

2022 Biodiversity Conservation Grant: Enhancing Pollinator Habitats

January 10, 2022

Overview

With major support from Toyota Motor North America, the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) is excited to announce \$200,000 in grant funding to support shovel-ready pollinator habitat enhancement projects on America's Public Lands.

Habitat enhancement projects should directly support the creation, restoration, remediation, improvement, and/or protection of habitats for important pollinator species such as butterflies, bees, bats, and more. Additionally, projects should incorporate community outreach and engagement activities designed to educate and empower the public to help enhance pollinator habitats.

Funding Priorities

- **Habitat Enhancement Projects:** Projects must implement on-the-ground activities designed to increase the quality, quantity, and connectivity of pollinator habitats. Applicants must define a step-by-step plan including site preparation, size of the project area, and description of target pollinator. If preparing a proposal that includes collecting seeds or cultivating native seedlings, applicants should describe the intended use of the seed or seedlings.
- **Community Engagement:** Projects must provide opportunities for public engagement through education or volunteer focused events. Projects should aim to collaborate with a diverse group of community partners to achieve engagement and educational outcomes. Grantees will be required to report on the number of events implemented and the number of participants engaged during the grant period.

Project Metrics

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grantees, NEEF has provided a list of recommended project metrics. All applicants must commit to collecting and reporting on key project metrics listed below.

Areas Enhanced

- Number of Acres
- Number of Acres Monarch Habitat
- Number of Individual Project Work Sites

Biodiversity Enhanced

- Number of Pollinator Species Promoted
- Number of Imperiled Species Protected
- Number of Native Plant Species Installed
- Number of Milkweed Plants Installed

Community Members Engaged

- Number of Individuals Engaged in Volunteer Activities
- Number of Individuals Engaged in Outreach Activities
- Number of Landowners Engaged
- Number of Toyota Employees Engaged
- Number of Individuals Engaged from Underserved Communities

Application Process and Timeline

The grant competition will be a two-part process. Those interested in applying must first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). NEEF will then select and invite LOI finalists to submit a full application for review. From that pool, NEEF will then choose its grantees.

The timeline is as follows:

- LOI opens: January 10, 2022
- LOI deadline: February 17, 2022
- Finalists invited to submit Application: March 17, 2022
- Application due: April 17, 2022
- Grants awarded: May 17, 2022
- Grant period: June 2022 – May 2023
- Reporting deadlines:
 - November 2022
 - June 2023

Eligibility

- Open to non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, state or federal government agencies, federally recognized tribes and local governments, and educational institutions. *
- Must have been in existence for at least two (2) years.
- Private for-profit firms and individuals are not eligible to apply.
- Grant funding may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities, or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- Must meet the funding criteria (below).

* One organization can submit more than one LOI.

LOI Criteria

- Describe how the habitat enhancement project will benefit pollinator species. Proposed projects must be technically sound and apply the best available science and accepted best management practices for enhancement of pollinator habitats and species specific to their ecological region.
- Applicants can request a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 to be spent over a one-year period.
- Describe the project team, including partnerships with other organizations responsible for implementing grant activities. Detail the roles and involvement of each organization cited in the LOI.
- Describe how funds will be used to meet project goals.
- 501(c)(3) letter issued by the IRS.

Application Criteria

Applicants invited to submit a full application will build on LOIs. Applications will be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

- Describe how the habitat enhancement project will benefit pollinator species. Include a step-by-step plan for establishing, enhancing, and/or preserving habitat acres.
- Describe how the applicant will provide educational offerings that link the on-the-ground conservation work taking place on public lands to the surrounding community (e.g., educating property-owners about the impact of invasive species and encouraging removal of targeted species on private property surrounding the project site). In short, address how education will be used to help participants learn what practices they can apply to support the continued conservation efforts. Include how these efforts increase people's understanding of their relationship with the public land/space and the environment as a whole.
- Provide a detailed timeline of when programming/activities will take place during the grant year. The timeline should include community engagement events.
- Provide Partner Letters of Support from those listed under the project team section of the LOI detailing who will be responsible for implementing grant activities.
- Provide required financials which include:
 - Conflict of interest policy
 - A list of Board of Directors
 - Annual organizational budget
 - Audit for prior fiscal year, or if an audit is not available, a balance sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for prior fiscal year

Expectations if Funded

- Participate in calls with NEEF and other grantees to share project updates, successes, challenges, and best practices.



- Collaborate with NEEF on evaluation strategies to ensure accurate and timely reports are submitted.
- Collaborate with NEEF’s Marketing & Communications team on press releases, stories, and other external communications related to funded projects.
- Commitment to collect and report on relevant key performance indicators (KPIs) listed in the “Program Metrics” section of this document.

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