

Nature Works Everywhere Garden Grant Description 2015/16

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I. **What is a Nature Works Everywhere Garden?**

The Nature Conservancy is working to promote environmental education through the creation of *Nature Works Everywhere* gardens. The core principle behind the Gardens program is that gardens model conservation science on a relatable scale. The program empowers students and teachers to work together to create and implement their own solutions to environmental challenges in their communities. Whether addressing issues surrounding food deserts, air quality, heat island effect, or storm water collection, youth are empowered as social innovators to model solutions in their school communities through garden design and implementation. *Nature Works Everywhere* gardens connect students to a global challenge – to protect the natural systems that produce our food, water, clean air and energy.

A *Nature Works Everywhere* garden does the following:

- Creates a living system
- Filters water
- Provides habitat for pollinators and other wildlife
- Reduces carbon footprint through food production
- Improves soil
- Engages the school (and wider) community in educational activities that focus on urban environmental stewardship

During the 2015/16 and 2016/17 school years, Nature Works Everywhere will provide up to 50 school garden grants. These grants are made possible with the generous support of Lowe's.

II. **Eligibility**

Schools and garden projects must meet the following requirements:

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- School must be public or charter
- Schools can be elementary, middle or high schools
- Garden projects must be new garden additions to a school campus, enhancements to existing gardens, or revitalization of garden spaces on school campus.
- Preference is given to projects with an emphasis on building urban green infrastructure (i.e. pollinator, rain, native habitat, orchards etc. gardens). 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. All types of gardens contribute to the health of urban areas, but rain gardens, native habitat gardens, pollinator gardens, and orchards contribute the most to reducing stormwater runoff, providing habitat for wildlife, reducing heat island affect and additional services provided to cities by the installation of urban green space. While preference is given to these sorts of project, **food gardens will also be funded.**

For schools with existing gardens – a *Nature Works Everywhere* garden is an enhancement to your existing space that emphasizes the principles outlined above. It is not necessary to create an entirely new and separate garden; this grant is designed to support an existing garden as an outdoor learning space that engages the school community in the concepts of conservation, promotion of environmental health, and development of green infrastructure.

For schools with no garden – a *Nature Works Everywhere* garden is an outdoor learning space that engages the school community in the concepts of conservation, promotion of environmental health, and development of green infrastructure.

The purpose of this grant is to provide you with the resources you need to use school gardens to teach conservation science and engage students in understanding the value of nature, while creating spaces that enhance the natural landscape of your school and city. Awarding of this 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 **\$1000-\$2,000** (funds will be allocated according to needs of garden projects) to be spent on garden 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.; also may 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, etc.) and may be used to cover operational/overhead costs for garden management.
- **Educational webinars** throughout the school year on creating and maintaining *Nature Works Everywhere* gardens as well as using gardens to teach conservation science. These webinars will

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be designed to support the building and maintenance of your garden as well as the use of curriculum in the garden. List of topics may include, but are not limited to:

- a. School Gardens 101 – how to plan, build and maintain a garden.
 - b. Using Your Garden to Teach Conservation Science – Professional development webinar on how to use the Nature Works Everywhere curriculum and other science lessons in your garden.
 - c. Financial Planning and Garden Sustainability – learn how to manage your garden for the long term, including finding diverse sources of funding and support.
 - d. Connecting with Local Gardening Organizations to Support Your School Garden
 - e. Cultivating Community Engagement
- **Coaching and support** through an online forum to connect all grantees with local resources.
 - **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/garden) (<http://www.natureworkseverywhere.org/#resources/garden>)
 - **Tablet (iPad, Kindle Fire, etc.)** that can be used to support standards-based curriculum and garden learning.

IV. **Grant Requirements**

If awarded a Nature Works Everywhere garden grant, your school will be required to:

- Provide a mid-year status report on your project in May 2016 and an end of year status report in December 2016.
- Participate in curriculum evaluation (i.e. pre and post testing with students, or interviews with evaluators to assess the impact of your project).
- Attend at least 4 educational webinars throughout the term of the grant.
- Commit to performing at least 3 Nature Works Everywhere garden lessons throughout the term of the grant.
- Participate in the online forum.
- Schedule an in person site visit with Nature Conservancy staff at the beginning or end of the grant cycle.

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

Applications for this grant are due on **October 28, 2015 no later than 5pm eastern**. All applications must be submitted online at

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_2096/Default.asp?SA=SNA&FID=35000

Questions may be sent to natureworks@tnc.org

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

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Time	Activities
September 1 – October 28, 2015	Grants open for applications; deadline to submit application October 16.
November 20, 2015	Grantees are announced.
December 4, 2015	Grant installment 1 distributed (up to \$1000).
November – December, 2015	Plan projects with support from TNC; attend 1 webinar.
January – May, 2016	Execute garden projects; attend up to 2 webinars; submit mid-year status report; use Nature Works curriculum in the garden (subject to school/class planning).
June 2016	Grant installment 2 distributed (up to \$500).
June-August, 2016	Attend 1 webinar.
August – December 2016	Attend up to 2 webinars; use Nature Works curriculum in the garden (subject to school/class planning).
September 2016	Grant installment 3 distributed (up to \$500) <i>final grant payment</i>
December 2016	Conclusion of Nature Works Everywhere grant cycle; submit end of year status reports.

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