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## **Grants & Funding Opportunities**

**The Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks offers two grant programs for outdoor recreation.**

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Federally-funded grants through the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service  
Administered by the Department of Natural Resources  
Grant applications are available for outdoor recreation grants  
Land and Water Conservation Fund grants are available to cities, counties and school districts to be used for outdoor recreation projects. Projects require a 55 percent match. All funded projects are taken under perpetuity by the National Park Service and must only be used for outdoor recreational purposes. Development and renovation projects must be maintained for a period of 25 years or the life of the manufactured goods.

### **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**

Federally-funded grants through the Federal Highway Administration  
Administered by the Department of Natural Resources  
Recreational Trails Program grants are to be used for motorized or non-motorized trail development or renovation and preservation. Projects require a minimum match of 20 percent. All projects must be maintained for a period of 25 years. Grant requests up to \$100,000 are eligible. Eligible applicants include cities and counties, schools, and private, non-profit and for-profit businesses.

In Missouri, the Department of Natural Resources administers the grant program. Electronic versions of the application are available on the department's Web page at [www.mostateparks.com/grantinfo.htm](http://www.mostateparks.com/grantinfo.htm). Applications can also be requested by writing to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, Grants Management Section, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102, by phone at 800-334-6946 (voice) or 800-379-2419 (Telecommunications for the Deaf), or by e-mailing [marilyn.lehman@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:marilyn.lehman@dnr.mo.gov).

### **NATIONAL TRAILS FUND**

<http://www.americanhiking.org/NTF.aspx>

Created in 1998, American Hiking Society's National Trails Fund is the only privately supported national grants program providing funding to grassroots organizations working toward establishing, protecting and maintaining foot trails in America.

Many of our favorite trails need major repairs due to an enormous backlog of badly needed maintenance. National Trails Fund grants help give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools, and materials to protect America's cherished hiking trails.

## Community Food Projects

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/communityfoodprojects.cfm>

The Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFPCGP) has since 1996 promoted self-sufficiency and food security in low-income communities through community food projects (CFP) and Training and Technical Assistance projects (T&TA).

CFPs unite the entire food system, assessing strengths, establishing linkages, and creating systems that improve self-reliance over food needs. T&TA helps successful applicants carry out and evaluate their projects.

The CFPCGP is designed to:

- meet the needs of low-income people by increasing access to fresher, more nutritious food supplies;
- increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs;
- promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues;
- meets specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs for infrastructure improvement and development;
- plans for long-term solutions; and
- create innovative marketing activities that benefit both agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

Grants are intended to help eligible private nonprofit entities in need of a one-time infusion of federal assistance to establish and carryout multipurpose community food projects. Projects are funded from \$10,000 to \$300,000 and from 1 to 3 years. These one-time grants require a dollar-for-dollar match in resources. Approximately 18 percent of proposals have received awards during the program's history. About \$5 million per year have been authorized through 2007.

## Lowe's Toolbox for Education

The most successful educational programs are those that are homegrown. They reflect the schools they serve and fill their communities unique needs and interests. Here are some examples of what you can do for your school.

### 1. Reading Garden

Turn a courtyard or other outdoor space into an inviting area to read. Install benches and walkways, plant flowers, bushes and flowering trees. Include grassy areas and shady trees where children can stretch out with a good book and begin a lifelong habit of reading for pleasure.

### 2. Vegetable Garden

Tie together history, social studies, math and science. Ask parents and their children to volunteer on a weekend to prepare the soil and plant the crops. Incorporate the garden into classroom lessons centered on planning the layout of the garden, projecting its yield, and predicting the effect of weather patterns on the crops. Plant vegetables the colonists grew, or grow a crop that played an important historical role or is vital to the local economy.

### 3. Physical Fitness Area

Create walking trails on school property with exercise stations interspersed throughout. Install simple wooden posts, benches, and bars along with weatherproof signs with step-by-step instructions on how to use the equipment. Incorporate the outdoor exercise areas into the physical education curriculum and encourage families to use the facilities during evenings and weekends.

#### 4. School Nature Trail

Map out a route and recruit volunteers to help clear a swath through a wooded area to be used for environmental education. Lay down woodchips to cut down on maintenance and to make walking easier. Mark native plants and other natural features with descriptive signs. Lay down boardwalk over swampy areas and create viewing platforms. Purchase field guides and binoculars to be used by students. Have an opening day celebration with healthy treats to show off this new community asset and to recognize and acknowledge the hard work of your volunteers.

#### 5. Playground

Build a new playground or replace worn-out and broken equipment to make your playground safe and fun. Clear the area of trash, debris, and weeds; cut back overgrown plant life and install new, age-appropriate equipment. Cushion the ground with a fresh layer of woodchips, pea-gravel, or rubber matting. Add handicapped-accessible structures and create pathways to allow for wheelchair access.

This school year, the program will award grants up to \$2,000 to at least 100 schools. In some cases, grants for up to \$20,000 may be awarded to schools or school districts with major outdoor classroom projects. The grants can be used to build a new outdoor classroom or to enhance a current outdoor classroom at the school.

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/index.html>

### **2009 Project Orange Thumb**

Project Orange Thumb is committed to encouraging, sharing, and inspiring creative expression in gardening.

Within U.S. and Canada twenty (20) grant recipients will be selected. Each will receive up to \$1,500 in Fiskars garden tools and up to \$800.00 in gardening-related materials (i.e. green goods). Four grant recipients will also be awarded within Australia. Each of these recipients will receive up to \$1,000 in Fiskars Tools and up to \$1,000 in gardening related materials (i.e. green goods). Prizes are not transferable, or substitutable, except by Sponsor at its sole discretion. Failure to collect or properly claim grant in accordance with these rules or to comply with these rules will result in forfeiture of the grant. If forfeited for any reason, recipients will not receive any other substitution or compensation. All federal, state/provincial and local taxes related to any prize are the sole responsibility of grant recipients.

Gardens and/or gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture and/or horticultural education are eligible. Community garden groups, as well as schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities are all encouraged to apply. Only group applications will be considered; single individuals are not eligible for a Project Orange Thumb grant. This is not a contest or sweepstakes.

Applications Open: November 3, 2008

Applications Deadline: February 17, 2009\*

<http://projectorangethumb.com/pot/>

## Federal Transportation Funding

**Recreational Trails Program** : This program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and managed by trail administrators in each state . It is a grant program designed to be competitive; therefore, only projects that meet certain criteria may be funded: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development or rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and linkages, acquisition of necessary easements, associated administrative costs, new trails and educational programs. At least 30 percent of all funds must be used for non-motorized trails, and since 1995 this program has helped construct more than 100 miles of trail.

**Transportation Enhancements Program (TE)** : TE activities are projects that, according to the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC), "expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure." As 10 percent of the Surface Transportation Program, TE is a large potential source of funding for trail projects; more information is available at NTEC's Web site.

**Safe Routes to School (SRTS)** : Funded by FHWA, SRTS provides funds to improve the safety and availability of bicycle and pedestrian facilities to primary and middle school students. As with the Recreational Trails Program, each state has a SRTS coordinator responsible for administering the program. More information is available at the National Center for Safe Routes to School .

**Transportation, Community and System Preservation Program (TCSP)** : Only states, MPOs, local governments and tribal governments are eligible recipients of TCSP grants from FHWA, though a non-profit group could partner with an eligible recipient. TCSP projects should improve the efficiency of the transportation system, reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment, reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure, ensure efficient access to jobs, services and centers of trade, and encourage private sector development patterns. Trails are an eligible use of program funds; in FY 2008 eight trail projects received a total of \$5,365,500 in TCSP funds. According to the National Park Service's RTCA program, this discretionary funding source is usually monies requested through elected congressional officials (earmarks).

## Non-transportation Federal Funding and Assistance

**National Recreation Trails (NRT)** : NRT designation from the Secretary of the Interior recognizes exemplary existing trails of local or regional significance. NRT designation provides benefits , including access to technical assistance from NRT partners and listing in a database of National Recreation Trails. In addition, some potential support sources will take NRT designation into account when making funding decisions. The NRT program is open to applications.

**Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)** : RTCA is a technical assistance arm of the National Park Service dedicated to helping local groups and communities preserve and develop open space, trails and greenways. RTCA is an important resource center for many trail builders in urban, rural and suburban areas. "Instead of money," their Web site notes, "[RTCA] supplies a staff person with extensive experience in community-based conservation to work with a local group on a project."

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** : This 50/50 matching grant program is administered by state agencies in cooperation with the National Park Service. Program funds are intended for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas; trails are one priority of this program.

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)** : Providing annual grants on a formula basis to local governments and states for a wide range of community planning initiatives, CDBG monies have been used for trails. For example, the Fairfield Heritage Trail in Ohio used CDBG funds for a portion of trail construction. CDBG projects must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums or blight, and address community development needs having a particular urgency.

**Brownfields Funding Sources:** Many rail corridors are contaminated from years of industrial use. To remediate this environmental pollution, there are many federal and state funding sources for brownfields from which trails can benefit. The Environmental Protection Agency has devoted a section of its Web site to funding and financing for brownfields. Many trails have taken advantage of brownfield funding, including Rhode Island's Woonasquatucket River Greenway Project, the Elkins Railyard redevelopment in West Virginia, and the Assabet River Rail Trail in Massachusetts. A listing from the Trust for Public Land shows examples of brownfields converted to parkland.

### **U.S. Potato Board \$25,000 In School Wellness Grants To Promote Healthy School Nutrition Environments**

The U.S. Potato Board (USPB) has supported nutrition education in schools for decades. In its newest educational initiative, the USPB will team up with the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) of the School Nutrition Association to launch its first-ever School Wellness Grant Program. Ten (10) grants of \$2,500 each will be awarded to public elementary schools in the United States for equipment and/or educational programs that will help move children toward healthier diets and improve their overall wellness.

With childhood obesity at epidemic proportions and the initiation of school wellness policies across the country, many school nutrition program directors are faced with finding healthful, tasty vegetables their students will actually eat. At the same time, schools want to provide outlets for physical activity to help children be healthier and more active. The USPB's grant program is unique in that it allows schools to allocate funds toward the improvement of either the nutrition or physical activity of students – or both – whatever their students need the most.

<http://www.potatogoodness.com/healthEducators.php>

### **MDA Seeks Specialty Crop Grant Proposals**

The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) is seeking grant proposals from organizations or groups of individuals interested in enhancing the competitiveness of the state's specialty crop industry. Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and nursery crops (including floriculture). Livestock, poultry, marine or fresh water aquaculture are not considered specialty crops. Grain and feed crops such as barley, corn, hay, oats, alfalfa, rye, and wheat are also not eligible for funding under this program.

"Specialty crops are an important segment of Missouri agriculture," said Lane McConnell, MDA Marketing Specialist. "This funding can help producers with research, production, promotion, processing, education, and distribution, and can benefit retail or wholesale producers as well."

MDA is requesting the grant proposals as part of its effort to develop a state plan for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

According to the USDA guidelines, examples of "enhancing the competitiveness" of specialty crops includes, but is not limited to: research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, "buy local" programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distributions systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, and developing cooperatives.

Proposals that involve collaboration or partnerships between producers, industry groups, academics, or other organizations are encouraged and will be given priority.

Deadline for submitting applications is Monday, January 5, 2009 by 4:00 p.m. There is \$90,000 available for grant funds. The division of funds will be based on the quality of proposals as recommended in the formal grant selection process. A \$5,000 maximum amount is available for each grant, but the department reserves the right to award an outstanding project(s) with more grant funds. Only one proposal per organization will be accepted.

For grant proposal guidelines and application information, please visit the MDA Web site [www.mda.mo.gov](http://www.mda.mo.gov) or call 866-466-8283. For questions regarding the grant opportunity contact Lane McConnell at 573-526-4984 or via e-mail [Lane.McConnell@mda.mo.gov](mailto:Lane.McConnell@mda.mo.gov).

### **School Food Program Funding Support for K-6 Healthy Food Programs**

The **Love Your Veggies Grant Program**, sponsored by the makers of Hidden Valley Salad Dressings, supports elementary school programs across the country that increase student access to, and consumption of fresh, healthy foods. The initiative will award \$15,000 grants to ten elementary schools in order to help them develop a program offering fresh produce, implemented as early as April 2009 and lasting through the 2009-2010 school year. Funds may be used for any of the following: the purchase of fresh produce, a vegetable station (such as a salad bar), kitchen equipment, program staffing, nutrition education supplies, or food safety training. Online applications must be submitted by November 7, 2008. Detailed application guidelines are available on the website. <http://loveyourveggiesgrants.org/guidelines.php>

### **NIKE Bowerman Track Renovation Program**

Deadline for Applications-Ongoing through May 31, 2009

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program provides matching cash grants to community-based, youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks. The program distributes approximately \$200,000 in matching grants each year. This 10 year, \$2 million program, administered by Nike's Community Affairs department, provides matching funds of up to \$50,000 to youth-oriented non-profit organizations anywhere in the world. Organizations applying for the grant must demonstrate a need for running track refurbishment or construction. Grant recipients will provide track access to neighboring communities. Bowerman Track Renovation Program funds must be matched in some amount by other contributors by an agreed upon deadline. Recipients of a Bowerman Track Renovation grant are encouraged, but not required, to use Nike Grind technology to resurface their track. Nike Grind material is made of recycled athletic shoes sliced and ground into rubber granules, providing a superior, environmentally conscious all-weather track surface.

### **KaBOOM! Community Partner Funding Opportunities**

is a national non-profit organization that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America. Celebrating twelve years of service, KaBOOM! facilitates the planning and construction of playspaces and provides resources, including trainings, challenge grants, and publications for communities that wish to plan a new playspace on their own and bring together children, business and community interests. In addition, KaBOOM! rallies communities to achieve better public policy, funding and public awareness for increased play opportunities nationwide.

Community Partners are organizations interested in providing safe places for children to play. We work with a myriad of types of organizations, including non-profits, schools, parks, municipalities, neighborhood associations, and other youth-serving organizations, bringing them together with funding from Corporate Partners. Each Community Partner for KaBOOM! projects must have access to a good location

for a playground and bring the energy and enthusiasm needed to plan, fundraise, and actually build the playground. Find out more about Community Partner funding opportunities here: <http://kaboom.org/WhatWeDo/Grants/CommunityPartnerBuilds/tabid/80/Default.aspx>

### **Tony Hawk Foundation—Skate Parks**

[http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/grant\\_application.asp](http://www.tonyhawkfoundation.org/grant_application.asp)

The primary mission of the Tony Hawk Foundation is to promote high-quality, public skateparks in low-income areas throughout the United States. While we realize that not every area can afford to build big, expensive skateparks, we feel strongly that public skateparks should be designed and constructed by experienced contractors. We also believe that local officials should treat public skateparks the same way they treat public basketball courts or tennis courts, meaning that anyone may show up and use them anytime, unsupervised. The foundation primarily considers skatepark projects that:

- are designed and built by qualified and experienced skatepark contractors.
- include local skaters in the design process.
- are in low-income areas, and/or areas with a high population of "at-risk" youth.
- can demonstrate a strong grassroots commitment to the project, particularly in the form of fundraising by local skateboarders and other community groups.
- have a creative mix of street obstacles (rails, funboxes, launch ramps, etc..) and transition/vert terrain (quarterpipes, bowls, snake runs, halfpipes, etc..).
- don't require skaters or their parents to sign waivers.
- encourage skaters to look after their own safety and the safety of others without restricting their access to the park or over-regulating their use of it.
- are open during daylight hours, 365 days a year.
- don't charge an entrance fee.
- are in areas that currently have no skateboarding facilities.

### **National Gardening Association - Youth Garden Grants Program**

NGA is delighted to announce that The Home Depot has returned as our Youth Garden Grants sponsor for 2009. For more than 25 years, NGA's Youth Garden Grants program has helped more than 1.3 million youngsters reap rewards and vital life lessons from working in gardens and habitats, and thanks to the generosity of The Home Depot, we can reach many more eager young learners.

The application deadline for the 2009 cycle has passed. Applicants will be notified of their status by February 15, 2009. If you'd like to be notified when applications for the 2010 cycle are available, please subscribe to Kids Garden News.

#### **Program Criteria**

NGA awards Youth Garden Grants to schools and community organizations with child-centered garden programs. In evaluating grant applications, priority will be given to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements:

- educational focus and/or curricular ties (if applicant is a formal education program)
- nutrition or plant-to-food connections
- environmental awareness/education
- entrepreneurship
- social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning.

Who should apply: Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment facilities, and intergenerational groups throughout the United States are eligible. Applicants must plan to garden in 2009 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 years. Previous Youth Garden Grant winners who wish to reapply may do so, but must wait one year (e.g., if you won in 2008, you can apply again in 2010) and have significantly expanded their garden programs.

For the 2009 grant cycle, 125 grants are available. Packages are as follows:

Five (5) programs will receive gift cards valued at \$1000 (a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog and store) and educational materials from NGA

Seventy (70) programs will receive a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot and educational materials from NGA

Fifty (50) programs will receive a \$250 gift card to The Home Depot and educational materials from NGA

### **National Gardening Association - Mantis Awards for Community and Youth Gardens**

Each year, Mantis presents the Mantis Awards for charitable and educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life in their host communities. NGA selects 25 outstanding applicants to receive Mantis tiller/cultivators.

Any nonprofit garden program may apply. In the past, winners have included schools, churches, correctional facilities, parks departments, youth camps, community gardens, and many others. These are groups turning slim resources into bountiful gardens with far-reaching benefits, from increasing their community's access to fresh nutritious foods to educating the public about the importance of gardening in our nation's history.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must:

operate a charitable or educational program that is not for profit

not offer the tiller as a prize for fundraising (e.g., auction or raffle)

### **National Gardening Association - Hooked on Hydroponics**

When children and teens explore how to grow plants hydroponically (without soil), fruitful questions bloom, and these questions can lead to active investigations and problem solving. These studies may even lead to classroom business opportunities or fuel student career interests. Not the least of the benefits is the joy of students harvesting a crop of their own incredible edibles or bounteous blossoms!

The Grow Store and ProgressiveGardening.org join NGA to offer these grants to expand these exciting learning opportunities for students.

Wondering if a hydroponic unit is right for your classroom? Check out the descriptions of equipment packages, including component specs and classroom activity suggestions:

Elementary School Equipment Packages: 12 grants

Middle School Equipment Packages: 16 grants

High School Equipment Packages: 8 grants

Please also visit our online Exploring Hydroponics guide for examples of topics and lessons you can pursue.

### **National Gardening Association - Healthy Sprouts Awards**

To be eligible for the 2008 Healthy Sprouts Awards, your school or organization must plan to garden in 2009 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. The selection of winners is based on the demonstrated relationship between the garden program and nutrition and hunger issues in the United States.

This year we will present awards to 20 schools or organizations. Each program will receive:

gift certificates towards the purchase of gardening materials from our sponsoring company, Gardener's Supply Company. The top 5 will each receive a certificate valued at \$500; 15 more will each receive a \$200 gift certificate NGA's Eat a Rainbow Kit, chock full of engaging taste education and nutrition lessons 25 packets of seeds a literature package from NGA