Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Fund

Since 1977, Wild Ones members have been working with schools and nature centers to grow natural landscapes at these centers of learning. Annual grants from the Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Fund are one way we foster such projects. Lorrie Otto, the inspirational leader for Wild Ones, is widely acknowledged as the heart of the natural landscape movement.

Eligible Applicants
Entities that may apply for funding are U.S. schools, nature centers, and other non-profit places of learning from preschool through high school, including houses of worship. SFE projects must have a designated and sustainable site and have developed the project at a local level with community volunteer support. Proposed projects must be learner-based, hands-on, and incorporate ecological concepts. The Project Coordinator needs to be both knowledgeable and directly involved in project implementation.

Eligible Projects
Project goals should focus on developing an appreciation for nature using native plants and natural landscapes. Projects must be hands-on, emphasize involvement by students and volunteers in all phases of development, and increase the site's educational value. Creativity in design is encouraged and must show complete and thoughtful planning. Use of, and teaching about, native plants and the native plant community is mandatory, and native plants selected must be appropriate to the local ecoregion and site conditions (soil, water, sunlight).

For further information on selection of local ecotype, go to:

- https://wildones.org/wp-content/images/**Local-Ecotype-Guidelines-Rev-2018-07.pdf**
- https://wildones.org/wp-content/images/**Local-Ecotype-Guidelines-2002-Journal.pdf**
- https://wildones.org/wp-content/images/**Landscaping-with-Native-Plants.pdf**
- The USDA Plant Database **(https://plants.usda.gov/)** helps to verify if particular native species have been recorded for your county.

Examples of appropriate projects:

- Design and restore a native plant community such as prairie, woodland, wetland in an educational outdoor site.

- Develop and maintain an interpretive trail landscaped with native plant communities.

- Establish a pollinator habitat garden and citizen science activity.

- Develop a wetland area or rain garden to study the effect of native vegetation on water quality.

Eligible Costs
SFE awards up to $500 each are for purchasing appropriate native plants and seed for the grant award year. Project budgets must show how monies will be spent. Successful grants may be eligible for partnership with SFE native plant nursery partners for discounts on seed, plants, etc.

Wild Ones Resources
The Wild Ones website (wildones.org) provides information and links to learning and SFE resources, including past recipients and projects. It also shows information about native plant and seed nurseries. Wild Ones recommends the book titled Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy, PhD and a Wild Ones Honorary Director, as an excellent information source about the importance of growing native plants to support wildlife.

Publicity
Grant recipients are required to acknowledge Wild Ones as a funding source in project publicity and printed materials. Details will be provided in the award letter.

Project Report
Grant recipients agree to submit a **Grant Project Report** to Wild Ones within one year of the date of the award letter. Recipients are asked to document the project and may use photographs and videos, site plans, journals, curricula, artwork, etc. Details will be provided in the award letter.

Students and volunteers should be involved in developing the project report.

Judging Process
SFE judges will evaluate qualified proposals, and Wild Ones will provide cash awards to as many projects as available funds allow, based on the overall rating of all applications.

Grant Timeline

- Midnight, October 15, each year: Final grant deadline. Submit completed electronic application and attachments (PDFs) by midnight via email to sfeapplication@wildones.org.

- January 15, the following year: Grants are reviewed and scored by judging team. Recommendations made for funding.

- Mid-February, of that year: Email notification made to all applicants. Award letters and funding for successful applicants will follow.

- February 15, (one year anniversary): Final grant report due; must include photos and receipts.

Wild Ones is dedicated to the use of natural landscaping with native plant species as an ecologically better alternative to traditional landscaping practices. Founded over 40 years ago, Wild Ones now has 3,400 members and more than 50 chapters. We publish the *Wild Ones Journal*, as well as other learning materials. Wild Ones chapters sponsor events, educational programs, field trips, and stewardship projects.

We thank you for your interest! If you have any questions, email info@wildones.org or call us at 920-730-3986.

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Fund Grant Application Form

Instructions

- Submit this Grant Application Form no later than midnight, October 15 in your local time zone.

- Complete all required parts of the Grant Application Form. The application will not be able to be submitted if all required questions are not answered; required application questions that have not been answered completely will be disqualified. Required questions are outlined in blue.

- The application will be considered complete only when all sketches or diagrams as requested in #8 and #9 are submitted via email. After clicking the submit button, your email program will open a new email message addressed to SFEapplication@wildones.org with this form attached. Attach the files requested in questions #8 and #9 to this same email and send. If you find it necessary to email these files separately, use your Project Name on the subject line along with "SFE Sketches and Diagrams" and email to SFEapplication@wildones.org. **NOTE:** *we ask you to submit only 2 emails per application and limit each attachment to* **1MB or less**.

- SFE applications can be accepted in this PDF fill-in form only, and must be submitted through email. *An application submitted in any other format will be automatically disqualified*.

- Set aside enough time to complete the form in one sitting, as it cannot be saved in Adobe Reader.

- If you have any questions or need further information, email info@wildones.org

Name of person filling out this form:

Email address:

Project title:

Brief summary of project:
(No more than 1-2 sentences)

Project location:

(Address or GPS coordinates)

Project duration from: To:

Total project budget: Amount budgeted for native seeds:

Amount budgeted for native plants: Grant amount requested:

Contact Information for Your Organization

Org. name: [ ] Year it was founded: [ ]

Street address: [ ]

[ ] City, state and ZIP:

Phone: [ ] Website: [ ]

Contact Information for Your Project Coordinator

Name: [ ] Title: [ ]

Street address: [ ]

City, state and ZIP: [ ]

Phone: [ ] Email: [ ]

Authorization

I understand that the awarding of grants and amount of grants shall be subject to the sole discretion of the Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Program Committee (Committee). I also understand 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 disseminate its underlying concepts and/or ideas. If awarded a grant, I agree to acknowledge this funding source in any project publicity or printed materials and submit an expense accounting within one year of the date of the award letter. Wild Ones, 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 a grant. This project is being sponsored by a not-for-profit organization.

Project Coordinator's name: [ ] Date: [ ]

Support

Approving Official - I have reviewed the completed application and support this project wholeheartedly.
(By a representative of the site owner described below, usually a Superintendent, Principal, or Organization Official)

Approving Official's Name: [ ] Official's Title: [ ]

Approving Official's E-mail: [ ]

Wild Ones Chapter - Aware of and supports this project. Go to ***http://www.wildones.org/*** for a list of Wild Ones chapters.
(Not applicable if no chapter within a 30-mile radius.)

Chapter name: [   ]   Officer's name: [   ]

Officer's title: [   ]

Project Description

1. Ecological Description of Project Site

A.   **A**. What local native plant community or habitat does your project represent?

[   ]

B.   **B**. Describe use of any non-native plant species and reason for using them.

[   ]

C.   C. Give examples of insects, birds, mammals, amphibians expected to use the project site for shelter, food and/or nesting.

[   ]

    A. Briefly summarize qualifications of Project Coordinator.

[   ]

    B. If present Project Coordinator leaves, how will the project be sustained?

[   ]

3. Project Preparation

    A. Who was involved in the project design? (If students involved, include age or grade level.)

[   ]

B. Who was involved in the research and development of the plant list? (If students involved, include age or grade level.)

C. Describe the extent to which local citizenry supports the project. (For example, have parents, neighbors or others made in-kind or monetary donations to the project? Any concerns or complaints? Was it necessary to rewrite any

landscaping or weed ordinances? Has the local news media publicized the project?)

4. Educational Use of Area

A. How will the project be used in school curricula (lesson plans, student reports, etc.), including the ecological concepts that

will be covered.

B. What will be the demographics of people using the project upon completion? (Number, ages and intent or purpose.)

5. Management and Maintenance

A. Who was/will be involved in site preparation? (If students involved, include age or grade level.)

B. How will the site be prepared in anticipation of planting?

C. What methods will be used to control invasive non-native plants from out-competing the native plants in the grant project area?

D. Who will be responsible for management and maintenance after the project's completion, including over the summer months?

6. Site Ownership

A. Who owns the project site? (Usually a school district, nature center, house of worship or similar entity.)

7. Plant Species and Sources

A. Describe the resources used to develop your plant and seed list. Consider the seasonal blooming time of each species selected so your site is attractive year-round – not only to wildlife, but people as well.

B. Provide native plant and seed budget, including common and Latin names of species, and approximate quantity and costs. **The Total fields are required.** If plant list is longer than fill-in lines allow, attach a separate PDF file.

Common Name	Latin Name	Quantity	Cost Per Item	Total
		TOTAL		

C. Describe and list sources from which you anticipate obtaining local genotype plants and/or seeds, including whether they are willing to act as a Wild Ones nursery partner for your project. Include contact information for each source.

8. **Project Area as it Currently Exists -** *Required to be emailed with application; not to exceed 1MB in size.*

   Provide a sketch or diagram of the entire area you intend to use as it currently exists, including site dimensions; save as a PDF file. Show significant existing natural and human-made features. Be sure your diagram includes scale, planting conditions (light, soil, moisture), directional points, (North, East, South, West). Note what vegetation, if any, will be eliminated. *(See instructions on page 3 for attaching image files.)*

9. **Project Design -** *Required to be emailed with application; not to exceed 1MB in size.*

   Provide sketch or diagram of the work plan for the project area. Show or describe the landscape as it will appear when the grant project is completed; save as a PDF file. Identify any physical structures that will be constructed and the vegetation that will be planted. Include scale and directional points. *(See instructions on page 3 for attaching image files.)*

10. Budget

A. Beyond your plant and seed budget in 7B, list <u>other</u> project costs. Then, at the bottom, include your plants and seed total, for a Grant Total, a required field.

Item Description	To Be Done By Whom	Total
Enter your total Plant and Seed budget from 7B here.		
TOTAL		

B. Describe plans for obtaining other funding needed to carry out the project.

11. Schedule

    A. Provide a timeline for grant project from point of grant application to grant project completion. *(Click on the comment for an example.)*

Time Period	Activity

Last Step

After all questions have been answered, click the "Submit by E-mail" button below to open the email which will send the application to Wild Ones. After the email message opens, manually attach the PDF files requested in questions #8 and #9.

Submit completed SFE grant application and attachments no later than October 15 (by midnight).

Note: Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

[Submit by E-mail]

[Print Form]