

Lexington Wild Ones 2025 Garden Grant

Overview

Wild Ones Lexington is sponsoring two Garden Grants to encourage the planting of native plants.

Two grants of \$300 each will be awarded, unless suitable applications are not received.

Grant funds can be used to create a new garden or expand an existing garden. The garden location can be a front yard, the median between the sidewalk and the street, or on property that is open to the public such as a park, public greenspace, school, library, church, the public area of a homeowners association, or a not-for-profit institution or business with publicly accessible grounds. The location can be on private or public property, as long as the garden is visible to the public.

Grants are awarded based on the proposal's suitability to the site and long-term sustainability. If no suitable or sustainable projects are proposed, grants will not be awarded this year.

Suitability of the location is strictly at the discretion of the Wild Ones Grant Committee.

This is a reimbursement grant and receipts for purchases will be required before funds are distributed.

Guidelines and Restrictions

If your garden is planned for an easement or government right-of-way property, city guidelines apply, and in some cases HOA rules may be a factor. Please note, the grant applicant alone is responsible for ensuring that the planting does not violate city guidelines or HOA rules.

These guidelines include:

- Plants must not block visibility of the street for cars pulling in and out of a driveway.
- Plants must be maintained at or below 2 ½ feet height.
- Plantings must be maintained so plants do not block the sidewalk.
- Consideration must be given to people exiting vehicles on the street, trash cart placement, etc.
- Allow for 10 feet of clearance around fire hydrants for accessibility.
- Call 811 to have utility lines marked before digging. In many cases, the lines aren't buried deeply.

The list above is not intended as inclusive of everything that should be considered before planting.

If the applicant is not the legal owner of the planned garden location, the application must include a written project approval from the location's owner.

The garden must contain 85% native plants. Although non-native plants may currently exist in the garden, funds will not be provided for non-native plants.

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Eligible Applicants

The applicant must be a Wild Ones Lexington chapter member, or must become a member before the grant will be awarded.

A chapter member may apply on behalf of a group, if they plan to provide guidance and oversight throughout the project. In this case, the Wild Ones member will be responsible for ensuring that the grant goals are achieved, and will serve as the grant point of contact.

Eligible Expenses

Grant funds may be used for native plants or native plant seeds only. Grant funds are not to be used for labor costs or materials such as mulch, stone, garden edging, etc.

Timeline

Applications Due	April 11, 2025
Grant Recipient Announcement Date	May 9, 2025
Final Receipt Due Date	Dec. 12, 2025

Ideally, planting should be completed within the calendar year. If there are unforeseen circumstances and an extension is needed, the applicant should contact the Grant Committee Chair (Dale Epperson), at dale@gardener.com

Resources

The Wild Ones Lexington Chapter holds a native plant exchange the first Thursday in May, this is an excellent source for native plants. The Chapter web page has a list of local native plant providers and native plant focused landscaping services.

The city of Lexington supports projects that beautify the city's green spaces and provide pollinator-friendly landscaping; the city has a website (<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/PlantByNumbers>) to provide design suggestions, yard preparation steps, maintenance suggestions, and much more.

In 2025, the Fayette County Extension Office is focusing some of the Gardener's Toolbox classes on native plants.

The National Wildlife Federation (www.nwf.org) has a native plant finder and a link to purchase bundles of native plants.

The Kentucky Native Plant Society (www.knps.org) is also a good resource for native plant information.

Additionally, many local gardeners are ever-willing to share native plant divisions, cultivation tips, and other resources. Ask around at our monthly Lexington Wild Ones meetings.

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Outcome Reporting and Distribution of Funds

We ask for three dated photo sets of the planting site, all submitted during the grant year. The photos should represent the following stages: Before planting (or sowing), during the planting project, and several weeks after planting (after everything has bulked up a bit and become more established). Pictures should be submitted with receipts, which will be applied towards reimbursement.

Additionally, a rough design outline must be provided on the application that details the scope of the work alongside a general planting plan. This plan should include (at minimum) a simple labeled sketch that takes into consideration prevailing site conditions (the amount of available sun and moisture, etc.). Moderate variation from the design outline, based on local plant availability, is not uncommon and will not impact fund disbursement.

Before grant funds can be distributed, pictures and receipts for purchases must be submitted. Receipts will be reviewed to be sure funds were spent as specified.

Receipts and pictures should be sent to Dale Epperson, via either text message (to 859-644-9122), email in .pdf format (to dale@gardener.com), or physical mail sent to 121 Saint Margaret Drive #6, Lexington, KY 40502.

If receipts are not received by December 12 of the grant award year, the grant will be considered void. Funds will not be distributed for receipts received after December 12 of the grant year.

Pictures will become the property of Wild Ones Lexington chapter and will be used to inspire future grantees.

Note that members of the Board are prepared to offer support and advice (if needed), both prior to submission and throughout the project period. The board will also continue to be available for consultation about the management of the garden after grant completion.

If you have any questions, please email Dale Epperson (dale@gardener.com), or Geraldine Krause (gknky@protonmail.com).

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Application Form

I. Applicant Information

1. Name (must be a Wild Ones member):
2. Phone:
3. Email:
4. Group or organization involved (if any):

II. Project Description

Please provide the following information:

- A. Address and location of the garden on the property:
- B. Site preparation plan / requirements (if any):

III. Future Garden Management

Name the person and/or organization that will take responsibility for garden upkeep:

IV. Attach the following:

1. A picture of the project location as it currently exists.
2. A design sketch, with site-appropriate plants labeled.
3. Written approval from the location's owner (if the applicant is not the owner).

Submit Your Proposal

Submit your proposal one of two ways:

1. Send a .pdf document via email to dale@gardener.com. You will receive a confirmation email, which will complete your submission.
2. Send a paper copy (with all necessary attachments) to Dale Epperson, at 121 Saint Margaret Drive #6, Lexington, KY 40502. In this case, confirmation will arrive via phone or email.

Submissions must be received by the Grant Committee Chair (Dale Epperson) by April 11, 2025.