

Grant Program

Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners in Partnership with K-State Extension

The Extension Master Gardeners (EMG) of Shawnee County, KS announce the availability of grant funds that support our mission – “Improving our community through horticulture.”

Eligibility

Any classroom teacher in Shawnee County at the elementary, middle, or high school level may apply for a grant either to begin or to support an existing school horticultural project such as a vegetable, fruit, or pollinator garden.

Criteria

The SCEMG Grant Committee will evaluate applications based on these criteria:

- Relevance to our mission statement
- Development or improvement of school gardens and grounds or classroom curriculum
- Feasibility of completing the project within the timeline
- Sustainable gardening practices such as water conservation, building healthy soil, and integrated pest management
- Institutional support for maintaining the project beyond the year of the grant

The Grants

The amount of each grant will not exceed \$500.00. Funds may be requested for a wide variety of gardening projects. These are only a few examples:

- Garden construction materials, including hardscape
- Compost, seeds, plants, tools, hoses, soil amendments
- Curriculum materials that would utilize a garden as a classroom

Application deadline is October 16, 2026 Grant recipients will be notified by October 31, 2026 regarding the status of their application. Grant funds must be used by March 31, 2027. Any remaining funds should be returned to Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners.

Grant recipients should submit an end-of-the-project list of items purchased and their cost. They should also anticipate a visit by several Master Gardeners to see their projects in person.

How to Apply

The grant application form is available on the Shawnee County Extension website. Applicants may print the form, type or neatly print, and mail to:

Grant Committee
Shawnee County Extension Office
1740 SW Western Ave. Topeka, KS
66604

Applicants may also email the completed form to:

Lane Wiens, lwwiens@ksu.edu **AND** Jennifer Leever, jleever@ksu.edu

Shawnee County EMG Grant Application 2026

Your Name:

School:

School Address:

Your Email:

Phone:

Instructions:

- Please type or neatly print your application.
- Please limit the length of your answers to the space provided.
- Please provide a detailed budget.
- Please do not skip any questions; answer “NA” or explain why the question does not apply to your project.
- Must be received by October 16, 2026

The Questions:

1. Describe your project. Are you starting a new horticultural program or expanding an existing one? Will you use the grant for construction, maintenance, materials, or curriculum?
2. Will your garden or gardening program have a special theme or emphasis such as nutrition, environment, soil health, special needs gardeners, vocational training, etc?

3. Approximately how many students do you anticipate will participate in this project?

4. What is the approximate timeline for your project?

5. Are there other sources of funding for your project? If so, please describe.

6. Will the project continue beyond the academic year? If so, please describe.

Budget

On the following page, please list the items requested for this project, along with the approximate cost of each item. Please add the approximate costs of these items to arrive at the total amount requested for this project.

Expenditure	Purpose	Cost

Total Amount Requested: