



Nature Works Everywhere Grant Description 2017/18

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I. **What is a Nature Works Everywhere grant project?**

Over the last several years, the Nature Works Everywhere program has given grants to schools across the U.S. to build, amend or revitalize school garden projects with the core principle that gardens model nature on a relatable scale. By combining project-based learning curriculum with a school garden space, students learn conservation-mindedness.

To increase the types of project-based learning that we support, we are broadening our focus of support this year for all kinds of projects that involve students in developing a nature-based, green infrastructure solution to an environmental challenge in their community. Whether addressing issues surrounding access to healthy food, air quality, heat island effect, climate change or storm water collection, youth will be empowered as social innovators to model solutions in their school communities through project design and implementation. To accomplish this, the Nature Works Everywhere grant will support projects that implement green infrastructure to address local environmental challenges.

Not sure what green infrastructure is? [Check out this helpful article](#)

(<http://www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/07/03/accessing-urban-environmental-education-opportunities-via-green-infrastructure/>) that details how green infrastructure in our urban centers helps solve environmental challenges while providing important indoor and outdoor learning opportunities for students. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils and natural systems to protect or restore urban areas, and refers to the patchwork of natural areas that provide habitat, water management, clean air and water within a city.

Projects will be selected based on the strength of the green infrastructure project that is designed and implemented. [Click here for a sample application](#) (https://natureworkseverywhere.org/asset/NWE_Sample_Application_2017_FINAL.docx). Examples of the types of projects that will be awarded funding include:



- Rain gardens and other nature-based solutions for urban stormwater management, including but not limited to bioswales, vegetative buffers, and constructed/restored wetlands. For more information on bioswales, [click here](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_029251.pdf) (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_029251.pdf)
- Native habitat and/or pollinator gardens
- Urban forestry projects including but not limited to orchard plantings, native tree plantings, tree care and stewardship
- Projects that help address local challenges around climate change
- Food gardens that help address challenges around access to healthy food
- Other student-driven projects that address a challenge around air quality, urban heat island effect, climate change, stormwater, access to healthy food, etc.

Note: A total of 60 grants will be awarded for projects across the country.

If you are applying for funding to start a new project, consider using our [Sustainable Cities: Nature-Based Solutions in Urban Design lesson](https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/resources/sustainable-cities/)

(<https://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/resources/sustainable-cities/>) to engage your students in the design and selection of a natural solution project.

II. Eligibility

Schools and projects must meet the following requirements:

- School must be public or charter.
- School must be located within an urban area. Preference will be given to Title 1 schools.
- Schools can be elementary, middle or high schools.
- Projects *do not* have to be located on school grounds, but should involve students in design and/or implementation. A project may already be in progress, or funds can be used to start a new project. If projects are garden-focused, funding can be used to launch new gardens, for enhancements to existing gardens, or for revitalization of garden spaces on school campuses or garden spaces serving students.
- Projects must incorporate student learning.
- A non-profit 501C3 organization can apply on the behalf of a school and serve as the fiscal agent if awarded funds. Students must be involved in the project to be considered for funding.
- Preference is given to projects with an emphasis on building urban green infrastructure; **however, food gardens will also be funded if they address a challenge around access to healthy food.**

The purpose of this grant is to provide you with the resources you need to engage students in understanding the value of nature, while creating spaces that enhance the natural landscape of your



school and city. The grant does not preclude your school from other grant opportunities during the grant term.

III. Grant Package

If awarded a Nature Works Everywhere grant, you will receive the following:

- A grant of **\$2,000** to be spent on materials, including but not limited to soil amendments, plants, seeds, tools, infrastructure such as drip hoses, edging, rain barrels, etc.; classroom materials, outreach materials, seating, sheds, shade structures, etc.; may also be used to cover the cost of field trips to local urban environmental initiatives (i.e. non-profit gardening organizations, botanical gardens, urban agriculture sites, urban-area wetlands, etc.) and may be used to cover operational/overhead costs for management of the project.
- **Educational webinars** throughout the school year on creating and maintaining a *Nature Works Everywhere* project, as well as on using gardens or outdoor spaces to teach conservation science. These webinars will be designed to support your project as well as the use of curriculum. Topics may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. School Gardens 101 – how to plan, build and maintain a garden.
 - b. Planning, Developing and Executing a Natural Infrastructure project at your school
 - c. Using Your Project to Teach Conservation Science – Professional development webinar on how to use the Nature Works Everywhere curriculum and other science lessons in your garden.
 - d. Financial Planning and Sustainability – learn how to manage your project for the long term, including finding diverse sources of funding and support.
 - e. Connecting with Local Organizations to Support Your Project.
 - f. Cultivating Community Engagement.
- Alternatively, we will be hosting a day and a half-long conference in several locations across the country throughout the term of the grant. If this conference is held in a location near you, you will be required to attend this event instead of joining/viewing webinars. We will work with you as much as possible to schedule the conference during times/dates and locations that work for you.
- **Coaching and support** through an online forum.
- **Access to standards-based curriculum and teaching materials** to support in-class learning. These resources can be accessed and reviewed [here](http://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/#resources) (<http://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/#resources>).

IV. Grant Requirements

If awarded a Nature Works Everywhere grant, you will be required to:

- Attend a virtual orientation for the grant on or around December 14, 2017.
- Provide a mid-year status report on your project in May 2018, and an end of year status report in December 2018.
- Participate in curriculum evaluation (i.e. pre and post testing with students, or interviews/case studies with evaluators, or a survey to assess the impact of your project).

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- Attend/view at least 4 educational webinars throughout the term of the grant, OR attend an in-person conference, if available in your area.
- Commit to performing at least 3 Nature Works Everywhere lessons throughout the term of the grant.
- Regularly participate in the online forum by posting, at least, on a quarterly basis.
- Schedule an in-person site visit with Nature Conservancy staff during the term of the grant.

V. Where to Apply, Deadlines and Timeline of Grant Activities

Applications for this grant are due **by 5pm EST on November 3rd, 2017**. All applications must be submitted online at https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_2096?SA=AM

Questions may be sent to natureworks@tnc.org

Please note that our digital grant application platform works best on Internet Explorer.

Time	Activities
September 6 – November 3, 2017	Accepting applications; deadline to submit application November 3.
November 30, 2017	Grantees are announced.
November – December, 2017	Plan projects with support from TNC; attend orientation webinar on Dec. 14, 2017.
By January 26, 2018	Grant installment 1 distributed - \$1000.
January – May, 2018	Execute projects; attend up to 2 webinars or in-person conference, if available in your location; submit mid-year status report; use Nature Works curriculum (subject to school/class planning).
May 2018	Grant installment 2 distributed - \$500.
June – August, 2018	Attend 1 webinar or in person conference if available in your location.
August – December 2018	Attend up to 2 webinars or in person conference if available in your location; use Nature Works curriculum (subject to school/class planning).
September 2018	Final installment of grant distributed - \$500.
December 2018	Conclusion of Nature Works Everywhere grant; submit end of year status report.