

Availability

The program is available to all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools in the District. Other sites that promote environmental education will also be considered. Outdoor classroom grants sponsored by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District are non-competitive. Grants are awarded in the order in which they are submitted and approved, until annual budget funds are expended.



To receive an informational packet containing outdoor classroom guidelines, tips, and special features, contact the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District at 476-2729.

About the District...

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District is one of 23 districts in the state of Nebraska, formed in 1972 for the purpose of managing the state's natural resources. Programs and activities include all areas of natural resource management and development: tree planting, flood protection, wildlife habitat, streambank stabilization, environmental education, land treatment, water monitoring and many others. The districts are partially funded by property taxes and are governed by a board of directors--elected representatives who serve four-year terms. The NRD system is local government working to protect local natural resources. The Lower Platte South NRD includes nearly all of Lancaster and Cass counties and parts of Seward, Saunders, Otoe and Butler counties.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

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Outdoor Classroom Grant Program



Lower Platte South
Natural Resources District

www.lpsnrd.org

Purpose

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Outdoor Classroom Grant is intended to encourage the development of outdoor learning areas that promote natural resources conservation and environmental awareness for students of all ages.



Conditions

Developing an outdoor classroom is a community effort between the Natural Resources District and the school. To obtain the greatest benefit from an outdoor classroom, it should be designed with educational goals and standards in mind and include the involvement of teachers, PTO members, and others who will use the area. The project should also have approval of the school or site administrator. Once a school receives an Outdoor Classroom Grant, they will be provided with a sponsorship sign from the Lower Platte South NRD to display in the area.

Grant funds can be used for materials needed to create or improve an outdoor classroom site on school grounds. This includes the purchase of such items as:



Plants



Seeds



Animal Feeders & Shelters



Materials for the creation of a wetland or pond habitat



Interpretive signage

The grant will fund up to 60% of the proposed project cost, with the NRD share not to exceed \$1,000 per request, per fiscal year, (July 1 - June 30). The remaining 40% of the project cost can be covered by in-kind contributions, labor associated with the project, or other funding sources.



This program requires the designation of an environmental education coordinator at the school that has certification in Project WILD, Project Learning Tree or Project WET. The NRD can assist with the certification in these environmental education programs.

