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Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

2020 Urban Grant Program

Deadline: 7/1/2020

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center **WERC Educational Programs**

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\$ 15,500.00 Requested

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Project Contact

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none entered

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center

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EIN

[77-0324296](tel:77-0324296)

Project Description [top](#)

Applicant Type

1. What type of organization is this?

- Public Agency
- School or School District
- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Eligible organization acting as Fiscal Sponsor for another organization

2. Does the application include a fiscal sponsor?

If the project includes a fiscal sponsor, the fiscal sponsor must be the applicant.

- YES
- NO

Overview

3. Which type of grant are you requesting?

- Small (\$10,000 - \$39,999)
- Large (\$40,000 - \$250,000)

4. Grant category (check all that apply)

- Environmental Stewardship and Restoration
- Parks, Trails, and Public Access
- Environmental Education
- Urban Agriculture / Food Systems

5. Type of project (check all that apply)

- Capital improvement (Large projects only)
- Planning
- Program

6. Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.

Primary Address: 14030 Oak Valley Road, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Parks in Morgan Hill including:

Community Center,

Community Park, 171 W Edmundson Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Diana Park, Diana Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Henry W. Coe State Park, 9100 E Dunne Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve, 550 Palm Ave, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Coyote Lake Park, 10840 Coyote Lake Road, Gilroy CA 95020

Including Various schools in Santa Clara County

7. Project Location: Open Space Authority District (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4
- Authority District 5
- Authority District 6
- Authority District 7

8. Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (check all that apply)

A detailed map of the Authority Districts can be found under the Library tab, or online at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/public-information/board-of-directors.html>.

- Authority District 1
- Authority District 2
- Authority District 3
- Authority District 4

- ✓ Authority District 5
- ✓ Authority District 6
- ✓ Authority District 7

9. Project Abstract

(Brief, 3-4 sentences)

Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center will provide educational programs developed to meet and exceed California Next Generation Science Standards for grades K-6th. These programs are frequently evaluated with evolving knowledge and updated science in our field. Wildlife habitat and its conservation are a large part of these programs, which strongly echoes the message and mission of the Open Space Authority.

Project Planning (20 points)

10. Describe the proposed project.

In addition to being the only provider of native wildlife rehabilitation services in South Santa Clara County, WERC has been providing educational programs and classes on Santa Clara County's native wildlife, the natural environment, and Native Americans for over 20 years. Live wild animals, which are part of our educational ambassador team, as well as animal and other artifacts, are featured at these events. All classes meet California state educational standards. Our programs and classes are consistently well-reviewed. WERC has, on staff, experienced teachers who are familiar with our curriculum and expert in both appropriate animal handling and teaching wildlife programs. Our programs were initially developed and taught by our Founder and Executive Director emeritus, Sue Howell. Our current Executive Director, Ashley Quick, now works to continue research and implement the newest research findings to keep our programs current with the teachings in the classrooms. Our Educational Outreach Coordinator, Anna Venneman, with her BS in Animal Health Science from Cal Poly Pomona, has been teaching our programs for 8 years. She excels in engaging elementary aged children in a thoughtful and meaningful way, while conveying factual information about wildlife and the environment, including the importance of conservation, in language that younger audiences can absorb and relate to. Our programs have been altered on an as needed basis to serve special needs students throughout the District. A special effort has always been made to make sure our presentations and classes are all inclusive and meet the needs of all who are in attendance. Community groups that have benefitted from our educational programs include local schools, public and private, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Groups, Senior Citizen Centers and Social Clubs, Philanthropic Organizations (Kiwans, Rotary, etc), and many others. Our nearly 30 year history in the South Valley community has allowed us to reach far and wide with our message and mission.

11. Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.

Deliverables will be in various forms, from graded efforts made by teachers to the intangible efforts made by those educated by our programs. Tangible deliverables will be made in the classroom, through physical/virtual testing. Intangible deliverables will be the impact made on the environment: through educating the community about our native wildlife, we will spread the knowledge of how humans can better coexist with animals and therefore impact future decisions of thus said community.

12. Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.

Landowner permission is acquired prior to each event. Long-standing relationships with state and county parks, as well as local school districts ensure access at those locations. Adequate insurance held by WERC ensures our legal requirement is met for access to these properties.

13. What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.

The lifetime of this current project of which we are requesting a grant is 1 year. This project will expand to

an indefinite lifetime for the future. Educational programs are a vital portion of any child's education and as long as children need education, we will be operating our programs.

14. Describe the project's readiness for implementation.

WERC is licensed by the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide wildlife rehabilitation services and to keep non-releasable native wildlife, who serve as our educational ambassadors. We are fully covered by liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance for our paid employees. We have all the animals health inspected, as well as educational materials ready to use. We are ready to implement the program ASAP.

Project Budget (15 points)

15. Budget Summary - Grant Request

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

<input type="text" value="12,898.03"/>	Grant request: Personnel
<input type="text" value="0"/>	Grant request: Contracted Services
<input type="text" value="1,851.97"/>	Grant request: Supplies / Materials
<input type="text" value="750.00"/>	Grant request: Other Direct Costs
<input type="text" value="0"/>	Grant request: Indirect Costs
<input type="text" value="15,500.00"/>	TOTAL

16. Budget Summary - Matching Funds

This is a budget summary only; a detailed Project Budget must be submitted using the Documents Upload tab. Please enter dollar amount. Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL.

<input type="text" value="8,625.60"/>	Total Matching Funds
<input type="text" value="8,625.60"/>	TOTAL

17. Budget Narrative

Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).

The grant will provide funding for the program costs entirely, the instructor, the travel costs, as well as supplies needed for education and supplemental information. Our educational coordinator will be compensated for her time and efforts with each program. Since we travel to our programs, we will be charging \$0.50/mile for each mile traveled to the program location. Programs will require a volunteer to travel with and/or aid in the teaching, getting animals and items prepared. This includes help with handling the animals, passing out of materials and managing groups for the live programs.

Project Goals (15 points)

18. Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.

WERC has experienced teachers who are familiar with our curriculum and expert in both appropriate animal handling and teaching wildlife programs. Our programs were initially developed and taught by our Founder, Sue Howell. With her 30+ years of pioneering work in wildlife rehabilitation and education. Our current Educational Outreach Coordinator, Anna Venneman, with her BS in Animal Health Science from Cal Poly Pomona, has been teaching our programs for 6 years. She excels in engaging elementary aged children in a thoughtful and meaningful way, while conveying factual information about wildlife and the environment, including the importance of conservation, in language that younger audiences can absorb and relate to. Our

programs have been altered on an as needed basis to serve special needs students throughout the District. Per the stated objectives, the potential for development of new programs exists with this partnership through OSA. Many of W.E.R.C.'s Educational Ambassador animals live in both rural and urban settings. Urban Wildlife presentations can be developed for engagement in urban green-spaces throughout the District, in order to reach underserved populations of children and adults. These presentations can be tailored to meet special requirements or settings, bringing animals that live in the specific environment where the presentation is being held, tailoring the presentation to the time of year, ect. Our programs have proven to be highly adaptable to the ever changing environments and communities they are reaching. We will continue to demonstrate that capability by staying on top of updating our information in the educational programs. With the ever changing political climate, especially surrounding climate change, we will continue to reach individuals about this vital topic.

19. How does this project serve the community?

These metrics are required for all projects. Project-specific metrics can be added under Question 20 below.

Note: after the application is submitted, the software will automatically add a TOTAL that will not be used.

600+	Number of people served
500+	Number of youth served (under 18 years)
144	Number of programs provided
1,244.00	TOTAL

20. In what other ways does the project serve the community? Please list the project-specific goals (both social and environmental).

Please list any additional goals and how they will be measured (e.g. surveys, field measurements, attendance sheets, etc.).

Our educational programs in local schools encourage and foster a love for our local wildlife and ecosystems that many children are not often exposed to. This leads to exploration of potential career paths that they may have otherwise been unaware of. After classes or public events, we are approached by young people asking how they can get involved in this type of work when they realize the impact they can have locally. Socially, getting people conversing about wildlife will lead to environmental conversations and to communities changes their ways to better coexist with nature. This leads to the environmental changes made by the small actions these community members will make after being made aware of the issues their neighborhoods face. Collectively, these small actions, both socially and therefore environmentally, will lead to bigger changes in our climate.

Impact (15 points)

21. Describe the lasting impact of the project.

The lasting impact of this project will be immense. Once an individual, adult or child, comes face to face with the amazing creatures that call our backyards home, they will be inspired to do better by them and therefore their community. We will encourage communities to have the conversations that will lead to change by making them aware of what actions they may be inadvertently taking that are detrimental to their wild neighbors. When the human and animal are connected, human and environment will be connected. There is a desperate need for this connection in our world today. W.E.R.C. bringing live wild animals into the hearts of each person who sees them will change them forever. These day to day to changes will lead to inspiration of adults to educate their children better and so on. This will ultimately help human build more respect for nature and open spaces, which is particularly important in today's day and age where buildings are taking up more space than open land. This decreases the amount of animals we can see in our backyards. When people make the connection of the live animals we handle at the programs potentially disappearing for good, they will make a change in their actions for the better.

Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support (10 points)

22. Describe the community support and/or community engagement process.

Please submit letters using the Documents Upload tab.

This project will actively encourage community building in asking the community to come together and support the non-profit organization of Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center. This will be done by spreading awareness of the education through budgeted activities and calls to action in accordance with the mission of W.E.R.C. and Open Space Authority. W.E.R.C. will educate the communities with reading as well as a personal experience with our educational animals. We will bring individuals together over the same mission. We will bring education on a subject that will continue the conversation to flourish and spread.

Leadership & Innovation (10 points)

23. Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.

If there are project partners, please upload partner letters on the Documents Upload tab.

This program brings groups of people together of different backgrounds to learn about one subject: the environment. This gives people a subject to bond over and creates a conversation that may not have been had previous to the program. We will encourage collaboration of not only neighbors but organizations as well. For example, an innovative approach would be we as W.E.R.C. partnering with Open Space Authority of Santa Clara (OSA) where we provide programs at open spaces provided by OSA. This brings two different groups of supporters together to discuss and actively engage in learning. With current pandemic conditions, we have versed ourselves in doing virtual educational programs to reach a more broad audience or maybe audiences that cannot attend a physical program.

Organizational Capacity (15 points)

24. Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.

If the applicant is a Fiscal Sponsor, please describe both the Fiscal Sponsor and the sponsored organization.

WERC has experienced teachers who are familiar with our curriculum and expert in both appropriate animal handling and teaching wildlife programs. Our programs were initially developed and taught by our Founder, Sue Howell. With her 30+ years of pioneering work in wildlife rehabilitation and education. Our current Executive Director, Ashley Quick, recieved her BS in Biology from California State Monterey Bay with an emphasis on evolutionary biology. With her background, now works to continue research and implement the newest research findings to keep our programs current with the teachings in the classrooms Our current Educational Outreach Coordinator, Anna Venneman, with her BS in Animal Health Science from Cal Poly Pomona, has been teaching our programs for 6 years. She excels in engaging elementary aged children in a thoughtful and meaningful way, while conveying factual information about wildlife and the environment, including the importance of conservation, in language that younger audiences can absorb and relate to. Our programs have been altered on an as needed basis to serve special needs students throughout the District.

We also have continuous donors, both monthly and annually which demonstrated great local support from the Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy communities.

W.E.R.C. has maintained good standing in use of grants given by Open Space Authority for educational purposes. Our organization has been in partnership with OSA, receiving grants in the amount of \$10,000 each for the past five years to which we have demonstrated tremendous capability in using these funds appropriately with the guidelines. Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center has supported the Open Space Authority fully by attending all OSA's events and representing Open Space Authorities mission alongside W.E.R.C.'s at our own events. At each event, we gain more and more supporters virtually and physically.

BONUS POINTS: Underserved Communities (10 points)

25. Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within a Deep Engagement Community (DEC).

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A." A map of the DECs can be found by clicking on "Apply" at <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/urban>.

Our Location, in close proximity to Deep Engagement Community #6, positions WERC uniquely to reach out to this community in our urban parks and open spaces. Travel to other regional Deep Engagement Communities for presentations is also within our scope of work and already put into practice on a regular basis. All public presentations given by WERC are free of charge to the public. WERC will provide offerings to local Senior Citizen Groups in addition to school programs in OSA districts.

BONUS POINTS: Community Building (10 points)

26. Describe how this project actively encourages community building by engaging or accommodating local residents in novel and creative ways.

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

This project will actively encourage community building in asking the community to come together and support the non-profit organization of Wildlife Education and Rehabilitation Center by spreading awareness of the education through budgeted activities and calls to action in accordance with the mission of W.E.R.C. and Open Space Authority. W.E.R.C. will educate the communities with reading as well as a personal experience with our educational animals. We will do this by attending local events to promote the awareness of our educational programs with live animals. Animals that are only native to this area so people can engage with them and understand that they may be living right next to one of these animals and not know.

BONUS POINTS: Climate Resilience (5 points)

27. How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience?

This question is optional; please answer if applicable, otherwise enter "N/A."

This project is directly related to climate and our ecosystem of Santa Clara Valley. Due to the nature of our education programs, we are speaking about animals that live right in our backyards. Learning about animals directly outside your door and how to better coexist with them leads individuals to make better choices for the animal. The animals health is directly related to the environmental health.

Documents Upload [top](#)

Documents Requested *

Financial Statement

Project Budget

[download template](#)

Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

[download template](#)

Site Control Documentation

[download template](#)

Required? Attached Documents *

✓ [WERC-990](#)

✓ [WERC- Project Budget 2020](#)

[CEQA Compliance Certification Form](#)

[download template](#)

[Letters of Support](#)

[Project Partner Letters](#)

[Maps and Site Plans](#)

[Photographs](#)

[Other](#)

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