



NH Partnership for Schoolyard Action Grants Application

Deadline January 26, 2024

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s New England Field Office, New Hampshire Fish and Game, New Hampshire Project Learning Tree, and New Hampshire Audubon collectively comprise the NH Partnership for Schoolyard Action Grants. These groups collaborated to support schools that want to take action and achieve the benefits of nature-based studies for student development and learning. Our goals are to nurture future environmental stewards by connecting students with their local environment and to enliven learning through nature.

Grant Procedures and Eligibility: New Hampshire Schools and/or organizations that teach preschool - 12th grade may apply for a Schoolyard Action Grant.

2024 Focus Area: We will be using the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) developed by the US Council on Environmental Quality to prioritize projects that occur within, or serve a majority of students who live in, the disadvantaged communities identified by this tool.

The grant application must be complete upon submission and sent in a single email or envelope to: **Laura Ryder**

NH Fish and Game Department

11 Hazen Drive

Concord, NH 03301

Laura.V.Ryder@wildlife.nh.gov

*Please note, if you’ve applied for funding in the past, our application process has changed.

Grant Project Considerations

- Projects should be submitted by a minimum 3-member Team (Teachers/Admins/Community Members)
- Grant Awardees are expected to meet regularly for technical assistance (see below) provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NH Project Learning Tree, NH Fish and Game, or NH Audubon staff.
- Upon completion of your project, a Final Report must be submitted to us that includes expenditures, pictures, and accomplishments.

Project Technical Assistance from the NH Partnership for Schoolyard Action Grant Team

If selected as an awardee, our Team will contact you:

- To schedule a series of meetings for professional assistance on project planning (how do I design my project?), project implementation (what steps do I take?), and project support (what kinds of plants or equipment should I purchase?).

In addition, depending on your project goals, our Team may arrange for the following:

- Facilitated field trips at NH Audubon facilities or virtual tours to learn about pollinator gardens.
- Assistance to establish a Monarch Waystation, pollinator garden, or trails.
- Guest speakers/educators to come into your class and/or curriculum lessons provided to help bring outdoor learning to your schoolyard project.
- Professional development opportunities to learn more about creating outdoor classroom curriculum.

2024 Schoolyard Action Grant Application

Name of School/Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

State Vendor Code: _____ (<http://das.nh.gov/purchasing/vendorresources.aspx>)

(Please check with your school administrators for an existing vendor code with the state. If there is no code associated with your district or school, please follow the link above and create one for your school. There are no costs to create this code.)

Project Leader Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Team Member Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Team Member Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

What grades/ages will this schoolyard project reach? _____

Does this project application have the full support of your school/organization's administration?

Administrator Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Administrator Name: _____ Title: _____

What format is your submission? (ie. powerpoint, video, written report) See next page for more information:

2024 Schoolyard Action Grant Application

Directions

Tell us what you want to do to improve your schoolyard habitat or outdoor classroom space.

To answer this part of the application, please create a compelling story about your ideal schoolyard project. For example: What inspired you to apply? How do you see your project benefitting the school, students, and local wildlife? How is your project related to your current curriculum? What role will the students take in the design and completion?

Past projects funded by us include creating a pollinator garden, planting native plants for wildlife habitat, constructing an outdoor classroom space, constructing wildlife watching hiking trails, and creating outdoor learning stations.

Submit a powerpoint, video, written report, etc, that explains what you want to do and why.

Some of the exact details do not need to be completed (such as the types of plants to install or the design plan for the space) – that’s what the technical assistance from the NH Partnership for Schoolyard Action Grants Team will help provide.

Your application submission should identify:

- The purpose and need for this schoolyard project.
 - Explanation of how students will be involved and how they will use the outdoor space.
 - Realistic goals to complete a schoolyard project in a two-year period. We anticipate that the first year will be dedicated towards planning and the second year will be the implementation phase.
- Pictures of your current outdoor space.

Budget- We are not asking for a budget figure at this time. Instead, if you are selected as an awardee, we will work with you to develop your project and work on creating a timeline and budget that works best for everyone.

On average, we are looking to fund between \$1,000- \$5,000 per project. We can also provide guidance on finding other funding opportunities.

Tips for a great application submission:

- Your Project Team is motivated and excited to get students outdoors!
- Your project involves students from planning to implementation.
- Your project provides learning opportunities for students. We are most interested in getting students learning outside – learning about science and the natural world, but also learning other subjects (like art, math, physical education, etc), while in an outdoor setting.
- You have the time to invite us into your school for project technical assistance with your outdoor classroom project. (If awarded, we’ll work out the details.)
- You’ve thought out how to maintain this project over the summer months and into the future.

Application Due Date: January 26, 2024. Grant awards will be notified in March 2024. **Have questions?** Contact Laura Ryder: Laura.V.Ryder@wildlife.nh.gov

The Schoolyard Action Grants are made possible through financial support from the following: The Wildlife Heritage Foundation of NH, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program, NH Project Learning Tree, and NH Environmental Educators.