

K-12 Pollinator Schools Grant Program 2021 Criteria and Guidelines

Eligibility

- Schools, Nonprofit Organizations, Nature Centers, and Local Governments that provide K-12 environmental education programming

Criteria

- Habitat must be incorporated into educational curriculum
- Project must be supported by a 3 to 5-person Habitat Team that includes educators committed to teaching about native pollinators in the habitat
- Habitat Team must include at least one teacher currently employed by the participating school(s) who commits to teaching about native pollinators in the classroom
- Projects must meet Minimum Habitat Requirements below
- School Board approval required
- Signage acknowledging Foundation grant required
- Grantees are responsible for the upfront project costs
- Grant funds are paid on a reimbursement basis
- Priority will be given to sites certified as a [Monarch Waystation](#) or implementing the NRCS, IL [Conservation Practice Standard 327](#) criteria for pollinator habitat

Activities Funded

- Hiring outside professionals or contractors help with Pollinator Habitat, which could include assistance to design, install and/or maintain the habitat
- Plants, seeds, soil, mulch
- Staff oversight for management of the project (not to exceed \$1,000)
- Hand tools and/or irrigation equipment (not to exceed \$1,000)
- Interpretive signage (not to exceed \$1,000)
- Curriculum and curriculum-related materials and supplies (not to exceed \$1,000)

Minimum Habitat Requirements

- Must be at least 1,000 square feet
- Must provide at least 3 nectar sources for butterflies and other pollinators in each of the three bloom periods: early, mid, and late
- Must provide host plants for a minimum of three butterfly species
- Must be comprised of native plants with exceptions made for high value plants on a case by case basis
- Use only natural fertilizers, soil amendments, and compost if needed (most native plants do not need added nutrients)
- May be herbaceous or woody plants

- May provide water source for butterflies, a basking site, and some shelter from weather
- May plant groundcover or use mulch on thinly vegetated areas to reduce erosion if needed

Education

- Action plans must describe integration of Pollinator Habitat into educational curriculum
- Nonprofits and Nature Centers must demonstrate connection with teachers who commit to using the habitat for instruction

Funding

- \$10,000 or 90% of installation costs, whichever is less and \$1,000 towards summer maintenance are provided by the Foundation
- All grants are funded at the full amount, but not all grant funds need to be requested
- Grantee funds a minimum 10% of the project cost and 100% of ineligible expenses
- Grantee commits to caring for the Pollinator Habitat for five years

Payment

- A reimbursement payment is made **after** all expenses have been incurred and upon receipt and approval of paid invoices and a properly submitted payment request
- A Community Celebration or Pollinator Celebration is required for payment
- There is only one payment for this grant after all spending has been completed
- \$1,000 will be added to the final requested payment to be used towards maintenance expenses at the site.

Timeline

- Applications due January 14, 2021
- 18-month grant period starting in spring 2020
- Site Design Plan and Plant list must be approved by Foundation before on-the-ground work begins
- 18-month grant period allows for three to four planting windows