

## Grant Opportunities for Funding Your Schoolyard Habitat



The following Lists of Grants was retrieved from The Environmental Education Association of Illinois at: <http://www.eeai.net/additional-grant-opportunities.html>.

### Association of American Educators Classroom Grants

AAE's Classroom grants (average amount of \$500) can be used for a variety of projects and materials, including but not limited to books, software, calculators, math manipulatives, art supplies, audiovisual equipment, and lab materials. Classroom grants are available to all educators. Annual application deadlines are October 1 and March 1.

For more information, visit <http://www.aeteachers.org/index.php/member-benefits/scholarships-and-grants>.

### Captain Planet Foundation Grants

The mission of the Captain Planet Foundation is to promote and support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate the world through active, hands-on projects designed to improve the environment in their schools and communities. The foundation intends its grants to serve as catalysts for getting environment-based education into schools and inspire youth and communities to participate in community service through environmental stewardship. Requests for funding less than \$500 will be given preference and occasionally grants of up to \$2,500 will be considered. Schools and organizations with operating budgets of less than \$3 million are eligible to apply.

More information is available at the Captain Planet Foundation website: <http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/>.

### Celebrate Urban Birds Mini-Grants

Calling all urban ornithologists or those wanting to host an urban event. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has mini-grants from \$100-500 available to host a Celebrate Urban Birds event.

For more information, visit <http://celebrateurbanbirds.org/community/minigrants/>.

### EPA Environmental Education Grants

This grant program funds environmental education projects. Environmental information and outreach may be important elements of EE projects, but these activities by themselves are not environmental education. By itself, environmental information only addresses awareness and knowledge, usually about a particular environmental issue. Outreach involves information dissemination and requests or suggestions for action on a particular issue (often without the critical thinking, problem solving and decision making steps in between). EE covers the range of steps and activities from awareness to action with an ultimate goal of environmental stewardship.

Grant application details can be found at EPA's environmental education grant website - <http://www2.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>.



Caroline Bailey



### **Frances R. Dewing Foundation Grants**

The Frances R. Dewing Foundation gives grants only to programs that deal directly with early childhood education. Within that context, support is given for preschool, elementary, and other education; conservation and environmental protection; the fine and performing arts and other cultural programs; and social services. Programs must serve children younger than age 12. Giving is limited to the United States, with emphasis on the New England states in the Northeast. Annual application deadlines are October 1 and April 1. The average grant amount is \$15,000.

For more information, visit <http://www.frd-foundation.org/apply05.html>.

### **Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant**

Pre-kindergarten through grade 12 teachers may apply for up to \$500 to cover the costs of transportation and substitute teachers for a field trip to one of Illinois' natural resources sites. The field trip must occur in the calendar year that the funds are received.

For detailed instructions and the application form, visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>.

### **Illinois Grantwatch**

This site is a listing of grant opportunities. You can search by categories including Children, Community Service, Environment, Science, and more:

<http://illinois.grantwatch.com/collection.php?region=all>.

### **Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund**

The Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program is designed to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of Illinois through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance. Projects proposed for grant funding must focus on management, site inventories, or education and cannot exceed \$2,000.00. Management projects are those activities related to stewardship of land and/or water, which are of direct benefit to non-game wildlife, native plants, and natural communities.

More information: [http://www.dnr.state.il.us/grants/Special\\_Funds/WildGrant.htm](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/grants/Special_Funds/WildGrant.htm).

### **ING Unsung Heroes Grants**

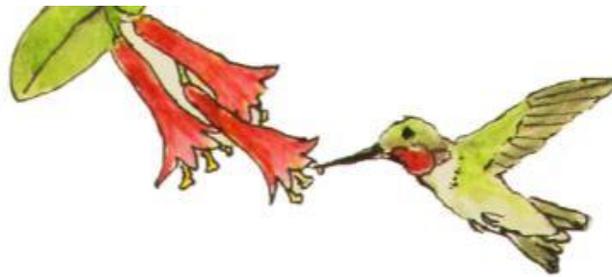
Are you an educator with a class project that is short on funding but long on potential? Do you know a teacher looking for grant dollars? ING Unsung Heroes could help you turn great ideas into reality for students. Each year, 100 educators are selected to receive \$2,000 to help fund their innovative class projects. Three of those are chosen to receive the top awards of an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000.

For more information, visit <http://ing.us/about-ing/citizenship/childrens-education/ing-unsung-heroes>.



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### **Kresge Foundation Grants**

Grants relating to adaptation to climate change, energy efficiency/renewable energy, community health partnerships, and healthy environments are available from The Kresge Foundation, which supports efforts that create access and opportunity in underserved communities, working through the seven programs. Each program focuses on specific areas so the Foundation asks that you begin by learning more about the program that best fits your project; learn more at <http://www.kresge.org/opportunities>. Current grant opportunities are identified here. Please note some grant opportunities are open only to applicants invited by program staff members. Visit the web site for more details.



### **Lake Education Assistance Program (LEAP) Grants**

This Illinois EPA grant program provides funding (up to \$500 per application period) for lake and lake watershed related educational field trips, seminars or workshops, projects, or activities. Projects and activities must have stated goals and involve the enhanced lake or lake watershed education of teachers, students, organizations, or the community. LEAP is a reimbursement grant. Application deadlines are September 30 and January 31. Only one application per school or organization for each application period will be accepted.

For more information, visit <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/conservation/leap.html>.

### **Leave No Trace Grants**

Leave No Trace is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors. Leave No Trace offers a variety of grant and scholarship opportunities for individuals and organizations seeking Leave No Trace educational materials and/or training. There are multiple grants offered, including Connect Grants for Culturally-Diverse Communities, Packing with PEAK grant, Tools for Teaching Fund, and Master Educator Scholarships. These opportunities have varying deadlines throughout the year. Please email all grant and scholarship inquiries to [grants@LNT.org](mailto:grants@LNT.org).

### **Local Giving Program**

The Walmart Foundation supports programs and initiatives addressing education, workforce development, economic sustainability and health and wellness. Multiple awards ranging from \$250-5,000 are available for select applicants. Nonprofit organizations, K-12 schools, church or faith based organizations, and government entities are eligible to apply.

Please visit <http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving> for more information.

### **Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants**

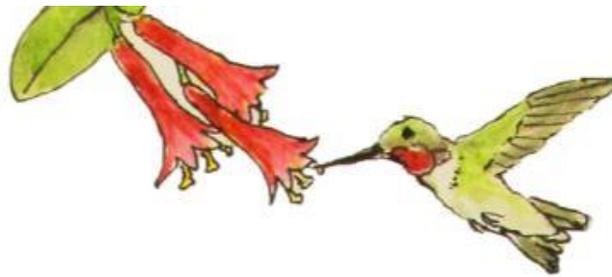
Searching for funding for your outdoor classroom, schoolyard garden, or school greening project? Lowe's will donate \$5 million to public schools and public school parent teacher groups at more than 1,000 different public schools per school year. This grant program is for projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Preference is given to funding requests that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) and landscaping projects.

For more information, visit <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/>.

### **National Environmental Education Foundation**

For a list of more grants and awards, visit the grants page on the NEEF website: <http://www.neefusa.org/grants>.





### **NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants**

The NEA Foundation provides grants to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area. Any practicing U.S. teacher, counselor, or education support professional employed by a public school, including public higher education institutions, is eligible to apply for a grant from the Foundation. The proposed work should engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. The grant amounts available are \$2,000 and \$5,000. Grant funds may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, technology, or scholars-in-residence. Grants will fund activities for 12 months from the date of the award. Application deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 1.

For more information, visit <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/nea-student-achievement-grants/>.

### **Patagonia Environmental Grants**

Patagonia provides grants for small, grassroots activist organizations aimed at preserving and protecting the environment. The company funds work that is action-oriented, builds public involvement and support, and protects local habitat. Grants range from \$3,000 to \$8,000. Applications can be submitted at retail stores and online.

For more information, visit <http://www.patagonia.com/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>.

### **PLT GreenWorks! Grant Program**

Do you have an idea for a school/community native plant garden, a forest improvement project, a streamside restoration plan, a recycling program, or energy conservation project for your students? Need funds to implement it? Apply for a \$1,000 Project Learning Tree (PLT) GreenWorks! grant. GreenWorks! is the service-learning, community action program of PLT that partners, PLT educators, students, and communities in environmental neighborhood improvement projects. Applicants must have attended, or be registered for, a PLT educator workshop by the deadline.

Visit <http://www.plt.org/applyforagrant> for more information.

### **The Pollination Project**

The Pollination Project is offering a grant of \$1,000 per day every day this year to individuals with a plan to make a positive difference in their community. Environmental projects are encouraged.

For more information, visit <http://thepollinationproject.org/>.

### **Save On Energy Teacher Grants**

Interested in winning \$500 for your classroom? SaveOnEnergy.com® looks for the best lesson plans for teaching students about energy or sustainability and awards six \$500 grants, in the form of Visa Reward Cards, to be used toward classroom materials and activities. Winners' lesson plans are featured on SaveOnEnergy.com for other teachers to use as resources for their classrooms.

For more information, visit <https://www.saveonenergy.com/teacher-grant/>.



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### **School Garden Grants Program/Whole Kids Foundation**

Awards of \$2,000 are available to select applicants. Nonprofit organizations and nonprofit K-12 schools are eligible to apply.

For more information, visit <http://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/gardengrants.php>.

### **Schoolyard Habitat Program**

The Schoolyard Habitat Program helps teachers and students create a naturalized wildlife habitat for classroom field studies and observations. The Program provides technical and organizational assistance to schools to create outdoor classrooms that are effective as educational tools and sustainable habitats. Qualified schools or organizations serving K-12 students are eligible for funding and may receive up to \$8,000 for projects. Schools must work cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and School Garden Network (SGN) to be considered for funding. The first step to creating a successful Schoolyard Habitat Project is to assemble a team that includes students, teachers, parents, administrators, and community members who will support and help sustain the project. The Schoolyard Habitat Program works with schools to provide project guidance, teacher training, and helps develop written materials.

For more information contact Laurel Anderson & Sabrina Howell, SGN Schoolyard Habitat Coordinators: [Schoolhabitats@gmail.com](mailto:Schoolhabitats@gmail.com). For more information, visit <http://schoolgardens.org/schoolyard-habitat-program-2/>.

### **Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat Action Grant**

Have you ever wanted to install a butterfly garden, prairie plot, schoolyard arboretum, bluebird nesting trail, or other wildlife habitat area? This grant can make your wish come true. The IDNR, Illinois Conservation Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program are partners in offering funds to teachers and youth group leaders for wildlife habitat development or enhancement on school grounds or other public property. Up to \$1,000 per applicant is available.

Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm> to access the instructions and application form.

### **Target Field Trip Grant**

Here's a great opportunity for you to offer your students a valuable field trip at little or no cost to you or your school. Target Corporation will award thousands of Field Trip Grants for up to \$700 each.

For more information, visit <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants/field-trip-grants>.

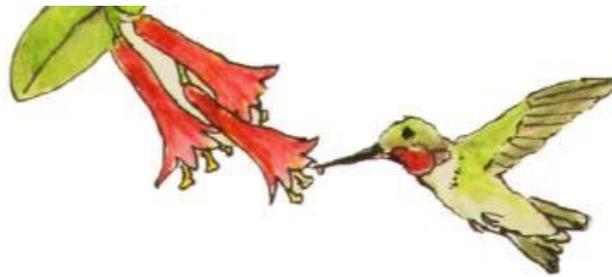
### **USDA Farm to School Grants**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm to School Grants help schools connect with local agricultural producers.

For more information, visit <https://wwwfns.usda.org/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>.



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### **Youth Garden Grants**

The National Gardening Association awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and inter-generational groups throughout the U.S. are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. Previous winners may reapply, but must wait one year and must have significantly expanded their garden programs.

For more information, visit <https://www.kidsgardening.org/grants-and-programs/>.

### **Additional Funding Opportunities**

#### **Donors Choose**

This online charity enables teachers to post their classroom project requests so that donors can give any amount they choose towards it. Donors select the project that inspires them the most. When a project reaches its funding goal, materials are shipped to the schools. Completely free for teachers to use. Visit <http://www.donorschoose.org/>.

#### **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Schoolyard Habitat Project Guide, accessible at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/pdf/HabitatGuideColor.pdf>, offers guidance on securing funding. See pages 67-76, which includes a donation request letter template, budget worksheet, and a link for finding inexpensive contractors.



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