Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Fund

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) grant. Wild Ones is a national organization with over 4000 members and over 50 chapters. Our mission is to educate about the benefits of growing native plants and natural landscaping to promote biodiversity through environmentally sound landscaping practices.

The SFE program began in 1996 as a way to honor Wild Ones founder, Lorrie Otto, who advocated for environmental stewardship and the value of native landscaping. Annually, Wild Ones awards from $150 to $500 to each selected grant project to purchase native plants and seeds to help establish a hands-on nature education area for youth engagement.

Eligible Applicants
Funding is for U.S. schools, nature centers, public and non-profit places of learning serving preschool through high school, including houses of worship. SFE projects must have a designated and sustainable site. The grant project should be developed locally with community volunteer support. The Project Coordinator needs to be both knowledgeable and directly involved in project implementation.

Eligible Projects
Project goals should focus on developing an awareness for nature by growing native plants in a garden or landscape. Projects must be hands-on, emphasize involvement by students and volunteers in most phases of development, and increase the site's educational value. The design must show complete and thoughtful planning. Use of, and teaching about, native plants and the native plant community is mandatory. The native plants selected, must be appropriate to the applicant’s local EcoRegion and site conditions (soil, water, sunlight).

- To determine your local EcoRegion, view the USEPA EcoRegion maps: [https://www.epa.gov/eco-research/ecoregions](https://www.epa.gov/eco-research/ecoregions). Please use Level III or Level IV.

- To check if your proposed SFE native plants have been recorded for your state and county, go to: USDA Plant Database: [https://plants.usda.gov/](https://plants.usda.gov/).
• **Importance of Local Ecotype**, Guidelines for Selection of Native Plants: [https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/genetics.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/Native_Plant_Materials/Native_Gardening/genetics.shtml)

**Examples of suggested SFE projects:**
1. Restore a native habitat in an outdoor learning site such as prairie, woodland, wetland
2. Develop and maintain a nature trail at a public library landscaped with native plants.
3. Establish a pollinator garden, then engage students in citizen science activities.
4. Install a rain garden to study the effects of native vegetation on local water quality.
5. Age appropriate gardens: Preschool Sensory and Color Trail; Middle School Courtyard: Bee and Pollinator Watch.

**Grant Funding**
SFE applicants may request $150 to $500 to purchase native plants and seed for the grant year. However, the budget must show how monies will be spent overall for the project. Successful grants may receive discounts on seed, and plants through Wild Ones native plant nursery partners. The grant project coordinator will also receive a complimentary Wild Ones one-year membership and the electronic quarterly, the “Wild Ones Journal.” SFE projects may be featured in this publication or on the website.

**Wild Ones Resources**
The Wild Ones website (wildones.org) provides information and links to additional SFE resources. Please check if there is a nearby Wild Ones chapter to connect with. Wild Ones members have in-depth gardening expertise to share. Wild Ones chapters sponsor events, educational programs, field trips, stewardship projects and often share plants and seeds.

Wild Ones members are dedicated to the use of natural landscaping with native plant species as an ecologically improved alternative to traditional landscaping practices.

We recommend the book *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy, a Wild Ones Honorary Director. You will find enjoyable online presentations by Dr. Tallamy as well. He provides key points about the importance of growing native plants to support wildlife and the environment.

**Judging Process**
Several SFE judges evaluate each qualified application. Based on overall ratings, Wild Ones will select the top scoring projects and provide cash awards as available funds permits.
Grant Timeline

- SFE Final Application Deadline: Midnight, October 15th. Submit your completed electronic application and attachments (PDFs) via email to: sfeapplication@wildones.org.

- Mid-January: Eligible grants are scored by the Wild Ones judging team. Recommendations are made for funding.

- Mid-February: Email notification will be made to all applicants. Award letters and funding for successful SFE applicants will follow.

- One Year Project Anniversary: Final Grant Report due February 15th. See details below.

Final Project Report
Grant recipients must submit a Grant Project Report, with native plant and seed receipts and photographs to Wild Ones within one year of the award letter. The Report documents your project along with photographs; you may include site plans, curricula, artwork, etc. The reporting form will be sent with the award letter. Students and volunteers may help in developing this report. Once the Grant Project Report has been received, Wild Ones will send a sign for your outdoor project site.

Publicity
Grant recipients are required to acknowledge Wild Ones as a funding source in their project publicity and printed materials. Release forms must be used. Details and a sample media release will be provided if funded.

If you have any questions, please email info@wildones.org or call (920)730-3986.
Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Fund
Grant Application Form

Instructions
1. Submit this SFE Application Form electronically, no later than midnight, October 15th (your local time zone). Complete all required parts of the SFE Application. **If all questions are not answered, your application will be disqualified.** Be prepared with a draft of your responses before filling out this form. You must finish in one sitting since it cannot be saved in Adobe Reader when partially complete.

2. Attachments are required. Be sure to attach the two mandatory sketches or plans (questions 8 & 9) as part of this application. 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 Plans" 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.

3. SFE applications can be accepted in this PDF fill-in Form **only** and must be submitted via email. An application submitted in any other format is ineligible.

4. **Reminder:** Set aside enough time to complete the SFE Grant Application Form in one sitting.

5. If you have any questions or need 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 Address: 

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: ________________________

**Your Project Coordinator Contact Information**

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. I also understand project descriptions become the property of Wild Ones. If I am awarded a grant, Wild Ones 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 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: ___________________________ Title: ________________

Approving Official’s E-mail: ____________________________

How did your agency learn about the Wild Ones Seeds for Education grant?

______________________________

Is the local **Wild Ones Chapter** aware of your project? (Not applicable if no chapter within 30-miles) For list of Wild Ones chapters [https://wildones.org/chapters-2/](https://wildones.org/chapters-2/).
1. Ecological Description of Project Site

A. What **EcoRegion** does your project area represent? Please describe briefly. (See: Eligible Projects, page 1)

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

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

2. Project Coordination

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, list ages or grades.
B. Who was involved in the research and development of the plant list? If students involved, list ages or grades.

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C. Describe the extent to which local citizenry supports the project. 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.)? List main ecological concepts.


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


5. Management and Maintenance
A. Who was/will be involved in site preparation? If students involved, include age or grades.


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B. How will the site be prepared in anticipation of planting?
C. What methods will be used to control invasive, or non-native plants from out-competing the new 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. Plan for a progression of seasonal blooming so your project area is welcoming year-round – not only to wildlife, but people as well.
B. Native Plant and Seed Budget. List **Common** and **Scientific** (Latin) names of each species—correct spelling please. Then, list the approximate quantity and their cost. **All fields are required.** If your plant list is longer than fill-in lines allow, attach a separate PDF file.

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<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost Per Item</th>
<th>Total</th>
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**TOTAL**

C. List Native Plant sources where you plan to obtain local genotype native plants and/or seeds. Include whether they are willing to act as a Wild Ones Nursery Partner for your project. Include contact info for each.

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 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.)* If you use photos, make sure the required information is labeled in text boxes.

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

Provide sketch or diagram of the SFE 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 native plants and seeds that will be grown. Include scale and directional points. *(See instructions on page 3 for attaching image files.)* If you use photos, make sure the required information is labeled in text boxes.
10. Overall Project Budget

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

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<th>Item Description</th>
<th>To Be Done by Whom</th>
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Enter your total Plant and Seed budget from 7B here.

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

A. Provide a timeline for your SFE grant project from point of grant application to grant project completion. *(Click on the comment for an example.)* Include youth activities if possible.

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**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.

We are looking forward to reading your Wild Ones Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education application!

**Please submit completed SFE grant application and attachments no later than October 15th.**