

## 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/or agencies:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Have you contacted or worked with any representative of KDWPPT? If so, who?  
 \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Send application form to:  
 OWLS**

**Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
 512 SE 25th Ave.  
 Pratt, KS 67124**

## OWLS STEP-BY-STEP

- 1** School requests information about OWLS or sends filled-out application form to Pratt OWLS office.
- 2** OWLS office sends copy of application to OWLS coordinator and KDWPPT district biologist and sends guidelines to school.
- 3** School forms an OWLS committee and selects an OWLS coordinator.
- 4** Project coordinator contacts KDWPPT district biologist for guidance.
- 5** School OWLS committee prepares grant proposal with assistance of district biologist and other resource persons.
- 6** Project coordinator sends grant proposal to OWLS coordinator for review.
- 7** OWLS coordinator forwards proposal to OWLS office or returns proposal to project director for further refinement.
- 8** OWLS office approves proposal.
- 9** Grant contract is sent to project coordinator.
- 10** Project coordinator returns signed grant contract to OWLS office.
- 11** Check is sent to school.
- 12** School begins project work.

**“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”**

*Baba Dioum*



**Sponsored By The  
 Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks  
 and Tourism**



### FUNDING PARTNERS

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 U.S. Forest Service/Kansas State and Extension Forestry  
 The Boeing Company  
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 Finnup Foundation Trust  
 Didde Corporation  
 Kansas Wildlife Federation*

## WHAT IS AN OWLS?

OWLS is an acronym for Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site. The program is sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT). Most OWLS exist at or near schools and are designed to enhance wildlife habitat and to provide multi-discipline learning opportunities for students. The initial OWLS grant provides \$2,000 for the development of site features. An additional \$1,000 is available once the site has been certified. A Rejuvenation Grant of \$1,000 is now available for existing sites that are having a difficult time fulfilling their objectives or expectations.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Schools, public institutions, or service organizations are eligible for OWLS grants. Anyone with the proper authorization may fill out the application. Schools can create or enhance existing features, such as wetlands, sheltered areas, and food plots. Technical assistance is available from KDWPT as well as other natural resource organizations.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 07/11

## 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. Through the implementation of land use activities, which enhances wildlife and other natural resources, students of all ages are given the opportunity to foster 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 to attract wildlife and provide 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 with information signs and markers, windbreaks, weather stations, xeroscaping demonstration areas, agriculture plots, greenhouses, soil profile boxes, and human impact demonstration plots.

## SCHOOL OWLS COMMITTEE?

Assembling an OWLS team is the first step to establish a site. As soon as possible, organize an OWLS committee. Make sure everyone is represented; this includes students, teachers, administrators, school groups such as PTA, and maintenance personnel. The OWLS committee is the engine behind each OWLS site. It provides ideas and suggestions and formulates sub-committees to accomplish the necessary tasks to complete the proposal and site development projects.

The committee is encouraged to solicit community support to assist in planning and developing the site. This could include key area resource people, such as the district biologist from KDWPT, and county extension agents or local experts, such as garden club members and individuals in the nursery business or related services. The committee should also select a project coordinator who will be in charge of completing the OWLS site proposal.

Make sure you understand how you will apply the OWLS concepts to the school’s ongoing curriculum. There should be some desired educational outcome for every project and site feature.

In cooperation with:  
Kansas Advisory Council for  
Environmental Education;  
Kansas Association of  
Conservation Districts;  
National Resources  
Conservation Service;  
Project Learning Tree;  
Project WILD.

