



Wild Ones River City Plant It Forward Grant Program

Purpose

The Wild Ones River City Grand Rapids Area Chapter (WORC) awards annual grants to fund projects that support the Wild Ones' mission to promote native landscapes through education, advocacy, and collaborative action. Projects may range from enhancing an existing site by adding native plants, seeds, or signage to creating or supporting a new outdoor classroom or other educationally-directed programs that uphold the Wild Ones mission.

Apply

The application deadline is September 30 of each year and applicants may request up to \$500 in funding. Applicants must be willing to provide grant committee members a site review to discuss project details. Applications should be filled out completely and submitted electronically via e-mail. Late applications will not be accepted.

Award Process

All applicants will be notified if they are or are not recipients of an award no later than November 15. Awardees will receive their funds by December 31.

Proposal Preparation

Information that may be helpful in creating and completing a project is available on our website rivercitywildones.org or via the national Wild Ones site at wildones.org. Included are sources of Michigan native species nurseries and seed suppliers, informational resources about the benefits of using native plants in landscaping, how to use them, and additional grant dollar sources. These sources may be helpful to you as you create your project.

Questions pertaining to the grant application process or the appropriateness of your project for our program may be directed to the WORC [Secretary](#).

Grant Criteria

1. To qualify for funding, a submitted proposal must contain a completed application responding to each section like an essay test and must include plans, sketches, pictures, and letters of support. Proposals will be evaluated on:

- a. The immediate and long-term educational impact on Michigan citizens and youth.

- b. The adherence to the mission of the Wild Ones.
 - c. The overall feasibility of the project.
 - d. Planning for the long-term maintenance of any plantings.
2. Applicants may request up to but no more than \$500 for project support. Monies received must be used for:
 - a. seeding or planting the site with species of Michigan native origin that are straight species and not nativars, obtained from a reputable Michigan based native plant/seed producer.
 - b. continuing site maintenance and care of an existing native planting, including mulch.
 - c. labeling or signage of the project for educational purposes.
 - d. other types of support for a program or initiative the Grant Committee deems fitting the purpose of the grant program.
3. A final Report must be submitted to the WORC Grant Committee Coordinator by December 31 of the following year after receipt of the award. This report must include:
 - a. an accounting of how monies were utilized for the project.
 - b. several good quality photos that we may use on our website or newsletters to show what types of projects our grants fund.
4. Publicity generated for and received by the project must acknowledge the Wild Ones River City chapter and logo as a supporter of the project.

Information Required in the Grant Application

Project Coordinator Contact Information

- Name
- Title
- Qualifications
- Phone
- Email

Organization information

- Organization name
- Administrator signing on behalf of the organization
- Year it was founded
- Street address:
- Phone
- Website
- List any partner organizations that may be involved

Project Description

Summarize the project including, if appropriate, who will do what, site conditions (light and soil characteristics), site preparations required (invasive species removal, turf removal, excavation, etc.), water source location, expected maintenance tasks in the short term and into the future.

- Timeline of the project
- Project address
- Total project budget and breakdown
- Grant amount requested
- How potential grant monies will be utilized
- Will you be receiving financial support from other sources, if so, what are they?
- If present Project Coordinator leaves, how will the project be sustained?
- List organizations or individuals who will provide technical support for the implementation and/or maintenance.

Educational Use of Area

- Who was involved in the project design?
- What is the goal of the project and who will benefit?
- If project is school related, how will the site be used across curricular areas?
- Describe the educational features that will be included.

Plant Species and Sources

Please provide a listing of plants for the project. **Only Michigan native species will be funded by this grant and they must be sourced within Michigan from a reputable native plant or seed supplier. The plants should be native genotype and should not**

include any cultivars/nativars. Descriptions of these terms can be found at wildones.org. Include species common and botanic names, quantities, cost and vendor/source.

Describe how this plant list was determined:

Please provide a sketch or scaled design of the project and/or a map of the project site (photos would be helpful as well):

If the project will include signage, show how they will appear or be used, their source and dimensions.