



Wildflower Association of Michigan

Encouraging the preservation and restoration of
Michigan's native plants and native plant communities

EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

The Wildflower Association of Michigan (WAM) awards grants annually to fund projects that range from creating an outdoor classroom to enhancing an existing site with native plants, to developing other educationally directed projects that support the WAM mission. We seek to educate Michigan's citizens to recognize, preserve, restore and re-create native landscapes and pass on an appreciation and respect for our native flora.

WAM Mission: *By increasing awareness and knowledge, The Wildflower Association of Michigan encourages the preservation and restoration of Michigan's native plants and native plant communities.*

Since it is WAM's desire to be of service to as much of the public as possible, information regarding sources of plants and other information that may be helpful in creating and completing the projects is available on our website. Included are sources of Michigan native species nurseries and seed suppliers, informational resources about the benefits of using native plants in landscaping, how to use them, and additional grant dollar sources. These sources may be helpful to you as well as you create your project. If you have questions about the process, the appropriateness of your project for our program, or about the application, please feel free to email the WAM Grants Coordinator.

Prior to completing your application form, please review the criteria for this year's grant program as well as the summary of the follow-up procedures and Final Project Report required of all recipients of WAM grants. Please review this information carefully as it may prove valuable when designing your project and submitting your application. In particular, please note the deadlines and signatures required for each application. Improperly submitted applications will not be considered for funding. Each applicant may request up to \$1250 in support. These funds can be used to purchase plants and seeds for your projects, as well as labels or signs to help educate people about the plants you are using and their important role in the world.

The application deadline is December 1, 2024. **Late applications will not be accepted.** Only electronic submissions by e-mail will be accepted. All applicants will be notified if they are or are not recipients of an award no later than January 31, 2025. Awardees will receive their funds at the Awards Luncheon on Sunday, March 2, 2025, during the Michigan Native Plant Conference at the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State. If you have any further questions pertaining to the grant application process, please email us at wamgrants@gmail.com, attn: Grants Coordinator.

Good luck and thank you for your interest in the WAM Educational Grant Program!

WAM Educational Grant Criteria

Below is a list of criteria which must be met by applicants in order to be considered for a WAM grant. Please use these to develop your grant proposal.

A submitted proposal must contain a completed application *responding to each section like an essay test*. The total proposal should not exceed 3 pages, not including plans, sketches, pictures and letters of support. **Please follow the exact order of the application below to assist with the evaluation of your submittal.**

1. Proposals will be evaluated on:
 - a. the impact on educating Michigan citizens, particularly youth.
 - b. the adherence to the mission of the Wildflower Association
 - c. the overall feasibility of the project
 - d. provisions for the maintenance of all plantings.
2. Applicants may request up to but no more than \$1250 for project support. Monies received may be used primarily for seeding or planting the site with species of Michigan native origin; and then secondarily for:
 - a. continuing site maintenance and care of an existing native planting, including mulch
 - b. the enhancement of an existing site with species of Michigan native origin.
 - c. site preparation,
 - d. labeling or signage of the project.
3. Monies received may not be used for equipment, travel, salaries, or overhead. An accounting of all monies must accompany the Final Project Report.
4. All plants/seeds used must adhere to these criteria:
 - a. Straight species only
 - b. Use a reputable native plant or seed provider such as those listed on our website
 - c. No neonicotinoids have been used on plants or seeds.
5. A written Final Project Report of the work done in the spring and fall of the year in which the grant was awarded, including pictures, is required of all grant recipients. This report (see the following Final Project Report outline) should be submitted no later than November 1, 2025, to the WAM Grants Coordinator. The report should have no less than 3 good quality photos that we may use on our website and in WAM publications to show what types of projects our grants fund. The report and photos may be submitted electronically if desired at the email below.
6. All publicity generated for and received by the project must acknowledge the Wildflower Association of Michigan. Signs associated with the project should also include the WAM logo or acknowledgment of WAM as a supporter of the project.

Please email the application form and all other supporting documents to:
wamgrants@gmail.com.

Applicants will be notified by email when their application is received.

WAM Grant Application

Please review the six WAM Educational Grant Criteria before completing this application. If you feel you can be successful with this application, please complete it in the manner of an essay test. It should not exceed 3 pages, not including the location map, drawn plan, pictures and letters of support. **Your application should follow the order of the information below exactly.** Please note – the bullets listed below each question are provided to clarify the information we are requesting.

If awarded this grant, a Final Project Report is required by November 1, 2025.

Grant Identified by: School/Organization Name _____

Organization Phone: _____ Organization mailing address: _____

Grant Coordinator Name _____ Phone _____

Grant Coordinator Email _____

Total dollar amount needed for entire project: _____

Amount requested from Wildflower Association of Michigan: _____

If the grant is awarded, to whom should the check be written: _____

How did your group learn of the WAM Grant Program? _____

Has your organization *applied* for a WAM grant in the past and if so what year?

Has your organization *received* a WAM grant in the past and if so, in what year?

(We encourage organizations to seek additional funding for previously funded and successful projects. In your project description be sure to give information on how additional funding will further your work.)

1. What are the goals of this project? In answering you should demonstrate:
 - Broad institutional and community support
 - Community of people involved.
 - Ecological focus
 - Broad understanding of Michigan native plants
2. Provide a description of the work your group plans to do with a timeline of the project and who will be directly involved.
 - Be explicit, who is going to do what?
 - Who is the leader?
 - Where you are getting technical support—what is the background of consultant, and at what point in the process will they be involved?
 - Who and how will the project be maintained first season? Who will maintain the project beyond the first season?

3. How will the project satisfy State-mandated curricula or teach the community about native plants?
 - If it is a school-related project, answer by blending your knowledge of your curriculum with what will be accomplished through a native plant garden. Do not cut/paste in state curricula.
 - If a non-school, what are you trying to teach to your community? Why are you choosing to work with native plants?
4. What will be necessary for the establishment of this project during the first growing season, including materials and manpower? Is there a water source that can be accessed to provide water the first year? The water source should be shown and/or described on your drawing. (Please note that projects should be designed so they do not require supplemental water after the first season.) Who will do the watering and weeding?
 - Your answer tells us that you understand how to be successful & who is involved...that you understand there are several phases in this creation – planning, planting, establishment, and maintenance.
 - Planning – site assessment current condition...soil, sun, invasives, etc.
 - Species list of plants or seed to be used and where they will be sourced.
 - Site preparation, who is involved, time of year
 - Planting establishment – weeding, watering.
 - Maintenance – including monitoring for and removing invasives from the project area
5. Who will maintain the project during summer vacations and subsequent growing seasons, and how (what are expected maintenance tasks required)? This is extremely important as early maintenance is crucial for project success.
 - More specifics of several previous questions
 - Think beyond the first year or two.
6. List organizations or individuals who will provide technical support for your project.
 - A consultant/advisor should be brought in from the beginning. When seeking technical support please recognize the differences between typical gardening expertise and that which is required to successfully establish and maintain a native landscape.
 - If you do not have a consultant in mind start with the WAM Business Directory
7. Attach a plant list with the information listed below. **Only straight Michigan native species will be funded by this grant. Plant material should be sourced within Michigan from a reputable Michigan native plant or seed supplier. The plants should be native genotype and straight species (not any cultivars/nativars).** If unfamiliar with the terms native genotype, cultivar, or 'nativar', please see **www.wildones.org**
 - Please provide a plant list that includes all of the plants to be used with the following information:
 - Common Name:
 - Scientific Name: Genus/Species
 - Number Needed:
 - Plant/Plug or Seed:
 - Cost:

- Vendor/Source:
 - It is highly recommended that you plan ahead by contacting potential suppliers prior to submitting your grant to determine the availability of the plants.
- 8. How did you come up with your plant list? For example:
 - light, soil, moisture,
 - location in the state
 - interpretive considerations
 - other considerations
- 9. Detail a budget for your project including a description of any matching funds that will be used specifying how much and who is providing the financial support.
 - Matching funds shows larger support.
 - Money should be used primarily on native plants.
 - Mulch, signage as a secondary
- 10. Include a simple, scaled sketch of the project, photos and any other information that will help us visualize what you will accomplish/where you are working/where the plants will be living.
 - Give the specific county and site address.
 - Include a North arrow in the drawing.
 - Show where the project is located on the property.
 - Show location for specific plants/plant groupings
 - Where are the water, road, paths, and buildings?
 - Graph paper is beneficial. Drawing needs to provide context and content. Pictures of the site are helpful in showing the site but are not an acceptable substitute for a drawing.
- 11. If some or all of the project includes signage, a sample drawing of what the sign(s) will look like, and the size of the sign must be provided.
- 12. Include the following supporting documents:
 - Statement of permission to use the land being considered. Public land needs permission from principal/superintendent, park director, executive director, another high official.
 - Letters of support from the target community. At least two letters from people outside the project leadership but knowledgeable of the project's goals.... showing administrative support and community support.
 - Planned or actual copies of publicity.

Project Authorization/Authentication

I understand that the awarding of grants and their amounts shall be the sole discretion of the Wildflower Association of Michigan's Board or its designees. I also understand that all applications and reports become the property of WAM. Should this project be awarded funding, WAM has the right to disseminate the project application, or an abbreviated description thereof, the final report, its underlying concepts, and/or ideas.

If awarded a grant, I agree to abide by all WAM criteria governing its grant program and will acknowledge this funding source in all publicity and/or publications resulting from the project.

I further agree to submit a final report on the project by November 1 of the grant year and that this report will include a detailed accounting of all funds expended.

The Wildflower Association of Michigan, its sponsors and/or any of its agents/officials, shall assume no responsibility or liability for claims of damage of any kind to property or for claims of injury to any person in connection with a grant.

Project Coordinator Signature _____ Date _____

I have reviewed the completed application and wholeheartedly support this project (School Superintendent, Principal or Organization President).

Official's signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____ Title _____

Application must be received by December 1, 2024.

WAM GRANT FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Due November 1 of Project Year

As a follow up to our funding and in order to help future grantees improve their overall success, the Wildflower Association of Michigan requests a Final Project Report by November 1 of the year the grant is given. In addition to answering the questions below, please provide photo documentation from before, during and after the project implementation.

- List specifics on how WAM funding was spent.
- List your goals from the original proposal and describe your success with each goal.
- What were your biggest challenges?
- What are the plans for maintaining the project for the coming year?
- How has the project already impacted Michigan youth and other citizens?
- What advice would you give to another group attempting a similar project?
- Attach photo documentation from before, during and after the project implementation.
- Attach copies of any publicity given for the project.
- **Please separately attach at least 3 good photos of the project, especially of the installation and end result. They can be photos used in the report PDF, but should be separate .jpg, .gif or .png files so we can use them in our own documents.**

PLEASE attach THIS REPORT to an EMAIL and send it to: wamgrants@gmail.com