‘Go Wild’ School Garden Grant Proposal

Prepare a grant proposal for WWF-Canada’s Go Wild School Grants program. Your proposal will present a plan for creating a school garden featuring Indigenous and locally native plants.

Use the Go Wild Application Form posted on the course website:

Assignments → Go Wild → Application Form

Submit your completed proposal to the instructor for assessment before submitting it to the funder.

Proposal Requirements

1. Project Information

Include:

- project title;
- tentative project start date; and
- tentative project end date.

2. Project Idea

Maximum: 400 words

Clearly describe your proposed school garden and its purpose. Explain how the project will help the school community to:

- learn about the local ecosystem, including its history, biodiversity, functions, and needs;
- take action for nature by creating, restoring, or protecting habitat using native plants and trees; and
- connect with the wider community to create a lasting impact.

3. Benefits for People and Wildlife

Maximum: 400 words

Explain how and to what extent the project will improve habitat for people and wildlife within the school community.

4. Timeline and Implementation Plan

Maximum: 400 words

Describe how the project will be carried out. Include:

- major stages and activities;
- responsibilities of students, teachers, and community participants;
- special events and their proposed dates;

- project start and completion dates; and
- plans for maintaining and monitoring the garden.

5. Anticipated Project Impact

Provide estimates for all relevant indicators. Write not applicable where an item does not apply.

Include, where appropriate:

- total area restored, rehabilitated, or recovered in square metres;
- number and names of species at risk supported;
- wildlife species targeted;
- names and types of native plants;
- number of native and non-native plant species;
- total number of native and non-native plants;
- number of native and non-native trees, identifying hardwood or softwood;
- number of native and non-native seeds sown;
- number of students, teachers, and community members participating;
- number of days students will participate;
- number of outreach events;
- anticipated event attendance; and
- number of people trained in a conservation activity.

Also describe any data the project will collect, such as plant survival, wildlife observations, soil conditions, pollinator visits, or student participation.

6. Indigenous Perspectives and Relationships

Where applicable, explain how the project will include meaningful Indigenous perspectives, relationships, consultations, or community connections.

Avoid treating Indigenous knowledge as an add-on. Explain how relationships, permissions, local context, and respectful engagement will inform the project.

7. Budget

Maximum funding request: $1,500

Provide a detailed and realistic budget that includes:

- supplies and equipment;
- promotion and communication;
- other eligible expenses;
- the source of each cost estimate; and
- any additional funding or in-kind support provided by the school or another organization.

Include a brief budget narrative explaining how each expense will support the project.

8. Student Involvement

Maximum: 400 words

Explain how students were or will be involved in developing the proposal and making decisions about the project. Describe opportunities for student voice, leadership, planning, planting, monitoring, communication, and reflection.

Assessment

The proposal will be evaluated according to:

- clarity and feasibility of the project;
- alignment with the grant criteria;
- benefits for people, wildlife, and the local ecosystem;
- meaningful student involvement;
- appropriate inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and relationships;
- quality of the timeline and implementation plan;
- accuracy and completeness of the anticipated impact measures;
- realism and justification of the budget; and
- overall organization, professionalism, and persuasiveness.

Please consult the corresponding rubric on the course website for complete assessment details.

Alternative Grant Option

You may instead prepare a proposal for another grant that supports bringing wild nature to a school playground.

Before beginning an alternative proposal, you must:

1. identify the grant and its application requirements;
2. develop assessment criteria that align with the grant;
3. adapt the assignment rubric as needed; and
4. receive instructor approval for both the proposal idea and the revised rubric.

Listen to this podcast for some inspiration:
Can we undo the damage we've done to nature? | Good Nature with Megan Leslie