



Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Fund

Dear Friend of Nature:

For years, Wild Ones® members and chapters have worked with schools and nature centers to plant and maintain natural landscapes in these centers of learning. In 1996, the Wild Ones Board of Directors started the Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE) Fund to further foster such projects. These grants are awarded annually to eligible applicants with qualified projects.

Lorrie Otto, the inspirational leader for Wild Ones, is widely acknowledged as the heart and soul of the Natural Landscape Movement. It is an honor to provide these awards in a program that carries her name.

Eligible Applicants

Schools, nature centers, and other non-profit and not-for-profit places of learning that focus on educating elementary through high school students in the United States, including houses of worship are eligible. These grassroots projects must have a site available for this stewardship project. Grassroots is defined as: developed at the local level with support of volunteers from the community.

Eligible Projects

Project goals should focus on the enhancement and development of an appreciation for nature using native plants. Projects must emphasize involvement of students and volunteers in all phases of development, and increase the educational value of the site. Creativity in design is encouraged, but must show complete and thoughtful planning. The use of, and teaching about, native plants and the native plant community is mandatory, and the native plants must be appropriate to the local ecoregion and the site conditions (soil, water, sunlight). For further information on selection of local ecotype, go to <https://www.wildones.org/learn/local-ecotype-guidelines/>. The Project Coordinator should be knowledgeable and committed.

Examples of appropriate projects are:

- Design, establishment and maintenance of a native plant community such as prairie, woodland, wetland, etc., in an educational setting such as an outdoor classroom.
- Developing and maintaining an interpretive trail landscaped with native plant communities.
- Developing a wetland area to study the effect of native vegetation on water-quality improvement.

Eligible Costs

Funds will be provided only for the purchase of native plants and seed for the grant award year. A project budget should show how monies are to be spent. Cash awards range from \$100 to \$500. Successful grants are eligible for partnership with SFE native-plant-nursery partners for discounts on seed, plants, etc.

Resources

The [Wild Ones website](#) provides information and links to related resources including the Seeds for Education program, native plant and seed nurseries. Wild Ones can also be reached at 920-730-3986.

The Wild Ones seven-minute video, *A Tapestry of Learning*, is available from our on-line store. Wild Ones produced this video to be used as a promotional tool for the development of school nature areas. Available in CD-ROM format, there is also a variety of other helpful information included on the disc. Information on the Wild Ones yard sign is also found in the [Wild Ones Store](#).

Publicity

Grant recipients will be 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 [project report](#) to Wild Ones within one year of the date of the award letter. Students and volunteers should be involved with development of the report. The report should document the project, and may use scrapbooks, site plans, photographs, artwork, etc. Details will be provided in the award letter.

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.

Annual Calendar of Events

- Midnight, October 15th: Submit completed proposal.
- January 15th following year: Grants reviewed.
- February 15th: Notification to all applicants by e-mail, with check and award letter to follow.
- February 15th one year after award of grant: Submission of final report from grant recipients.

Wild Ones is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the use of natural landscaping with native plant species as an ecologically better alternative to traditional landscaping practices. Founded in the late 1970's, Wild Ones has approximately 4000 members in 50 chapters and partners at large (PAL). Wild Ones publishes the *Wild Ones Journal*, as well as other written materials. Its chapters sponsor seminars and field trips, and rescue native plants from destruction brought about by the development of roads and buildings.

We thank you for your interest. If you have any questions, send an email to the [SFE administrator](#).

Naturally yours,

SFE Committee