



Wild Ones River City Plant It Forward Grant Program 2026

Purpose

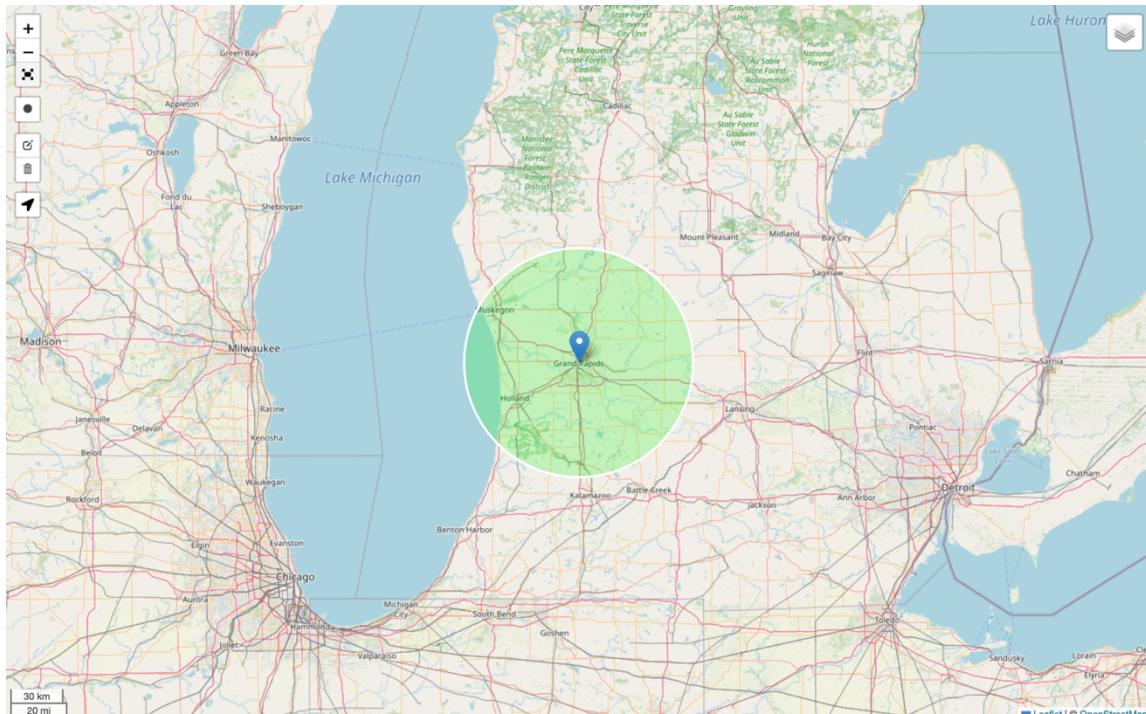
The Wild Ones River City Grand Rapids Area Chapter (WORC) awards annual grants to fund projects that support the Wild Ones' mission to promote native landscapes through education, advocacy, and collaborative action. Projects may range from enhancing an existing site by adding native plants, seeds, or 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 5pm on 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 *must be filled out completely* and submitted electronically on the WORC website ([Plant It Forward](#)).
- **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

Projects for which funds are requested must be located within a 40-mile radius of Grand Rapids (see map, below).



Award Process

All applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of the grant review process 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. We have also provided a sample proposal, which you can find on our website.

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 citizens and youth in the Grand Rapids, MI region.
- 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.
- e. Projects must be undertaken *after* the funds have been awarded. Proposals for projects/programs that have already been completed will not be considered for funding.
- f. When planting a new site, the proposal must provide a description of how the site will be prepared.
- g. Proposals will not be considered if the applicant has received funding from the Plant It Forward program within the last 3 years.

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. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit photos related to proposed projects when appropriate, e.g., sites to be planted with natives.

4. A final Report *must* be submitted to the WORC Grant Committee Coordinator by October 31 of the following year after receipt of the award. *Applicants who are awarded monies and do not submit this report will not be considered for future funding.* The report form is available on our website.

5. Publicity generated for and received by the project must acknowledge the Wild Ones River City chapter and logo as a supporter of the project.