

LUMBERJACK RC&D COUNCIL, INC.

GRANT INTAKE SHEET

2027-005

Use to determine if the project submission has met the initial requirements...

PROJECT NAME	Outdoor Classroom for Little Forest School
PROJECT NUMBER	2027-005
DATE RECEIVED	9/1/2026
PROJECT COUNTIES	Vilas
PROJECT PARTNERS	Little Forest School & Mike McKeon
AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$ 10,000.00
PRIOR FUNDING YEARS/AMOUNTS	N/A

	YES/NO
Project was received by the deadline	Yes
Project fulfills Match Requirements (25% & minimum 10% of total asked must be in cash)	Yes
Project budget shows at least 10% of the amount asked for is in Cash	Yes
Project has been presented to county LCC	Yes 8/12/2026
If funded in the past, project has met all post-funding requirements and presentations	N/A
Letter of Support from each match partner	Yes
Approved to move on to Council Meeting	Yes

NOTES:

LUMBERJACK RC&D COUNCIL, INC.

2027-005

GRANT RANKING GUIDELINE SHEET

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Use this sheet to help formulate questions & determine how the project aligns with the Lumberjack Mission.

NAME: Outdoor Classroom at Little Forest School

ASKING FOR...

COUNTY: Vilas

\$10,000

PARTNERS: Little Forest School & Mike McKeon

PRIOR FUNDING years/amounts:

N/A

\$ AMOUNT

Match Information (List Match Percentage)

25%

If funded in the past, project has met all post-funding requirements and presentations

N/A

MISSION Statement: Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.

The following statements should be considered when determining if you feel the project aligns well enough with the Lumberjack Mission Statement. Project critiques should be based on their merits and mission alignment points, not on location, past funding or whether funds are available for all projects. Members should also consider the geographic reach and sustainability of the project.

Enhances Area Natural Resources. Does this project directly enhance natural resources? Consider the area and population covered. Consider how many Lumberjack counties are covered? Lumberjack serves nine counties. Consider the diversity of natural resources benefitting from the project. Is it one, two or a range?

Promotes a Higher Standard of Living & Improves Quality of Life. Does this project directly promote a higher standard of living and/or improve quality of life? Consider the economic impact and how the project affects disposable income, wages, job creation. Consider the health benefits. Does the project lead to better air or water quality, a cleaner environment? Does the project enhance accessibility to resources that lead to healthier living?

Fosters Partnerships Between Public & Private Sectors. Consider the number and diversity of the partnerships involved in this project. Do the partners represent a good cross section of public/private entities? Consider all partners, whether they are contributing monetarily or not. (Example: A school/classroom is involved in the project but they cannot commit with a Letter of Support. This would not qualify at cash match, but would qualify as fostering partnerships.)

Council Members: Use this space to jot down comments or specific questions you have after reading the project proposal. You'll have an opportunity to question the applicant at the October Council meeting.



Lumberjack Grant Application

PROJECT TITLE: Outdoor Classroom for Little Forest School

Submitted by (name):	Jamie VandenLangenberg
Organization:	Little Forest School, Inc
Address:	PO Box 186, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545
Phone:	262-666-9396
Email:	jamie@littleforestschool.net
Counties:	Location Vilas, serves Vilas, Oneida, Price, Iron

Mission Statement: *Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.*

SUMMARY: Review the Lumberjack Mission Statement above. How does your project align with Lumberjack's mission? Be specific. The more alignment points, the better your project is viewed. **Emphasis will be placed on projects that show sustainability.**

Answer:
 Little Forest School is a nonprofit, nature-based childcare program serving Northwoods families. As we construct our new permanent childcare center in Manitowish Waters, we are intentionally creating a program where children can learn from and connect with nature every day, in every season. We are requesting \$10,000 from Lumberjack RC&D for materials to construct a permanent outdoor classroom pavilion, with a \$1,000 cash and \$1,500 in volunteer labor provided as match.

First, the pavilion is a lasting investment in our community's infrastructure. Built as part of our permanent school campus, it will serve children for decades and provide generations of Northwoods preschoolers with a place to learn, gather, and explore outdoors.

Second, the most lasting impact will be the children themselves. Through daily experiences in nature, children will learn to understand, appreciate, and care for the natural resources around them. We believe sustainability begins with connection. By helping children develop curiosity, respect, and a sense of responsibility for their environment at an early age, we are helping build a community of future citizens who value and practice stewardship.

OBJECTIVES: What problems, concerns or opportunities will this project address? You will be asked to show how your objectives were met when you present your follow-up presentation to the Council.

Answer:

1. Expand year-round outdoor learning.
 Create a permanent, covered outdoor classroom that allows preschool children to learn, gather, and explore in all seasons and weather conditions, including rain and snow.
2. Build lifelong connections to nature and stewardship.
 Use the outdoor classroom for hands-on lessons and daily experiences that help children understand, appreciate, and care for the natural resources of the Northwoods, building a foundation for lifelong environmental stewardship.
3. Create a lasting community resource.
 Construct a durable outdoor learning structure that will become a permanent part of Little Forest School and serve generations of children, families, and educators while strengthening the community's investment in nature-based education.

Type text here

FORMULATION & EVALUATION: Why is this project the best way to address the issues described above? How will the outcome be evaluated? Be specific – outcomes that can be measured are viewed more favorably. **Emphasis will be placed on projects that show sustainability.**

Answer:

A permanent, covered outdoor classroom is the best way to support Little Forest School's commitment to year-round nature-based education. The pavilion will allow children to continue learning and gathering outdoors during rain, snow, and changing seasonal conditions, while remaining immersed in their natural surroundings.

The project is a sustainable investment in both place and people. The structure will become a permanent part of the school campus and serve generations of children, while the lessons and experiences taking place within it will help children develop a lasting connection to nature and an understanding of their role as environmental stewards.

Success will be evaluated through the pavilion's year-round use, the number and variety of outdoor learning activities held there, and teacher observations of children's engagement with nature and stewardship concepts. Over time, the greatest measure of success will be the continued use of this space and the lasting impact it has on the children who learn there.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Why is assistance needed from Lumberjack? Who within your organization will run the project? Describe the assistance you are receiving from other partners. Include Letters of Support as outlined in Lumberjack's Granting Policy.

Answer:

As a nonprofit organization, Little Forest School relies on grants, donations, and community support to make projects like this possible. Lumberjack RC&D funding will help us purchase the materials needed to construct a permanent outdoor classroom pavilion, an investment that will support our nature-based programming for many years to come.

Our Board of Directors will oversee the construction and completion of the pavilion. We are grateful to Mike McKeon, who will provide \$1,000 in cash match, and to our established volunteer base, which will contribute approximately \$1,500 in volunteer labor toward construction and completion of the project.

Little Forest School is also investing significant organizational resources into the development of our permanent campus and learning center. The pavilion is part of a larger vision to create an indoor and outdoor learning environment where children can remain connected to nature throughout the day and in every season.

PROJECT OUTLINE & TIMETABLE: List the project steps and expected completion dates. Could there be any possible roadblocks? If so, list them here.

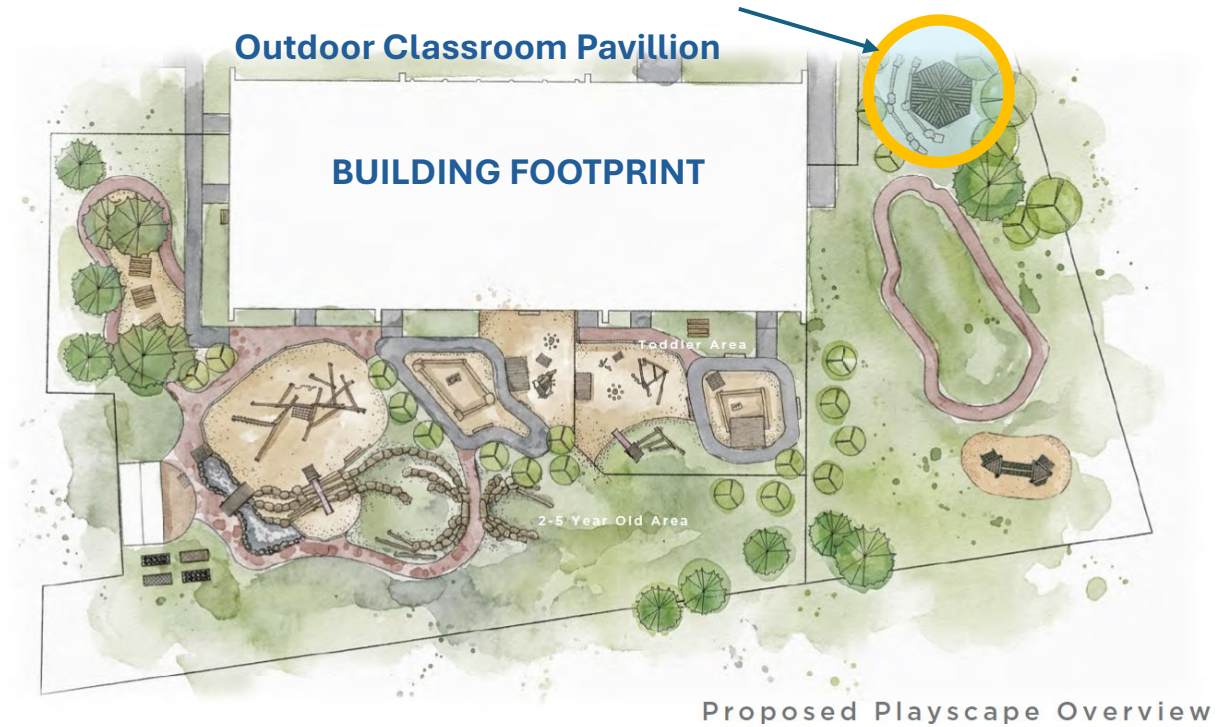
Answer:

1. Fall/Winter 2026/2027 – Finalize the design, secure materials, and rough grading/site prep.
2. Spring 2027 – Coordinate volunteers and construct/assemble the pavilion.
3. Summer 2027 – Complete the surrounding outdoor classroom area and incorporate the pavilion into daily programming.
4. 2027 and Beyond – Use the pavilion for year-round outdoor learning and evaluate its impact through frequency of use, student engagement, and teacher observations.

BUDGET: Complete the attached Budget Form. Remember the 25% match requirement and the 10% cash requirement (see policy item #8). List each match donor in the 'Match' column and submit a corresponding Letter of Support with specific value of in-kind/services or cash for the project. Note: This form is available in excel online at: <https://lumberjackrcd.org/projects>

Little Forest School Outdoor Classroom Project Design Details

Location: Outdoor classroom pavilion proposed to be located at the east end of building.



Concept 3-D Rendering:



16. Outdoor Classroom

Design Details: Recommended by our building contractor, we have chosen to purchase a pre-fabricated park pavilion from Forever Redwood (<https://www.foreverredwood.com>). Each kit is fully composed and erected in their shop for easy re-assembly. No drilling, sanding or cutting necessary. Simply bolt the pieces back together on-site. Below is a rendering provided by Forever Redwood. See attached quote from Forever Redwood

3 Railings





From the Forest, For the Forest since 1995

INVOICE

#132782 - 09/01/2026

(866) 332-2403

Sales@ForeverRedwood.com

33732 Annapolis Rd, Annapolis, CA 95412

CONTACT	BILL TO	SHIP TO
Jamie VandenLangenberg Jamie@littleforestschool.net 2626669396	Jamie VandenLangenberg Little Forest School PO Box 186 Manitowish Waters, WI 54545	Jamie VandenLangenberg Little Forest School PO Box 186 Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

Hexagonal Park Pavilion - Add 3 Railings x Without Cupola x 12 ft Diameter -
(MOST POPULAR) x Without Corvels

QTY: 1

\$12,510.00

- **Hexagonal Park Pavilion Size:** 12 ft Diameter - (MOST POPULAR)

- **Hexagonal Pavilion Railing:** Add 3 Railings

- **Hexagonal Pavilion Cupola:** Without Cupola

- **Hexagonal Pavilion Corvels:** Without Corvels

- **Roof Type:** Standard T&G (7/8in Thickness - MOST POPULAR)

- **Wood Grade & Warranty:** Mosaic Douglas-Fir (10-yr Warranty) - 100% Reclaimed

- **Pavilion Decking Option:** No Deck

- **Pavilion Roofing:** Asphalt Shingle Roof

- **Skylight:** Without Skylight

- **Ceiling Fan Bases:** No Ceiling Fan Base - (MOST POPULAR)
- **Chimney Removable Cutout:** Without Chimney Removable Cutout

- **TV Mount Base:** No thanks.

- **Electrical Wiring Trim Kit:** No, Thank you

- **Post Height:** 9 ft

- **Bolts Material Type:** Zinc plated hardware (recommended for dry climates)

- **Post Anchoring:** No thanks, I don't need anchors or trim boxes

- **Sealant:** Transparent Premium Sealant - (RECOMMENDED)

Sub-Total	\$12,510.00
Freight: Ships within 6 weeks of design approval	\$0.00
Courtesy Non-Profit 10% discount	\$-1,251.00
3% Wire Transfer Discount	\$-337.77
Total	\$10,921.23

ORDER NOTES

I spoke with Roul who said order will ship within 6-weeks of design approval.

HISTORY/NOTES

LUMBERJACK BUDGET FORM



Project Name: Outdoor Classroom for Little Forest School

Starting Project Date
1/1/2027(Year)

Ending Project Date **1**
12/31/2027 (Year)

Income (SPECIFY)		Cash	Match (Cash & In-Kind) 2,3	Total
LOS ✓	YOUR Request of Lumberjack RC&D	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00
☒	Volunteer Labor		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
☒	Mike McKeon, Cash Donation		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
☐	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
☐	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
☐	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
☐	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
☐	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
☐	Other Revenue Source (list in Match Column)		\$ -	\$ -
Total Income		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 12,500.00

Percent of Match=Match Total/Lumberjack Request 25%



LJ Percent of Total = YOUR LJ Request/Total Expenses 80%

Remember: If it appears here you need a matching support letter

General Expenses (SPECIFY & include Match expenses)			
	Hexagonal Park Pavilion - Add 4 Railings x Without Cupola x 12 ft Diameter - (MOST POPULAR) x Without Corvels	\$ 11,000.00	
	Site Prep, Construction/Assembly	\$ 1,500.00	
	Expense Item	\$ -	
	Expense Item	\$ -	
	Expense Item	\$ -	
	Expense Item	\$ -	
	Expense Item	\$ -	
	Expense Item	\$ -	
Total Expenses		\$ 12,500.00	
NET 4		\$ -	

- Lumberjack Project funds are available for one year from the date of the approval notice
- Match Value must equal at least 25% of the Lumberjack Request and 10% of the request must be in cash
Volunteer Services=\$15/hour & Professional Services=current hourly wage
- A Letter of Support is required for all match partners listed above & must include a description & match value
- Explain a **NET** balance other than Zero (\$0.00) in the box below:

August 31, 2026

Little Forest School Outdoor Classroom Pavilion Project

To the Lumberjack RC&D Council:

I am pleased to support Little Forest School's Outdoor Classroom Pavilion Project. Providing a permanent, covered outdoor learning space will allow children to continue learning and gathering outdoors throughout the year while building a lasting connection to the natural world.

I am committed to supporting this project with a \$1,000 cash contribution, which will serve as matching support for Little Forest School's Lumberjack RC&D grant request.

I believe this is a worthwhile investment in both the Little Forest School campus and the children who will use this space for years to come.

Sincerely,

Michael P McKeon

Mike McKeon

12801 Maple Lane

Manitowish Waters, WI 54545

August 31, 2026

Purpose: Little Forest School Outdoor Classroom Project, Letter of Support

Dear Lumberjack RC&D Council,

We, the volunteers of Little Forest School, are pleased to support the Outdoor Classroom Pavilion Project. Over the past two years, more than 30 individuals have volunteered their time to support projects both inside and outside the classroom. Together, we have built a strong volunteer base that comes together as needed to help improve the school and its learning environment.

Our volunteers have completed a variety of building and hands-on projects, including constructing a fence around the current playground, building a shed for garden and bike storage, and creating outdoor village play features such as a mud kitchen.

For the pavilion project, Jamie VandenLangenberg will lead and oversee the volunteer effort, alongside five additional volunteers. Collectively, our volunteers will contribute approximately 100 hours of in-kind labor toward site preparation, construction and assembly of the pavilion, and preparing the space for use as an outdoor classroom. We will track and maintain record of these hours to include in project reporting.

We are proud to contribute our time and skills to help create a permanent outdoor learning space that will benefit Little Forest School children for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Jamie VandenLangenberg

On behalf of the Little Forest School Volunteers

100 hours @ \$15/hour = \$1,500 match value as shown on the budget form. TJB

Land & Water Conservation Committee

August 12, 2026

Chair Tomlanovich called the regular meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee to order at 9:00 a.m. on Aug. 12th, 2026, in Room B, at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present: The following people were present: County Board members Holly Tomlanovich, Robert Hanson, Richard Logan, Tom Petrusky, and Aron Houdini of the Land & Water Conservation Committee.

Others present: Al Wirt, Cathy Higley, and Quita Sheehan (L&W staff).

Public: Mary George (Lumberjack RC&D). Jeremy Irish and Cade Strehlow (APHIS). Jamie VandenLangenberg (Little Forest School). Andre Carriveau (Ducks Unlimited). Joe Panci, Nancy Moriarity, Michelle Garthe.

The following County Board member(s) was excused: None.

The following County Board member(s) was absent: None.

Media present: None.

Pledge of Allegiance

Notice of posting compliance: Sheehan reported yes.

Approve Minutes: Motion made by Logan, second by Hanson, to approve the minutes of July 8th, 2026, regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comments: NA

APHIS Wildlife Damage Budget Approval and WI Deer Donation Program: Irish introduced Strehlow, the new Vice County rep from APHIS. Irish explained the Animal Damage Program and the Budget. **Motion made by Logan, second by Hanson,** to approve the proposed budget. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Irish explained the **Deer Donation Program.** **Motion made by Hanson, second by Petrusky,** to agree for Vilas County to participate in the Deer Donation Program. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Deerskin Update: Higley shared that she is working with ERCLA and town of Washington on a grant proposal to address the possible dredging project.

Little Forest School Inc presentation, Lumberjack RC&D Grant proposal:

VandenLangenberg presented the whole little Forest School Daycare development history, and their Lumberjack grant request. The grant would help fund an outdoor classroom structure for children to spend part of their day outside.

Land & Water Conservation Committee

August 12, 2026

Ducks Unlimited Lumberjack RC&D Grant proposal: Carriveau presented the history of the Little Bear Flowage duck habitat structure including the failure of the water control structure in recent years which led to it becoming less effect waterfowl habitat. The Lumberjack grant would help complete the funding needed to repair the water control structure. Most of the funding has been raised from DNR Forestry, North American Wetlands Fund, and GLIFWC. This grant would help fund the last needed \$30,000.

2027 Draft Budget: Wirt shared the proposed draft 2027, currently at \$143,321.00. He explained where the grant funds come from. **Motion made by Houdini, second by Hanson,** to move the draft 2027 Land & Water Budget to Finance. **Motion carried unanimously.**

DATCP engineer update: DATCP has recently flown a technical specialist position that would work under an engineer to assist northern County Land & Water departments with Cost Share projects. Wirt and Sheehan suggested that the Conservation Specialist position be restructured to bring more engineering skills to the position, and to revisit the Cost Share Cap policy to make the Cost Share funding more streamlined.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System Update: Wirt shared that some new training is coming up soon.

Lake District County Representative appointment discussion: We are looking for County representatives to the Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake P&R District Board, the Upper and Lower Buckatabon Lakes P&R District Board, the Big St Germain Area District Board, and the Little Arbor Vitae P&R District Board.

Closed Session: It is anticipated that a motion will be made and seconded to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. **Purpose:** Conduct Department Head performance review. **Motion made by Houdini, second by Hanson,** to move enter Closed Session at 9:43 am. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Return to Open Session: Adjourn closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) and return to open session at 10:10 am.

Staff and Partner Updates: