

- Are any physical structures (buildings, flower beds, courtyards) included in site use and enhancement plans?
- Why do you want to develop this area?
- What do you mean by develop? Land lab?
- Where will funding come from?
- Is liability a concern?
- What type of assistance do you want from the community, resource agency, and others?
- Should you form a committee?



# WILD SCHOOL SITES

Places to learn, grow, lead, teach, and mature

The ODNR Division of Wildlife, as the implementing agency of the WILD School Site project in Ohio, provides workshops for teachers, on-site consultations, grants, and resource materials to help school site planners select and create WILD School Site projects and activities.

You can apply for grants for \$500 from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> each calendar year. You can find grant information on our website at [www.ohiodnr.com](http://www.ohiodnr.com).

For more information: Division of Wildlife, Outdoor Education Section, 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G-1, Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693, 1-800-WILDLIFE or (614) 265-6316.

## WILD School Site Certification

WILD School Sites that demonstrate program development and site enhancement consistent with the premises outlined in this publication are eligible for certification as an official Ohio WILD School Site. To receive an application for certification please write or call the above address or phone number.



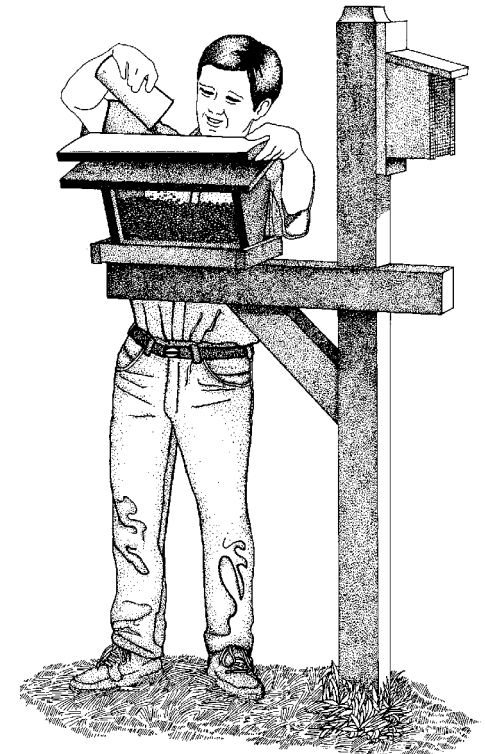
1-800-WILDLIFE  
[www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com)



Project WILD



Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife  
Publication 291 (R305)  
Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/H



An extension of Project WILD administered in Ohio by the ODNR Division of Wildlife

## What is a WILD School Site?

A WILD School Site is any school property used by students, teachers, and the school community as a place to learn about and benefit wildlife and the environment.

WILD School Sites function within the premise that every school, regardless of size and location, provides outdoor educational opportunities that can and should be part of an integrated environmental education program.

WILD School Sites provide opportunities for students to apply and use what they know.

A WILD School Site project is any action, small or large, that is taken to improve the schoolyard habitat for wildlife and people.

## Why WILD School Sites?

Interest in wildlife and environmental education has never been greater. The world needs youth who will grow up to make informed, responsible, and constructive decisions to conserve and protect wildlife and the quality of the environment. In many cases, the proper setting does not exist at schools to view, study, observe, and teach topics related to wildlife and how species interact within their environment.

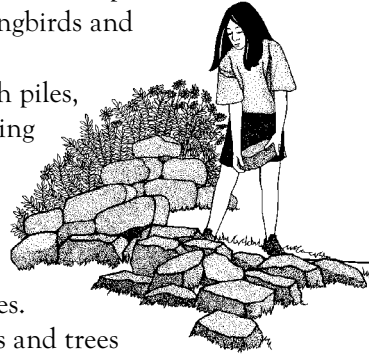
Indoor classrooms are limited for real-life study of the environment and in most cases, the schoolyard may offer only limited natural features such as grass, trees, shrubs, and flowers. Typically asphalt playgrounds, ball fields, sidewalks, and parking lots dominate the schoolyard. Even when natural features are abundant, school sites are underutilized as places for environmental studies.

Most schoolyards were designed and are maintained to serve the needs of people without consideration for the needs of wildlife. When students and teachers undertake projects to improve a school site for wildlife, they are also improving the quality of the environment for learning and teaching. When the school doors are

opened and students and teachers venture outside, a WILD School Site provides a foundation for adventure and action where learning is brought to life.

## Possible WILD School Site Projects

1. Create a garden with plants to attract hummingbirds and butterflies.
2. Create brush piles, rock piles, or rotting log features that serve as shelter for wildlife and activity centers for outdoor studies.
3. Plant shrubs and trees that provide both food and shelter for wildlife.
4. Create a feeding station with a variety of food and feeders for wild birds.
5. Establish a prairie garden as a demonstration of this native Ohio habitat that will provide food and shelter for insects and small mammals.
6. Designate and manage an unmowed plot, allowing annual grasses and forbs to mature and provide food and shelter for a variety of wild animals.
7. Create and manage a trail of nest boxes for cavity nesting birds such as bluebirds, chickadees, titmice, and wrens.
8. Establish a grain food plot to provide winter food for a variety of birds and small mammals.
9. Create, enhance, and maintain water sources such as birdbaths or small ponds.
10. Create perching posts or perching wires that enhance the habitat of perching birds and provide a place to study bird behavior and adaptations.



## Think and Plan Before You Act

There are several premises with which WILD School Site development should be connected. One is that each and every school, no matter where or how large, already has features that could contribute to multidisciplinary and integrated environmental educational programs. If teachers don't recognize the potential of or use the existing site, it's unlikely that any WILD School Site initiative will succeed.

Another premise is that the project should be student focused. An integrated environmental education program often includes curriculum enhancements such as Project WILD activities. Students who gain an understanding of environmental concepts benefit from opportunities to apply that knowledge, to "do something." WILD School Site projects can and should represent opportunities for students to make real world connections. In other words, a school site enhancement needs to be student centered and student driven. If the student community doesn't buy in, it just won't work.

To help keep the project focused and manageable, the following questions might be useful:

- Who will be the contact for this project?
- How is the site being used now?
- In what ways are students involved in site development?
- Is Project WILD (PLT or WET) integrated into the curriculum?
- Who (within the school, community, resource agencies) is involved in the projects?
- What curriculum (subject areas, topics, etc.) will be integrated into site utilization?
- What grade levels use this site?
- What is the history of the site?
- Are there future plans for the site (building expansion, playing fields, etc.)?

