



## NatureHood Project Application



The Children's Forest of Central Oregon, with support from Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, have funding dedicated to assist schools with the development of student-created projects bettering the environment of schoolyards or local parks. Schools will have the opportunity to improve habitat and develop spaces for outdoor learning opportunities. These areas will be designated as *NatureHoods* and serve as an opportunity for students to be involved in the places where they live and learn.

NatureHood projects should improve habitat, promote stewardship, enhance visitor experiences in local parks, or improve access for students to have outdoor learning experiences. Projects can be wide-ranging and will vary depending on student age, interest, and site. Examples of potential projects include bird houses and bat boxes, bilingual interpretive signs with student artwork, pollinator gardens, monarch waystations, and trails. The Children's Forest NatureHoods Coordinator can provide assistance in planning and coordinating projects.

To apply for NatureHood Project funding, please complete the brief application below. In the process please consider student involvement. Funding and implementation will vary based on project location. If the project is in a schoolyard, permission must be obtained from school facilities staff and/or administration. If the project is in a local park, the Children's Forest will work with the local park and recreation district to obtain permission and coordinate the project.

The funding cap is \$2000, applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with no deadline to apply. You will receive notification of funding decisions two weeks after your application is received. Any Central Oregon K-12 school or preschool facility is eligible to apply. We appreciate your interest in creating a NatureHood and look forward to implementing student ideas!

Please return completed applications to Kim Greene at [kim@childrensforestco.org](mailto:kim@childrensforestco.org).

<b>School:</b>	<b>Teacher Contact(s):</b>
<b>Grade Level(s):</b>	<b>Email(s):</b>

Please give a description of your planned project(s).

**Where is the desired project location?** (If in your schoolyard, do you have permission from your district facilities department and/or principal? If in a local park, do you have easy access to the park?)

**What is the estimated cost of the project? Please provide a simple project budget listing materials needed and estimated cost.**

**How will you engage community members with this project?**

**How will the implementation of this project promote outdoor learning at your school?**

**How might the implementation of this project promote habitat improvement near your school?**

**What is the expected timeline for completion of the project?**



## Tips and Resources



**Include anyone who wants to join-** NatureHood projects work best when many community members are involved. Students, teachers, administration, facilities staff, parents, local businesses, and community organizations can all get involved.

**Think long-term-** Consider maintenance for next year, five years from now, and ten years down the road. What sort of upkeep will need to be done?

**A space for students-** NatureHoods are for students to learn about and get closer to nature. This is a place by them, for them.

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<https://www.childrenandnature.org/learn/tools-resources/>

<http://www.greenschoolyards.org/>

<http://www.lifelab.org/for-educators/schoolgardens/#gettingstarted>

<https://naturalearning.org/greendesk>

<https://www.nwf.org/schoolyard/>