



November 15, 2011

**Subject: Wild4Ever Conservation Foundation & Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
Research Grants Program**

Wild4Ever Conservation Foundation and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County are pleased to solicit applications for the 2012 Research Grants Program. This program is designed to offer funding to interested scientists who wish to research problems of conservation concern in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County. Enclosed are the announcements and proposal form for the Research Grants Program.

Wild4Ever is allocating monies toward research efforts to provide scientific information that will help Metro Parks, Serving Summit County manage its natural resources more effectively. Our park properties offer excellent opportunities for fieldwork associated with undergraduate and graduate study or for special studies in advanced classes at the secondary level. Individuals are encouraged to submit proposals pertaining to research in conservation or associated disciplines that are applicable to the mission of Metro Parks, Serving Summit County and Wild4Ever Conservation Foundation. Proposals must be received by Metro Parks on or before February 3, 2012.

Wild4Ever and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County are especially interested in funding projects that include a significant student contribution. The inclusion of students (undergraduate, graduate, and/or secondary education) is greatly encouraged.

Please look over all of the enclosed information thoroughly before submitting your proposal. If you have questions, please direct them to my attention at 330-865-8057.

Sincerely,

Mike Johnson
Chief, Natural Resource Management
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313
(330) 865-8057
mjohnson@summitmetroparks.org

Purpose

In partnership with Wild4Ever Conservation Foundation, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County offers a Research Grant Program to support work that occurs partially or wholly on Metro Parks properties, and that promotes our mission to acquire, conserve and protect the natural resources of Summit County. Research themes must have relevance to Metro Parks sites, species occupying these sites, or overall natural resource management objectives. Grants are intended to involve students and their mentors in conservation or education projects.

Available Funding

For 2012, a total of \$1500 has been allocated for one or more grants meeting the guidelines below. These funds may be awarded to single or multi-year projects.

Qualifications

Applicants for research grants must be faculty or staff members of universities, colleges, or secondary schools, or active employees of non-profit organizations or commercial firms, or individuals with a documented knowledge of ecology, zoology, botany, geology, or other applicable field.

Considerations

Research topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Organismal investigations
- Habitat management
- Biomonitoring of species or communities
- Biotic inventories
- Conservation issues
- Broad ecological investigations such as water quality or geologic features
- Archaeological investigations
- Human/nature interface
- Cultural history
- Analysis of existing biological data sets (contact Metro Parks for more information)

If selected, grant recipients must sign a contract that will stipulate the work to be performed, and provide documentation of appropriate insurance. At least 50 percent of the funds will be withheld pending submission of the final report. Subcontracting is not permissible. Grant request will be reviewed by a team of Wild4Ever and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County staff members based upon the evaluation criteria. Grants will be awarded by Wild4Ever Conservation Organization.

Rules and Guidelines

1. The grant application should be submitted to (two paper copies or one electronic copy):

Mike Johnson
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County
975 Treaty Line Road
Akron, OH 44313
or
mjohnson@summitmetroparks.org

2. A final report for a one-year contract study is due November 1, 2013. A final report for a two-year contract is due on November 1, 2014. All final reports will become property of Metro Parks, Serving Summit County.
3. Review and scoring of all proposals will be performed by the evaluation team. The evaluation team will inform all applicants of the outcome of the review and Wild4Ever will dispense money to successful awardees.
4. If upon receipts of proposals, it is found that two or more applicants are proposing essentially the same work, the respective applicants will be alerted of this fact in the hope that the work can be done cooperatively. This does not necessarily imply a reduction in funding.
10. Publications, public and private presentations, and other products derived from work funded by Wild4Ever and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County must include acknowledgment of Wild4Ever and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County.

Procedure

1. Grants may be effective for a one-year or a two-year contract time period.
 - a. Grant information will be sent out by November, 2011
 - b. Responses will be due no later than February 3, 2012
 - c. Wild4Ever and Metro Parks will grant recipient(s) on February 17, 2012
2. Allocation of grant money for a two-year contract shall be as follows:
 - a. Reimbursement of equipment and or supplies and initial payment to grant recipient(s) will be made by December 1, 2012, not to exceed 50% of the grant award.
 - i. Equipment and or supplies will be reimbursed (excluding tax) upon receipt of the bill of sale: and
 - ii. A payment to grant recipient(s) shall be made by December 1, 2012, provided:
 1. A progress report is provided to Metro Parks, Serving Summit County no later than November 1, 2012.
 2. Payment for a one-year contract shall be made upon receipt of a final report, due on or before, November 1, 2012.
 3. Final payment for a two-year contract shall be made upon receipt of a final report, due on or before November 1, 2013. All final reports become the property of Metro Parks, Serving Summit County; and
 4. The amount of the payment and the equipment and or supplies shall not exceed 50% of the grant awarded.

- iii. The final report should contain, but not limited to, management objectives, including:
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County efforts in preservation, conservation practices, and protection efforts.
- iv. Metro Parks or Wild4Ever may request, at its discretions, that the grant recipient make a presentation to the respective organizations in person.
- v. Metro Parks or Wild4Ever may request, at its discretion, that the grant recipient(s) present a public interpretive program.

Research Grant Proposal Form

Please include the following information in your grant proposal.

Name
Address
E-mail address
Telephone
Federal Tax Identification or Social Security Number
Signature
Date

Project Title
Statement of Purpose
Design and Methodology
Project Description
Work Schedule
Products of the Proposed Project
Anticipated benefits to Metro Parks, Serving Summit County

Budget
Supplies
Equipment
Travel
Total:

YOU MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Is this your first proposal submitted to Wild4Ever and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County? If not, how many times have you had proposals funded by Wild4Ever and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County?
2. If applicable, do you have or will you secure any permits required to perform your proposed work?
3. Are you seeking funding from other sources?
If so, please indicate in your budget the percentage of total funds requested which is represented by your proposal to Wild4Ever and Metro Parks, Serving Summit County.
4. Will any specimens collected be properly deposited into an established collection?
If so, where?
5. How will students be involved in the proposed project?