

School Garden & Wildlife Habitat Grant Frequently Asked Questions



Two \$500 grants will be awarded annually by the Audubon Society of Central Maryland (ASCM) to schools developing wildlife and/or native plant gardens or habitats. The 2015-2016 school year is the twelfth anniversary of the grant program's creation.

I. *What types of projects will we fund?*

- Wildlife habitat improvement projects, native plant and rain gardens, at sites including primary or secondary schools, public or private, and nature centers that work with such schools.
- Materials we will fund include plants, gardening tools, soil improvement materials, and mulch. Other possibilities might be gardening, wildlife, or natural history books for a school library to enhance the educational value of the project.
- We will not fund projects on private property or pay for experts to design or construct the project. Work should be done by students, teachers, and community volunteers.

II. *What are the application procedures?*

- **Who can apply?** A school or center official such as a teacher or administrator should complete an application, with student assistance if possible.
- **How do I work with my school?** Schools differ, but a good place to start is often with the grounds department to discuss plant choice, placement, and maintenance. See resource list for guides to developing your project.
- **What is the deadline?** December 15 of each year. Grant recipients will be notified by January 30th so that plans can be underway before planting season.
- **Who will evaluate applications?** A committee of three ASCM volunteers, including the grant coordinator.

III. *Will projects be monitored?*

- Successful applicants will be asked to report on how they used the funds and how the project benefited their school and the environment.
- A member of the grant committee will visit each site if possible.

For more information about the grant or to obtain an application, please visit our website, <http://www.centralmdaudubon.org/>, or contact Julie Dunlap, Grant Coordinator, 410-381-8710, juliejdunlap@earthlink.net.

Applications for the 2015-2016 school year are due December 15, 2015, to be emailed (preferred) or mailed to Julie Dunlap (6371 Tinted Hill, Columbia, MD, 21045). For general information about the Audubon Society of Central Maryland, please contact ASCM, P.O. Box 660, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 or visit our website, <http://www.centralmdaudubon.org/>.