



NEEF Every Day Events Grant Announcement

Supporting restoration and resilience efforts, while continuing to promote the importance of public lands in today's society

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), with major funding support from Toyota, is offering \$100,000 in mini-grants to support restoration and/or resilience-focused volunteer events on public lands. Awarded grantees will be expected to lead service events that restore public lands and/or make those lands more resilient to future natural disasters. Grant-funded activities will mobilize community volunteers and educate participants about their role in protecting the long-term sustainability of their local public lands.

Background

Natural disasters and extreme weather, human activities, and a host of other factors take their toll on our public lands, which also impacts the health and wellbeing of the people and wildlife who depend on them. In 2017, numerous weather and climate disasters hit the United States, adding up to a total of \$306.2 billion in damages—the highest annual cost in US history. As a result, public lands are in need of immense aid to meet basic, yet immediate needs. These needs may include the removal of debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protecting eroded banks; correcting damaged drainage facilities; establishing cover on critically eroding lands; repairing levees and structures; repairing conservation practices; or investing in preventative measures. It is critical that public lands receive this assistance, as local communities often depend on these sites for recreation, hands-on learning, public health, and community-building.

Public land managers, volunteers, and others work tirelessly to restore these areas and make them more resilient to future threats, ensuring that people and wildlife continue to benefit from them for years to come. NEEF shares this commitment and aims to support local organizations in this endeavor by providing financial support for projects that restore public lands that have been impacted by natural disasters, as well as projects that implement measures that will make these lands more resilient. For example, public land managers of a coastal area might build or restore dunes, oyster reefs, coral reefs, mangroves, and marshes to minimize the impact of extreme weather. Or, volunteers at urban parks and other green spaces may make these lands more resilient by planting trees, removing invasive plants, and installing shrubs and other essential groundcover to mitigate the heat island effect, enhance air quality, and capture and reduce the flow of storm water during high rain events. These investments are beneficial to public lands and also make nearby cities and the surrounding areas more livable. These are only a few examples of restoration and resilience-focused projects that can have positive long-term effects.

Through these grants, NEEF will help: 1) restore public lands; 2) make lands more resilient to future threats; and 3) educate and engage the general public on practices they can apply to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. To achieve this, funds will be provided to Friends Groups, formal and informal educators, and local nonprofits who consistently partner with public lands.

Exemplary applicants will show how grant funds will be used to get people out in nature as part of restoration and/or resilience efforts. In addition to involving individual community members, the applicant will target specific segments of the population such as young adults, military veterans, etc. through local community partnerships.

Grant Guidelines and Timeline

- Applicants can request up to \$8,000 in grant funds.
- Application Opens: Monday, July 2, 2018
- Application Closes: Friday, September 28, 2018
- Grant Period: November 2018-September 2019
- Final Report Due: October 31, 2019

Eligibility

- Open to 501(c)(3)s who have a documented connection to a public land agency. These include federal, state, and local public lands agencies. A current partnership letter from a public land partner agency must be provided to show support of proposed projects;
- Host two to three volunteer event days that focus on the restoration of a public land/space recently impacted by natural disaster and/or address the general resilience of a public land/space; and
- Provide a letter of support from a local community partner who will aid in volunteer/donation efforts.

Strong Applications Will Include the Following

- If leading a resilience project, describe the need for the proposed plan and how natural infrastructures will be implemented or improved as a way to prevent/minimize future disasters;
- If leading a restoration project, describe when and where the disaster(s) occurred; the extent of the damage; current efforts underway by the community, and conservation activities that will take place to restore the land;
- *(If leading a project that addresses both restoration and resilience, incorporate both bullets above);*
- Describe how the above mentioned restoration and/or resilience events will lead to long-term impacts;
- Provide details of when programming/activities will take place during the grant year. These include any required prep days and post-work days surrounding the volunteer events;
- Describe how restoration and/or resilience efforts will be used to both connect people to nature and help public lands further promote participatory, knowledge-based approaches to restoration and resilience which can also be applied at home; and
- Describe how the restoration and/or resilience events will lead to long-term impacts.

All applications must be submitted through our [online system](#). If you have any questions or problems, please contact us at grantsadmin@neefusa.org.