

OWLS APPLICATION

Name of School: _____
Address: _____
County: _____
Phone Number: _____
Name of Applicant: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Date: _____
Email: _____

Approximate size of potential or existing outdoor learning laboratory (or OWLS).
acres: _____ sq ft.: _____

Main features planned for this OWLS:

____ wetland
____ prairie
____ songbird plantings of trees and shrubs
____ butterfly/hummingbird garden
____ interpretive trail
____ feeders
____ reptile garden
____ frog pond
____ Other: _____

Anticipated cooperating organizations and agencies:

Has an OWLS committee for your site already been set up? ____ Yes ____ No

Have you contacted or worked with any representative of KDWP? If so, who?

____ Yes _____
____ No _____

Mail completed application to:
KDWP - ATTN: OWLS
512 SE 25th Ave.
Pratt, KS 67124
(620) 672-0751

or email completed application to:
Shelby.Stevens@ks.gov

OWLS STEP-BY-STEP

- 1** The school requests additional information about the OWLS program and/or sends completed application (see OWLS application to left) to the OWLS office in Pratt.
- 2** The OWLS office shares the application with the local KDWP district biologist. The school is directed to the KDWP website to review program guidelines and examples of successful projects.
- 3** The school forms an OWLS committee and selects an on-site project coordinator.
- 4** The on-site project coordinator contacts the local KDWP biologist and/or other resource professionals for guidance in preparing a project grant proposal.
- 5** The school's OWLS committee prepares the grant proposal, and the on-site project coordinator submits it to the OWLS office for review.
- 6** The OWLS office reviews the grant proposal. Proposals will either be accepted or returned to the on-site project coordinator for refinement and resubmission.
- 7** Grants proposals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Funding is contingent upon the available budget within the applied fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).
- 8** Approved grant contracts are sent to the on-site project coordinator for signature and returned to the OWLS office.
- 9** Grant funds, by check, for the approved amount are sent to the school, and work on the approved project may begin.

**"IN THE END, WE WILL CONSERVE
ONLY WHAT WE LOVE,
WE WILL LOVE ONLY
WHAT WE UNDERSTAND,
WE WILL UNDERSTAND
ONLY WHAT WE ARE TAUGHT"**

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Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**



**Learning about
the outdoors
by being outdoors.**

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) is a key partner in the OWLS program, offering teacher trainings such as Project WILD, WILD Aquatic, Growing Up WILD, Project Learning Tree, Project WET, the Leopold Education Project and more.
For details, visit www.kacee.org.



WHAT IS AN OWLS?

OWLS stands for Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site, a program sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). Most OWLS are located at or near schools and are designed to enhance wildlife habitat while providing multidisciplinary learning opportunities for students. The initial OWLS grant offers up to \$2,000 for the development of site features. An additional \$1,000 may be available once the site is certified by a KDWP OWLS representative. A Rejuvenation Grant of \$1,000 is also available for existing sites struggling to meet site objectives or expectations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Schools, public institutions and service organizations are eligible to apply for OWLS grants. Anyone with proper authorization may complete the application. Schools may create new features or enhance existing ones, such as wetlands, sheltered areas and food plots. Technical assistance is available from KDWP and other natural resource organizations.

WHY DO WE NEED OWLS?

Each new generation eventually assumes responsibility for the environment. The OWLS program emphasizes hands-on activities that increase students' understanding and awareness of sound ecological concepts and practices. By implementing land-use activities that enhance wildlife and other natural resources, students of all ages are given the opportunity to develop a greater awareness and appreciation for their natural environment.

OWLS FEATURES?

An OWLS site can be as simple as a few demonstration plots of native grasses and wildflowers with a small frog pond, or as complex as several areas of diverse habitat with natural wetlands. Features designed to attract wildlife and support educational opportunities may include butterfly and hummingbird gardens, rock gardens, food plots, bird feeders and houses, shelter plots of trees and shrubs, composting areas, trails, windbreaks, xeriscaping demonstration areas, or agricultural plots.

SCHOOL OWLS COMMITTEE?

Organizing an OWLS committee as early as possible is one of the first steps in establishing an OWLS site. Be sure all stakeholders are represented, including students, teachers, administrators, school groups such as PTA, and maintenance personnel. This committee serves as the driving force behind each OWLS site. It generates ideas, offers suggestions and forms subcommittees to complete the proposal and oversee site development.

The committee is encouraged to seek community support for planning and developing the site. Potential partners could include the local KDWP district biologist, county extension agents and other local experts, such as garden club members or individuals in the nursery business or related fields. The committee should also designate a project coordinator to complete and submit the OWLS proposal.

Finally, make sure you understand how OWLS concepts will be integrated into the school's ongoing curriculum. Every project and site feature should have a desired educational outcome.