

LOWER PLATTE SOUTH



NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Outdoor Classroom Grant Program

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Outdoor Classroom Grant Application

General Information:

School: _____

Address of School *(include city, state & zip)*: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number of School: () _____

Funding Request: Total amount of project

\$ _____

Total amount requested from NRD

\$ _____

Before completing this application, please review the enclosed packet of information regarding the guidelines and cost-share the District offers for the Outdoor Classroom Program.

Project Description:

Is this request for the creation of a new outdoor classroom area? _____

Yes

_____ No

If this request is for the enhancement of and/or addition to an existing outdoor classroom,
have you received NRD funding in the past for this area? _____

Yes

_____ No

Project purpose: _____

Specific learning goals and objectives for all grade levels involved: _____

Attachments:

1. Please provide the following information about the proposed project (less than 1000 words): student involvement, anticipated community involvement and support, teacher training opportunities in the proposed area, measuring/monitoring/evaluation of proposed project, and future sustainability/maintenance plans.
2. Site plan: include location on school grounds, location and identification of plant species
3. Species list
4. Timeline
5. Itemized budget: include expenditures, in-kind contributions (volunteer labor, amount of plants donated, etc.) and other funds received (PTO funding, fundraising by students, other grants, etc.)

Signatures:

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit to: Lower Platte South NRD Attn:

Adam Sutton, Environmental Educator

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

P.O. Box 83581

Lincoln, NE 68501-3581

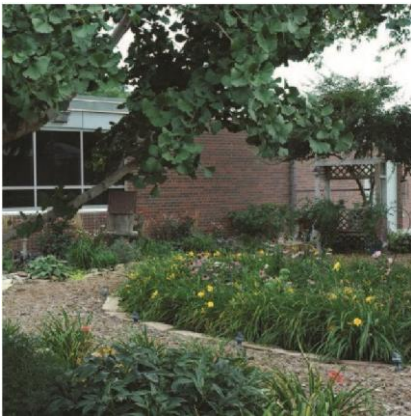
(402) 476-2729



Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

Outdoor Classroom Grant Program

- 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.
- This grant will fund up to 60% of the proposed project cost, with the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) share not to exceed \$2,000 per request, per fiscal year (July 1- June 30). The remaining 40% of the project costs can be covered by in-kind contribution, labor associated with the project, or other funding sources.



- The NRD contracts with PlantNebraska to draw site specific plans for the outdoor classroom based on input from meetings involving the school's administration and teachers.
- The school will display an Outdoor Classroom sponsorship identification sign provided by the NRD.
- The program is available to all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools in the Lower Platte South NRD if there is a public

benefit. Other sites that promote environmental education will also be considered.

- Grant funds can be used for materials needed to improve an outdoor classroom site on school grounds, this includes the purchase of live plants (perennials, grasses, shrubs, trees, etc.), seeds, bulbs, materials necessary for the creation of a wetland or pond habitat, animal feeders and shelters, interpretive signage, or other approved projects for the outdoor classroom. Funds can also be used for professional landscape consultation.
- Outdoor Classroom Grants sponsored by the Lower Platte South NRD are non-competitive. Grants are awarded in the order in which they are submitted and approved, until annual budget funds are expended.
- The Outdoor Classroom Grants operate as a reimbursement program. To receive reimbursement, all original receipts must be submitted to the Lower Platte South NRD upon completion of the project.

For more information, or to submit a grant application, contact:

Adam Sutton, Environmental Educator
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
P.O. Box 83581
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Initial Steps

1. Organize the project planning team. Include teachers, administration, parents, and the NRD. Begin working on the grant application.
2. Survey teachers to find out what they would like to see incorporated into the outdoor classroom and what complements their existing curriculums, so the area is utilized by students.
3. Schedule a meeting with the NRD to discuss ideas. The NRD might involve PlantNebraska at this meeting for a site visit.
4. Once input has been received, PlantNebraska can draw a plan for the area. When completed, this will be a detailed site plan including plant lists.
5. Submit completed grant application to the NRD.



PLEASE NOTE: *The NRD contracts with PlantNebraska as a service to the school in helping to design the site. It is meant to serve as a useful tool for those needing design and guidance. If the school has staff who can draw plans, or if students would like to help design the area, the school may choose their level of involvement with PlantNebraska. This may include feedback on site design, plant selections, etc. This can be discussed with the NRD.*

Plant Selection

In selecting plant species to be included in your outdoor classroom consider the following:

- Diversity: species, size, shape, color, texture, growth rate, leaf shape, branching patterns, seeds, and winter interest.
- Adaptability: select species that are native or adapted to this region and have low water and maintenance requirements.
- Flowering Time: select plants that will bloom while students are in school.
- Wildlife Value: include plants with berries and seeds that are attractive to wildlife.

Consider

- Connection to goals and objectives.
- Provide components of a healthy habitat: food, water, shelter, and space.
- Safety
- Maintainability

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SPECIAL FEATURES

The following list is only a partial list of specific features to consider for your outdoor classroom.



- * Animal Tracking Plots
- * Annual Flower Beds
- * Archaeological Dig Site
- * Berry Producing Shrubs
- * Bird Blinds



- * Outdoor Seating
- * Gathering Area
- * Pond
- * Prairie Area
- * Rock Pile



- * Bird Feeders
- * Bulbs, Corms, Tubers
- * Butterfly Garden
- * Compost Pile
- * Cutting Garden



- * Sensory Discovery Area
- * Shelter
- * Signs
- * Snow Fence
- * Sundial



- * Decaying Logs
- * Dinosaur Study Area
- * Fence Row
- * Fossil Path
- * Herb Garden



- * Time Capsule
- * Trail or Path
- * Tree Cross Sections (Tree Cookies)
- * Vegetable Garden



- * Loose Parts Area
- * Marsh or Wetland
- * Nesting Boxes



- * Weather Station
- * Wildflower Plot
- * Wildlife Brush Piles
- * Wildlife Feeding Areas

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BEFORE & AFTER

Meadow Lane Elementary School



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Cavett Elementary School