

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT FUNDING WINDOW

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT SCHOOLYARD HABITAT SCHOOLYARD Grant Proposal's – GOALS & OBJECTIVES

July 2013

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 public 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 support projects that will give the greatest return for the Heritage funds invested consistent with the stated funding goals and objectives. There is **\$37,500** available to support **SCHOOLYARD** grant proposals submitted for the **2014 grant cycle year**. SCHOOLYARD grant applicants can request a grant amount minimum of **\$500** and maximum amount not to exceed **\$10,000** within this funding sub-category.

In order to be fully considered, SCHOOLYARD proposals must be compliant with **ALL** of the following **requirements**:

Requirement 1: Funds requested to purchase scientific equipment, tools, computers, optics, etc. cannot exceed 5% of requested/proposed budget.

Requirement 2: Funds cannot be used for vegetable gardens, greenhouses, hydroponics, raised beds, or other features intended primarily to raise food for human consumption.

Requirement 3: Funds are primarily intended to be used for wildlife habitat improvements and should not be used for physical features or items considered decorative or ornamental such as: arbors, picnic tables, fountains, patios, etc. When creating a Schoolyard Habitat it is important to consider the needs of people as well as wildlife, including people with disabilities.

Requirement 4: Proposals must include a rough sketch (hand-drawn or computer generated) or photographs of the project site, and include approximate dimensions and locations of major features (e.g., trees, water features, buildings, sidewalks, roads, etc.).

Requirement 5: Proposals must include a sample list (examples) of the native plants that will be utilized in the project.

SCHOOLYARD Project proposals submitted must be consistent with one or both of the **Goals** listed below to be considered:

GOAL 1: Development of New Wildlife Habitats on School Sites

- a. Develop 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/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, development of curriculum, and physical implementation.

GOAL 2: Enhancement or Restoration of Heritage Funded Schoolyard Habitat

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 panels describing visiting wildlife species, native plants present, habitats, ecological processes, etc.;
- 7) Low water use irrigation system; and
- 8) Replacement or restoration of existing landscaping with native plants

Robyn Beck
Wildlife Grant Administrator
(623) 236-7530