



# ***WILD School Site Program***

Sponsored by NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife

## **Application for Certification of Schoolyard Habitat**

Schools and environmental education centers are encouraged to apply for certification of their habitat through NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife. Your information will be verified by an on-site visit. Schools will receive a promotional sign to post in their schoolyard if they meet the criteria for certification. The sign will be given to the school, but we do ask that you pay the postage and customization costs of \$15.00. Please submit fee with application. (Fees will be returned to unapproved sites.) There is no deadline for certification; therefore applications can be accepted at any time. You will be notified of the status of your application within 4 weeks. By submitting this application, you are also agreeing to have your site listed in DEP's database of schoolyard habitats which will be available on paper and on-line. **Please type or print legibly.** If you have any questions, call Liz Jackson at (908) 637-4125 or email *ejackson@dep.state.nj.us*.

Name of school \_\_\_\_\_ Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Phone number \_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address and web site \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Site Evaluation**

1. Is there a theme or purpose for your schoolyard habitat?
  
2. What is the strength or strongest feature of the site?
  
3. Please check the description which best applies to your site:

- \_\_\_ developing new habitat area on school grounds
- \_\_\_ enhancing existing habitat
- \_\_\_ studying existing habitat/native plants (no alteration of habitat)
- \_\_\_ other

4. Briefly describe the site (size, proximity to the school, significant features, etc):

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5. Year established \_\_\_\_\_, and approximate annual budget for the site (excluding staff time) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Funding sources (detail): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Check all that apply:**

6. Habitat types present on school grounds:

\_\_\_ wetlands

\_\_\_ pond/lake

\_\_\_ stream corridor

\_\_\_ forest/woodland (describe dominant species: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ meadow/grassland

\_\_\_ scrub/shrub field

\_\_\_ other (please describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

7. Wildlife benefits:

\_\_\_ general wildlife diversity

\_\_\_ species-specific habitat management (describe)

\_\_\_ butterflies/hummingbirds/pollinators

\_\_\_ birds in general

\_\_\_ reptiles/amphibians

\_\_\_ other (please describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

8. Plant communities:

\_\_\_ use native plants predominantly

\_\_\_ use any plants for wildlife benefit

\_\_\_ use ornamentals for beautification

\_\_\_ re-establishing native plant communities

9. Habitat projects:

\_\_\_ wildlife watering facilities (constructed pond, birdbath, etc)

\_\_\_ bird boxes

\_\_\_ bird feeders

\_\_\_ brush, rock, or log piles (cover)

\_\_\_ bat house

\_\_\_ landscape plantings

\_\_\_ plantings for water quality improvement (riparian bioengineering)

\_\_\_ vegetable gardening

\_\_\_ raised beds

\_\_\_ reduced mowing/no mow areas/succession plots

\_\_\_ aquaculture/fish stocking

\_\_\_ soil amendment

\_\_\_ blacktop removal

\_\_\_ other (please describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

10. Other features:

\_\_\_ trail/improved path

\_\_\_ boardwalk

\_\_\_ arboretum

\_\_\_ greenhouse

\_\_\_ seating for classes

\_\_\_ compost facilities

\_\_\_ other (please describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

11. What environmental benefits (if any) do you feel you are achieving through your project? (For example: improving wildlife habitat, water/soil conservation, non-point source pollution prevention, energy conservation, preservation of native plant communities, sustainable practices)

**II. Teacher Education**

1. Describe the workshops or other training you and/or other members of your planning team have attended relative to schoolyard habitats in the past three years:

2. Would you be willing to share your expertise with other teachers (become a schoolyard habitat mentor or workshop facilitator)?

**III. Planning Team**

1. List the participants of your planning team and their roles in the schoolyard habitat project:

2. How involved has your school administration been in the project since conception?

3. What is the role of students in the process?

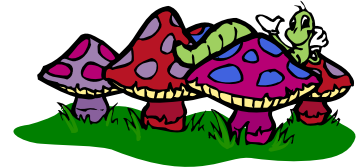
4. What is the role of parents and community members?

**IV. Curriculum Connections**

1. How many teachers use the site? And how often?

2. What months of the year is the site in use?

3. Briefly describe the classes/subjects/topics that make use of the outdoor classroom experience *(Feel free to use an extra sheet)*.



<u>Class (grade)</u>	<u>Subject/topic</u>	<u>Activity in outdoor classroom</u>

4. Briefly describe some of the ways that the schoolyard habitat fits the curriculum and meets state Core Curriculum Content Standards.

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*Please send completed application and check (payable to NJDFW) to Liz Jackson, NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Pequest Trout Hatchery, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863*