

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT FUNDING WINDOW

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT Heritage Grant SCHOOLYARD Proposal's – Eligibility CRITERIA

SEPTEMBER 2019

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT (SCHOOLYARD) refers to grants for projects that encourage wildlife education on school sites through the development or enhancement of urban wildlife habitats. Grants are limited to schools/facilities within the Arizona school system to include charter schools. Projects should encourage wildlife education, development or enhancement of urban wildlife habitats, and involve students from planning to implementation.

The intent is to fund **SCHOOLYARD** projects that give the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with eligibility criteria listed below. For **2020**, there is a total of **\$30,000** available to support **SCHOOLYARD** grant proposals. Grant applicants can request from **\$500 to \$10,000** within this sub-category.

Funds requested under Schoolyard can be used to purchase scientific equipment; tools, computers, optics, etc. however, these purchases should be **reasonable in scope** compared to the overall requested budget. Funds are intended to be used for wildlife habitat improvements that accommodate wildlife education. Funds cannot be used for vegetable gardens, greenhouses, hydroponics, raised beds, or other features intended primarily to raise food for human consumption, and cannot be used for physical features considered **decorative** or **ornamental** (e.g., arbors, picnic tables, fountains, patios, etc.).

Functional physical features intended for use by students that enhance wildlife education opportunities in an outdoor classroom setting (e.g., working tables, water features, benches, etc.) are acceptable. When creating a Schoolyard Habitat it is important to consider the needs of people, including those with disabilities. Any physical features constructed or purchased must be American's with Disability Act (ADA) compliant. Proposals must include a conceptual design (hand-drawn or computer generated) or photographs of the project site, to include approximate dimensions/locations of existing major features (e.g., trees, buildings, sidewalks, roads, etc.). Proposals must also include a list of the **native** plants that will be utilized in the project.

SCHOOLYARD proposals **must** meet **one or more** of the **Eligibility CRITERIA** listed below:

CRITERION 1: Develop New Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats

- a.** Develop a new wildlife habitat **on school sites** or in areas **immediately adjacent to the school**. The habitat must encourage use by native urban wildlife, and increase public awareness and appreciation of wildlife and their habitats.
- b.** Promote wildlife and habitat education through project design by:
 - 1) Utilizing native plants that attract and support wildlife;
 - 2) Designing the space to encourage outdoor learning and exploration by students;
 - 3) Developing standards-based instructional materials that utilize the schoolyard habitat; and,
 - 4) Involving students in all phases of the project including research, planning, and development of curriculum, physical implementation and ongoing project design.

CRITERION 2: Enhance or Restore an Existing Heritage Funded Schoolyard Habitat

a. Enhance or restore an existing Heritage funded schoolyard habitat. Examples of acceptable improvements include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Wildlife viewing blinds;
- 2) Bird or bat feeders;
- 3) Bird or bat boxes (e.g., nesting, roosting);
- 4) Naturalistic (vegetated) enclosures for desert tortoises;
- 5) Naturalistic water sources for wildlife;
- 6) Interpretive signs describing visiting wildlife species, native plants present, habitats, ecological processes, etc.;
- 7) Low water use irrigation system; and,
- 8) Replacement or restoration of existing non-native plants within the habitat with native plants.

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