



To: Volunteer and Community Leaders

From: Brooke Thureau, Volunteer Stewardship Network Coordinator
The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter

Re: VSN Stewardship Fund – FY22 (July 2021 – June 2022)

Each year, The Nature Conservancy dedicates funds to support the work of volunteer groups by providing stewardship tools and safety equipment and by funding newsletters, websites, and educational materials. Organizations requesting funds for their native habitats are required to complete the attached application and submit it (along with a map of their natural areas*) by **Friday, June 25, 2021**. *If you applied for funding in the past and your natural areas have not changed, you do NOT need to include a map with your application.

VSN Background

Across the state, thousands of volunteers from all walks of life regularly roll up their sleeves to help clear out invasive species, collect and sow native plant seeds, assist with prescribed fire and monitor populations of indigenous plants and animals. These individuals are part of the Volunteer Stewardship Network (VSN), a loose network of volunteers affiliated with public and private organizations helping to bring health back to our native lands and waters and our communities. The VSN is currently comprised of over 125 groups across Illinois.

The VSN was formed in 1983 by The Nature Conservancy and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Through this partnership, we continue to provide leadership and support for the Volunteer Stewardship Network with a goal to support, promote and expand the role of volunteers working to protect and manage natural areas in Illinois.

Requests will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- ❖ Activity level of the VSN group
- ❖ Need – could the request be satisfied by the landowner or another funding source?
- ❖ Urgency – is something in imminent danger of being lost?
- ❖ Benefit to the natural resource
- ❖ Benefit to the community
- ❖ Does it leverage other resources and funding?
- ❖ How well it fits in with the spirit of the VSN
- ❖ Items requested clearly match the needs of the organization

As you identify your needs, please keep in mind the funds awarded in 2021 MUST be spent and receipts received by June 1, 2022.

You will be notified in July if your funding request has been approved. If approved, you will receive a letter indicating the amount of funds available to your group. It is important to note that the money is not a grant, e.g. you will not receive the money in advance. Either you will be reimbursed in a timely way for expenses approved through this process or tools and supplies will be ordered and shipped through The Nature Conservancy.

Please note: The VSN is also providing support to VSN groups through the **Community Convening Fund (CCF)**. The goals of the CCF are to support people and nature by:

- funding projects that foster community connections to nature;
- meaningfully engage BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) and other historically underrepresented communities in the programming, care and protection of greenspace;
- providing co-benefits for human and environmental health.

If your group is working in or with BIPOC communities and is in need of funding for trainings, expertise sharing, conferences/meetings, cultural and community building events, travel and transportation, or community development/research, please contact Brooke Thureau at brooke.thureau@tnc.org to request an application. VSN groups must complete a separate VSN Community Convening Fund application by **Friday, June 25, 2021**. ***Groups may apply for both funds.**

VSN Stewardship Fund Application – FY21

We will accept requests for funding once a year. Please fill out the application **completely** and submit it to brooke.thurau@tnc.org by **Friday, June 25, 2021**. If necessary, you may mail the map(s) to Brooke Thurau, The Nature Conservancy, 400 N. Michigan, Suite 1100, Chicago, IL 60611. Maps must be postmarked by this deadline. Award decisions will be made in July and notification will come shortly after.

Please provide the following information with your request:

(use additional pages if necessary)

1. Date of Application _____
2. Contact Name _____
3. Name of Organization _____
4. Landowner(s) _____
5. Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
6. Phone _____ Email _____
7. Site(s) Managed (please indicate if the site has INPC protection status)

8. Please attach a map identifying the location of the sites managed (listed above). You may use a topo, plat, gazetteer, or hand drawn map. If providing a hand drawn map, please indicate the nearest town or place (i.e. 5 mi or 8 km NE Palos Park). Pick a town that is small enough from which to give a practical distance.

*Please note: If you applied for funding last year and the sites you have managed have not changed, you do NOT need to include a map with your application.

9. Total Volunteer Workdays (in the past year) _____

10. Total Volunteer Hours (in the past year) _____

11. Total Number of Volunteers (in the past year) _____

12. If you do not have metric volunteer data, please use this space to briefly describe your group's volunteer activities.

13. Does your group regularly hold community/volunteer work days?

Yes No

14. Describe how your group's efforts provide benefits to nature and humans.

15. If you do not currently manage native habitat, please describe your plans to do so.

16. Total Amount of Request _____

17. List specific items and costs for each:

Please include sizes where appropriate (e.g. chainsaw chaps, Nomex, gloves, etc.). See next page for a non-exhaustive list of approved items from past years.

ITEM(S)	USE (i.e. Loppers for Buckthorn removal)	SIZE	QUANTITY	COST \$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
TOTAL				\$

18. Have you tried to get the requested funds from your landowner?

Yes No

19. Have you applied for the requested funds from other sources?

Yes No

20. Describe the urgency of the request.

Examples of Approved Budget Items from Past Years:

- Seed supplies: drying racks, flags, box repairs, inoculant, bags
- Seeds for native pollinator plants
- Seed collecting aprons
- Native plant ID signs
- Interpretive signs
- Pigskin gloves
- Folding saws, chain saws
- Miscellaneous: gas for chainsaws, insect repellent
- Chainsaw safety helmets
- Shovels
- Brushcutter & clearing saw
- Replace worn parts on Stihl Brushcutter
- Backpack sprayer
- Hand pruners
- Liquid fence repellent concentrate
- Field Fence
- UTV Insurance
- Glyphosate concentrate
- Riding lawn tractor
- First aid kit
- 1 year Zoom subscription

Deadline to submit this application and map is Monday, June 25, 2021 to:

Brooke Thurau, Volunteer Stewardship Network Coordinator

Email: brooke.thurau@tnc.org *preferred, or

The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter

400 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 1100, Chicago, IL 60611

Stewardship Tool List



Co-partners of the Volunteer Stewardship Network

This list is a summary of tools that have been purchased in the past by The Nature Conservancy and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission for volunteer stewardship groups within the Volunteer Stewardship Network (VSN). It was developed for volunteer groups to be used as a reference and is by no means a comprehensive list of items that are available for purchase (prices are approximate, please confirm) or an endorsement of any one brand. In addition to this list groups are encouraged to check with their landowning agency to see if there are specific tool preferences. If your group has experienced success with tools that are not on this list, please contact Brooke Thureau at brooke.thureau@tnc.org

Brushcutting Tools & Equipment

Loppers & Pruners

Fiskars PowerGear Bypass Lopper (32 inch)
Zenport Cut & Hold Heavy Duty Hand Pruner

Gloves

Wells Lamont Brown Jersey Gloves
Wells Lamont Double Palm
Wells Lamont Grain Pigskin
Wells Lamont White Mule

Hand Saws & Replacement Blades

Bahco "All Purpose" Bow Saw (3/4 x 36" blade)
Bahco "All Purpose" Replacement Blades
Bahco "Swiftly" Bow Saw (3/4 x 21" blade)
Bahco "Swiftly" Replacement Saw Blades
Felco F-600 6" Folding Saw
Felco F-600 Folding Saw Replacement Blades

Power Tools & Accessories

Chainsaw
Chainsaw Chaps
Chainsaw Safety Helmets
Foam Ear Plugs (package of 100 w/o cords)
Stihl FS-450 Brushcutter
Safety Helmet System for FS-450 Brushcutter

Miscellaneous Equipment

Ringer Tree Girdler
Tree Girdler Replacement Blade
Wire stake flags- 30" (bundles of 100)

Loppers & Pruners

\$51 per lopper
\$20 per pruner

Gloves

\$2 - \$3.25 per pair, depending on quantity
\$5 - \$6 per pair, depending on quantity
\$9 per pair
\$13.95 - \$14.50 per pair, depending on quantity

Hand Saws & Replacement Blades

\$23.95– 26.50 per saw, depending on quantity
\$9.95 per blade
\$20 - \$22.25 per saw, depending
\$7.50 per saw blade
\$27.50 - \$30 per saw, depending on quantity
\$24.95 per blade

Power Tools & Accessories

\$680 per chainsaw
\$145-\$170 per set, depending on size/quantity
40 - \$47 depending on model & quantity
\$50 per box
\$1200 per brushcutter
\$80 per helmet

Miscellaneous Equipment

\$222 per tool
\$37 per blade
\$7 - \$8.50 per bundle, depending on quantity

Prescribed Fire Tools & Equipment

Backpack Sprayers & Accessories

Indian Galvanized Backpack Water Pump
Indian Poly Backpack Water Pump
Indian Heavy-Duty Nylon Backpack Water Pump
Shoulder Saver Harness for Backpack Sprayers

Safety Equipment

Mesh Burn Sign
Motorola Talkabout Two-Way Radios
Nomex Suits
Safety Helmet with Ratchet and Shield
Tripod Sign Stand for burn sign
Wildland Firefighting Gloves

Tools & Accessories

Council Fire Rake
Council Fire Swatter Flap
Drip Torch
Echo Backpack Blower
Elvex Mesh Brushguard with Muffs for Blower
Firebroom Rake
Firefighting Shovel
McLeod Rake
Kestrel 3000 Pocket Weather Station
Kestrel RH Calibration Kit

Backpack Sprayers & Accessories

\$18 per pump
\$150 - \$16 per pump, depending on quantity
\$16 - \$18 per pump, depending on quantity
\$4 per harness

Safety Equipment

\$31 - \$40 per sign, depending on size
\$ - \$ per set of two, depending on
\$
\$2 per helmet, depending on quantity \$41 -
\$44 per stand, depending on quantity
\$4 - \$4 per pair, depending on quantity

Tools & Accessories

\$4 - \$4 per rake, depending on quantity
\$4 - \$ per swatter, depending on quantity
\$140 - \$145 per torch, depending on quantity
\$ per blower
\$2 per brushguard
\$ - \$ per rake depending on quantity
\$27 - \$33 per shovel, depending on quantity
\$80 - \$83 per rake, depending on quantity
\$150 per device
\$65 per kit

Herbicide Application Tools & Equipment

Herbicide Application Tools & Accessories

Birchmeier Backpack Sprayer (2.5 – 5 Gallon)
Control Flow Valve for Sprayer
E-Z-Ject Lance
Herbicide Capsules for E-Z-Ject Lance
HD Hudson SP2 Backpack Sprayer (4 Gallon)
Shoulder Saver Harness for Sprayers
Sideswipe Pro Herbicide Applicator
Sideswipe Pro Replacement Pad
Solo Backpack Sprayer 475 (4 Gallon)
Solo Backpack Sprayer 473P (3 Gallon)
Solo Hand Sprayer 456 (2.25 Gallon)
Solo Stainless Steel Universal Wand Assembly
Tank Neutralizer & Cleaner

Herbicide Application Tools & Accessories

\$2 - \$2 , depending on size
\$20 per valve
\$500 per lance
\$235 - \$275 1200, depending on
\$16 per sprayer
\$4 per harness
\$4 - \$4 per applicator, depending on quantity
\$ per pad, depending on price
\$108 - \$115 per sprayer, depending on quantity
\$84 - \$90 per sprayer, depending on quantity
\$50 per sprayer
\$25 per wand
\$21 per container

Herbicide Mixing Instruments

Herbicide Dye (1 Gallon)
Measure Mate Chemical Container (1 Qt)
Mixing Drum w/ Valve & Wrench

Herbicide Mixing Instruments

\$75 - \$81 per container, depending on quantity
\$6 per container
\$100 per set

Safety Equipment

Bouton Chemical Splash Safety Goggles
Herbicide Suits
Latex gloves
Pesticide Safety Storage Cabinet (30 Gal. Cap.)
Rubber Boots

Safety Equipment

\$4.75 - \$6 per goggle, depending on quantity
\$8 per suit
\$10 - \$12 per box of 100, depending on quantity
\$926 per cabinet
\$35 per pair

Miscellaneous Items

Safety Equipment

First Aid Kit
Mesh Neon Safety Vests

Safety Equipment

\$41 per kit
\$6 - \$7 per vest, depending on quantity

Miscellaneous Equipment

Extractigator
JIM-GEM Speedy Dibble
Prairie Parsnip Predator
Tree planting bags

Miscellaneous Equipment

\$200 per tool
\$37 - \$44 per dibble, depending on quantity
\$70 per tool
\$26 - \$35 per bag, varies on size & quantity