Garden
- Outdoor Classroom
- Pollinator Garden
- Pond or Wetland Habitat
- Prairie Habitat
- Rain Garden
- Trees or Woodland Habitat
- Other: If you select this category, list the type of project you are completing. _____

Name of Applicant (school or group): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Project Leader: _____

Project Leader's Title: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email Address: _____

County: _____ Grade Level(s) of Participating Students: _____

Dimensions of Site (include units of measurement): _____

of Students Participating in Planning, Development and Maintenance of the Site: _____

of Students using the Site after Development of the Project: _____

Amount of Request \$ _____ (maximum \$1,000: The amount entered should match the "Grant Funds" column total from page seven.)

Proposed Start Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

How did you learn about the Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program?

Please complete this page and submit it with your application.

Execution of this application by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) constitutes a grant agreement and creates specific obligations on the part of the grantee, including but not limited to an understanding that: the awarding of all grants and the amount of any grant, shall be subject to the sole discretion of the Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Committee (Committee); that project descriptions become the property of the Committee and if I am awarded a grant the Committee shall have the right to supply others with a description of the project and to disseminate its underlying concepts and/or ideas. If awarded a grant, I agree to submit original copies of receipts for expenses. The Committee and sponsors and/or any of its agents, officials and employees shall assume no responsibility or liability for claims of damage of any kind to property or for claims of injury to any person in connection with such a grant. Grantee agrees to comply with all requirements of this grant application and of the instruction form provided by the IDNR which are incorporated as part of this agreement.

Printed Name of Project Leader: _____

Project Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have reviewed the completed application and support this project to develop/enhance a wildlife habitat area for learning.

Official Approval: _____

*(Signature of Superintendent, Principal or Organization Official — **The Official signing in this blank cannot be the same person as the Project Leader named above.**)*

Printed Name of Official: _____ Title: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

This grant program is funded by contributions from the Jadel Youth Fund and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation.

Application Checklist

- _____ Original copy of application form with all information included
- _____ Three copies of application form, including all attachments
- _____ Completed and signed W-9 Form
- _____ One copy of the grant application for your records

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APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE NOTE: The following questions are the criteria used to judge applications. Type your responses and attach pages to your application.

The original application plus three copies of it (all pages, including attachments) must be submitted and postmarked by **NOVEMBER 30, 2016**. A completed and signed W-9 form is also required. The application should be no more than three pages in length (excluding the photo, budget and diagram pages), single spaced. Use standard layout (12-point font and 1" margins).

Please visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx> for the answers to frequently asked questions about the application form, video podcasts with tips on completing the application, information about native plants and other resources. If you still have questions, contact the IDNR Division of Education at dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov or 217-524-4126.

Describe the proposed project by addressing each point. You must type the question and its associated number from the application with each of your answers.

1.
 - a. In 50 words or less describe the proposed project (who, what, where, when, how).
 - b. What are your goals for this project (why do you want to implement the project)?
 - c. How will you measure the success of the project?
 - d. What are the grade levels or ages of the students who will participate in the project?
2.
 - a. What planning activities will students perform for the project? Be specific.
 - b. What implementation activities will students perform for the project? Be specific.
 - c. What maintenance activities will students perform for the project? Be specific.
 - d. How is the community involved in the project?

Note: For question 3, school sites/groups please answer only part a; youth groups or non-school sites please answer only part b.

3.
 - a. Describe how the project will enhance the educational use of the area. Please do not list learning standards.
 - b. If this is a non-school site or youth group, provide the mission of the organization and its goals and how they relate to the project. Describe how the project will enhance the educational use of the area by students/youth.
4. Describe how the proposed project will positively affect wildlife, improve wildlife habitat and demonstrate relevant ecological concepts (for example, pollination, soil retention, water purification, food chains, etc.).
5. How you will educate the community about the project (for example, open house, Web site, local media, etc.)?
6. What is your time line for this project? List the major activities associated with development of the project and when you expect to perform them.

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7. A long-term care/maintenance plan for the project is imperative.
 - a. How will the area be maintained during the school year? Who will do the work?
 - b. How will the area be maintained during the summer? Who will do the work?
 - c. How will the area be maintained in subsequent years? Who will do the work?
 - d. Will long-term funding be required to maintain the area? Who will provide necessary funds?
8. The efforts of many people are required to ensure the successful implementation and maintenance of the habitat area. Explain the role of each of the following people in the project.
 - a. school administrators
 - b. school custodial staff
 - c. teachers who are not applicants for this grant
 - d. community volunteers
9. Using the budget form, provide a project budget indicating what will be purchased or provided for this project and the associated costs. Please complete the form online. Do not type it in another format.
 - List the **cost/unit** and total amount of funds requested for each item and any items or services that will be covered through match or in-kind funds. Please note that the time that you and others spend working on the project can be counted as match.
 - If you are purchasing plants, please include the common and scientific name with each species, if possible. Please note that only native plants are eligible for funding through this grant. For information about native plants, see the links at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>.
 - If this is a multiple-year or long-term project, please focus on the specific funding and proposed accomplishments for this grant period.
 - If you would like to see examples of completed budget forms and answers to frequently asked questions about budget issues, visit our Web site at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/grants.aspx>.
10. Attach a photographic image or photographic images of the area **AS IT CURRENTLY EXISTS**. Color photographs are preferred and should be used in all copies of the application. **Please include scale and compass directions**. It is helpful for the judges to see a wide view of the area as well as close-up images.
11. On a single sheet of paper, briefly sketch or diagram the work plan for the project area. This diagram will **SHOW THE HABITAT AS IT WILL APPEAR WHEN THE ACTION GRANT PROJECT IS COMPLETED**. Identify the physical structures that will be constructed and vegetation that will be planted and/or eliminated. Include scale and compass directions.

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