

2026 Seeds of Knowledge Application

2026 Seeds of Knowledge Library Demonstration Garden Grant Application

Thank you for your interest in the Seeds of Knowledge Library Demonstration Garden Grant. This Florida Wildflower Foundation grant program provides funding for installation of a native plant demonstration garden at public libraries and native Florida seed packets for dispersal to the public through a seed library.

The goals of this program are to:

- establish or enhance a native demonstration planting at a public library
- provide educational programming relevant to the planting and its purpose.
- increase the awareness and knowledge of native wildflowers, grasses and flowering shrubs and vines among visitors by demonstrating the benefits and beauty of Florida native plants in cultivated landscapes.
- establish and maintain a seed library on site with Florida Native ecotype seeds and make them available for distribution to the public. (Seeds will be provided by the Foundation and

will be appropriate for the region. Additional yearly support for the seed library may be applied for.)

Grant winners will receive up to \$750, of which a minimum of 80% of the grant funds must be used to purchase native wildflowers, grasses and flowering shrubs and vines (plants or seeds). (Funds may not be used for herbicides, fertilizer, or other chemicals, or for mulch other than pine straw.) Grantees will also receive twice yearly seed deliveries to be packaged and distributed to library patrons, continued support for seed packets is dependent on submitting yearly survey feedback conducted by the Florida Wildflower Foundation.

Applications will be processed beginning on February 16, 2026 and will be awarded based on feasibility, chance of success and merit.

February 18: Applicants will be notified of proposal acceptance or denial. Invoices will be requested at this time for accepted applications.

February 28: Letters of agreement (LOAs) are issued to awardees. Initial payments will be released upon receipt of signed LOA.

March 15: Spring seed packets sent out

August 25: Initial surveys are sent out

September 15: Fall seed packets sent out

To qualify for a Seeds of Knowledge Library Demonstration Garden Grant your library must have a suitable outdoor site with reasonable public access.

At least three photos of your intended garden site must accompany the application.

Grant recipients must:

- remove weeds and grasses from the site before planting the wildflower garden.
- agree not to add any plants to the garden that are considered invasive to Florida. See the FISC List of Invasive Plant Species
- agree not to add potting soil and fertilizer to the garden.
- agree not to use cypress mulch. (Acceptable mulches are pine straw)
- protect the garden from foot traffic and unauthorized mowing.
- have a plan for continued maintenance to ensure garden's survival.

- Agree to host an on-site native seed library to provide free seed packets to library patrons. Seeds of suitable Florida native ecotypes will be provided by the Florida Wildflower Foundation twice yearly, conditional on completion of feedback surveys. We also encourage Libraries to expand the seed library to include seeds collected on site from the demonstration garden.
- Use all requested funds for the initial garden installation. We encourage partnering with community groups such as garden clubs, master gardeners and Florida Native Plant Society chapters to ensure garden success.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact Marina Mertz, program coordinator, at MMertz@FlaWildflowers.org or 850-270-7715.

ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED IN ONE SITTING IN ORDER TO SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION. It is strongly recommended that you read all questions and have your answers ready before beginning the online application. After submitting the application you should see a confirmation page and receive a confirmation email. If you do not, there may be an error with your application. Please contact MMertz@FlaWildflowers.org with questions.

This program is funded by donations made through the sale of the State Wildflower license plate. To purchase a tag or become a member of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, visit FlaWildflowers.org/support.



Library Information:

- * How did you hear about our grant?

Library branch in our system was awarded for 20.

- * In which county will this project be located? (Recipients must be located in Florida.)

Hernando

- * What is the name of the library at which your garden will be located?

Spring Hill Branch Library

- * Who will be planting and tending to the garden?

Jennifer Hodges, Jeannie DeVecchio, Belicia Tor

Project Lead Contact Information

(Recipients must be located in Florida.)

* Name

Jennifer

Hodges

First

Last

* Library Address

9220 SPRING HILL DR

Street Address

Address Line 2

SPRING HILL

City

FL

State / Province / Region

34608

Postal / Zip Code

United States

Country

* Project Lead Email

jhodges@co.hernando.fl.us

* Cell Phone Number

813

-

929

-

9698

Library administrator contact information.
(Recipients must be located in Florida.)

* Name

Cynthia

Loftis-Culp

First

Last

* Email

cloftisculp@co.hernando.fl.us

* Library Phone Number

352

-

754

-

4043

* I have received permission from the library administrator named above to apply for a Seeds of Knowledge grant and, if awarded, to plant a wildflower garden on library grounds.

Yes



* Is the library located on city or county property?

County



We encourage libraries to partner with a community volunteer or organization who will commit to regularly work in the garden and ensure survival. Tell us if there is anyone

you plan to recruit (master gardener, Florida Native Plant Society member, garden club member, etc.).

The library will partner with the Hernando Audubon Society and Florida Master Gardeners to support the long-term care of the garden. These community partners will assist with planting guidance, native plant selection, and ongoing maintenance to ensure plant health and sustainability. Library staff will coordinate with volunteers to schedule regular check-ins and stewardship activities,

- * Provide any other information as to why the Foundation should provide grant funding for your project.

as a living classroom for programs such as environmental literacy workshops, youth activities, and citizen science initiatives, strengthening community engagement and environmental awareness.

Grant funding will allow the Library to make a visible, lasting investment in a high-impact project that aligns with sustainability goals, education, and community enrichment. The garden will be

- * Have you received a previous grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation?

No



About Your Garden

In this section, you will provide information about the wildflower garden site, which should be determined prior to applying for this grant.

- * What is the general location and total approximate area where wildflowers will be planted (square feet)?

The Spring Hill Branch Library proposes to establish a sunny, rectangular 400 sq ft demonstration garden incorporating existing hardscape features including a concrete slab, stepping-stone path, and picnic table. The garden will be fully native and designed for high ecological value, using plant species that support pollinators, birds, and local ecosystems. Features will include native

Maximum of 100 words.

77

- * Describe the garden space? Do you already have a dedicated outdoor learning site? Is your garden site prepared? Is the site free of sod? If non-native species are present, what are your plans for removal?

The garden space is a sunny, rectangular area located behind the library, adjacent to an existing patio and bordering a natural wooded area. While not currently a formal outdoor classroom, this project will establish a dedicated outdoor learning site for education and passive enjoyment. The site will be tilled and amended with topsoil prior to planting. Existing non-native vegetation will be

Maximum of 100 words.

94

How will you water your garden

Sprinkler

- * What light exposure best describes where most or all of the wildflowers will be planted?

Full sun (more than 6 hours of direct sun from 9am to 5 pm)

- * What is the soil type at the project site?

Sand

- * How would you describe the soil moisture where most or all of the wildflowers will be planted?

Dry

- * Please upload a project budget outlining how you plan to spend the grant funds. You may request up to \$750; however, only request the amount you can reasonably use at this time. Smaller projects and funding requests are welcome.



9.49KB

Library Garden Budget 01...

Remove File

Please upload a garden site design.

* this does not need to be a professional drawing, hand drawn is great. If you need additional support with this step, please reach out to MMertz@FlaWildflowers.org.




Final Agreement

In this section you will upload your 3 garden application photos and agree to the terms of the Seeds of Knowledge Grant

To consider your application, we must receive three photos of the space where wildflowers will be planted. Please upload the images below. Be sure to include your library name in the file name of the image. Maximum file size is 10mb. If you would like to send additional photos, you may email them to MMertz@FlaWildflowers.org.

* Upload a photo




738.69KB

Spring Hill Library Back G...

Remove File

* Upload a photo




2.47MB

Spring Hill Library Back G...

Remove File

* Upload a photo



564.86KB

Spring Hill Library Back G...

Remove File

* Important grant considerations:

	I Agree	I Disagree
Garden will be tended by staff or volunteers to ensure survival.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	I Agree	I Disagree
Informational handouts or brochures will be made available. (FWF will provide unless library chooses to create its own)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native plant and/or related programming will take place. (The Florida Wildflower Foundation can typically provide programming support. Other organizations that may offer relevant programming in local Florida Native Plant Society chapters, UF IFAS Extensio	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive signage will be displayed explaining the purpose/benefits of planting (provided by FWF; signage will include a QR code to a survey).	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Garden will be watered until established, and thereafter as needed.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The garden will be protected from mowing and foot traffic.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildflowers will not be fertilized.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Only light mulch is needed for weed control. Cypress mulch or large pine nugget mulch will not be used.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weeds will be eliminated to maintain integrity of wildflower planting.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No invasive plants will be added to the garden. See <u>the FISC List of Invasive Plant Species</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grantees must pursue at least one media outlet (within 60 days of garden installation) in which an article or video that describes the native wildflower planting will appear.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Applicant Agreement for Reporting

- * A final report will be due in January 2025 and will be in the form of an online questionnaire assessing how well the project has met the goals of the Seeds of Knowledge grant program.

Please respond to the following regarding the final report:

	I Agree	I Disagree
A survey will be completed in January 2025	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
FWF staff may conduct site visits for confirmation of grant fulfillment and photography.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A minimum of three high resolution, color images in jpg format, 300 DPI or more, will be attached to survey or emailed to MMertz@FlaWildflowers.org in December.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At least one image will show the native wildflowers in bloom.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At least one image will show patrons visting the wildflower garden.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand that if the library seed program is successful, I may qualify for additional Florida wildflower seed packets continuing twice yearly going forward. Continued seed library support is contingent on completing feedback survey	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you for completing this application and for your interest in Florida's wildflowers. You will receive an

acknowledgement email to confirm receipt of your application. The Foundation will email by July 1st, 2025 concerning the acceptance of your application.

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Library Native Garden Project Budget (Requested Grant: \$750)

Line Item	Description	Qty	Unit Cost	Requested Grant (\$)	In-Kind (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Native & Florida-Friendly Plants	Pollinator plants, shrubs, groundcover	1	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Topsoil & Soil Amendments	Topsoil, compost/soil conditioner, mulch	1	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Site Preparation Supplies	Hand tools, gloves, edging, small supplies	1	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Educational Signage	Weather-resistant plant/habitat signs	1	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Contingency / Replacement Plants	Replacement plants & unexpected needs	1	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
TOTAL				\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00

Notes:

- Volunteer labor and ongoing maintenance will be provided through partners (Audubon Society and Florida Master Gardeners).
- Costs reflect materials only; existing hardscape/pathways will be reused.

LIBRARY

EXISTING PATIO

GARDEN EDUCATION SIGN

WOODLAND AREA

NATIVE
POLLINATOR BED

PLANT
ID SIGN

RAISED PLANTER
WITH TOPSOIL

BIRDS &
BUTTERFLY GARDEN

PLANT
ID SIGN

RAIN BARREL

PINE STRAW
PATHWAY

BIRD BATH

LIBRARY GARDEN PLAN

