



Lumberjack Grant Application

PROJECT TITLE: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AT TFT

Submitted by (name):	CHERYL TODEA
Organization:	TREES FOR TOMORROW
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Counties:	VILAS AND STATEWIDE

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.

Organizational Background

Trees For Tomorrow (TFT), an environmental education center located in the heart of Eagle River, has been promoting sustainable management of natural resources through transformative educational experiences for almost 80 years. TFT offers programming to K12 Schools that include multi-day overnight experiences, day programs, and off-campus education programs at schools across the state. In addition, community are offered year-round for youth, families, and adults. The 40-acre campus has 15 buildings including dormitories, dining hall, classrooms, hiking trails, campfire rings, a nature playscape, and much more.

Project Goal

Trees For Tomorrow’s overall project goal is to expand the seating opportunities throughout our campus and ensure we are providing our students and visitors a safe outdoor learning experience.

Project Background and connections to Lumberjack RCD Mission

Trees For Tomorrow has historically used the forest trail on campus as one of our many outdoor learning areas. This part of campus has seen many improvements over the past few years during Phase 1 of our multi-year project - “Improving Outdoor Learning Experiences at Trees For Tomorrow”. With support from Lumberjack RC&D grant funding we updated trail signs, updated the river overlook with benches, better marked trails, and built a new nature playscape as part of Phase 2. These updates have created a much **improved experienced**

for our visitors and have led to an increased use throughout TFT programs and an increased use by the general public.

In addition, in 2019, Trees For Tomorrow staff began working on Phase 3 of our “Improving Outdoor Learning Experiences at TFT” project with the USDA Forest Service and staff from Futurewood Corporation on a campus-wide forest management plan to ensure we are **providing a safe learning experience** throughout our campus. The forest management plan resulted in a timber harvest in late winter of 2022 to remove hazardous trees on the West side of the property and mature trees on the East side of the property to prevent future blowdowns. In addition, several ¼ acre gaps were created to improve overall forest health. A post-harvest ad hoc group has been established to identify next steps in managing the property and educating our neighbors and local community on sustainable forest management.

As another part of Phase 3 of the project, we also began working with the WI Headwaters Invasive Partnership program in 2020 to develop a campus-wide invasive species inventory and management plan to help **enhance the health of our natural areas**. This NNIS Management Plan was completed in May 2022 and is a great resource as we continue to manage the invasive species on campus. These two projects are essential to us providing a safe learning area as well as an opportunity to demonstrate land management best practices.

To **provide a welcoming, safe, and meaningful outdoor learning experience** for our students and guests, our educators have identified the one thing that is still missing on our campus is a concentrated outdoor seating area. When Trees For Tomorrow educators or visiting groups need to gather for programs, they have to move picnic tables around or haul tables and chairs from the classroom to outside.

While we do very well at using outdoor field sites for making observations, data collection, and exploring nature, we often introduce and wrap up lessons in our formal classroom. If additional seating was added to campus, we could introduce and wrap up many of our lessons outdoors and simply hold more activities outdoors. This is why schools, community members, and other groups come to Trees For Tomorrow – to explore and learn in the outdoors. Additional seating on campus will also create a more welcoming environment for our local community members as we regularly see families visit our campus for walks on our trails, a picnic family lunch, a walk with a dog, or a small group meeting outside.

In addition, if we had mobile dry erase easel boards and storage clip boards for our educators and students to use, we would see a much improved flow of class and management of worksheets, field journals, and writing utensils. This efficiency and improved flow will lead to more effective instruction and **more productive learning about natural resource management**.

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.

Outdoor Learning Experience Improvements Phase 4 - To expand outdoor seating for visiting guests and program participants.

We need additional practical seating for visiting guests and participants in our school, youth, and family programs. Oftentimes activities or part of a lesson are more successful if participants are seated outside or have an outdoor work area to sit down at. The current tables on campus were painted when first installed (decades ago) so every year or so picnic tables need to be scraped and repainted and some are at the point of rotting and needing to be removed. Since building a picnic-style shelter on campus is years out, it is essential we begin replacing rotten tables and adding to the seating options on campus. The new tables will be made out of treated lumber and stained. They will not be painted.

To improve the outdoor learning experience for our students and guests, Trees For Tomorrow is seeking funding to add up to 15 square wooden picnic tables, two dry erase easel boards, and 20 storage clip boards to our outdoor learning areas. Trees For Tomorrow's maintenance manager, other support staff, and volunteers will build the tables throughout 2023 if funding is approved. The easels and storage clip boards would be purchased by our education manager.

Long-term plans in Phase 5 of the project include building an outdoor picnic-style shelter as a covered learning area. That part of the project will not begin for several years. We will be working with the US Forest Service, the WI State Historical Preservation Office, and our staff on planning the location, style, and funding sources for the picnic shelter.

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.

Trees For Tomorrow's staff have taken the time to be strategic about improvements needed on campus. At no point during our Outdoor Learning Experience Improvement Project have we rushed into anything. We have taken the time to develop partnerships, to evaluate priorities, and to identify step-by-step strategies that align well with our many other projects and programs we are involved in. The beginning of this project was to focus on improving the trail system and adding the playscape. Then the blowdown from the July 2021 storms happened and required us to move up our forest management phase. It is now time to expand the outdoor learning opportunities. By building tables now, we are moving one step closer to the larger goal of having a covered area for outdoor learning. Since some of our current wooden tables and benches are starting to rot, now is the time to replace them with newer tables.

This project will be deemed a success once we have updated seating in at least 3 locations on campus for participants and community members to gather in an outdoor area.

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.

Funding to purchase the supplies to build picnic tables is needed as Trees For Tomorrow does not budget for larger projects like this. Revenue from program fees, memberships, and donations support our day-to-day operational budget. Grants and sponsorships support our special projects.

Trees For Tomorrow's Executive Director, Maintenance Manager, and Education Manager will work together on coordinating Phase 4 of this project to ensure we are providing the best possible experience during our programs. No other partners are needed for this phase of the project. If Lumberjack RC&D funding does not cover 100% of the project budget for

phase 4, TFT's Executive Director may seek support from other grants and/or sponsors or reduce the number of tables that are built.

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Budget Notes</i>	<i>Budget</i>
<i>March 2023</i>	Updated quote for materials for up to 15 new tables	Maintenance Manager (Bill)	Original estimate of \$200 per table received October 2022	Bill x 1 hour x \$25/hour = \$25	Cash Match = \$25 from TFT Budget
<i>April-August 2023</i>	Purchase table supplies and begin construction	Maintenance Manager (Bill), TFT Support Staff, TFT Volunteer	Based on projections, wood prices expected to increase up to 40% in 2023 with tables to cost up \$280 per table.	Bill and support staff x 60 hours x \$25/hr = \$1,500 Volunteer x 30 hours x \$29.95/hr = \$899 Lumber and hardware = \$200 x 15 tables = \$3,000 3 gallons of stain = \$150	Cash Match = \$1,500 from TFT Budget In-Kind Match = \$899 from volunteers Grant Request = \$3,150
<i>April-May 2023</i>	Purchase dry erase easel boards and storage clip boards	Education Manager (Kim)		Kim x 1 hour x \$25/hr = \$25 Dry erase easel boards = \$130 x 2 easels = \$260 Storage clip boards = \$15 x 20 clip boards = \$300	Cash Match = \$25 from TFT Budget Grant Request = \$560
<i>May 2023-November 2023</i>	Remove existing rotten wooden tables, repaint wooden tables that are in good condition	Maintenance Manager (Bill) and TFT Volunteers	Repaint Forest Service brown	Bill x 8 hours x \$25/hr = \$200 In-Kind = 1 Volunteer x 32 hours x \$29.95/hr = \$958	Cash Match = \$200 from TFT Budget In-Kind Match = \$958 from volunteers

BUDGET: Complete the attached Budget Form. Remember the 50% match value requirement with 15% of the match being cash. 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 for which funds are being asked. Note: This form is available in excel online at: <https://lumberjackrcd.org/projects>

LUMBERJACK BUDGET FORM



Project Name: Outdoor Classroom at Trees For Tomorrow

Starting Project Date
3/1/23

Ending Project Date **1**
12/31/23

Income (SPECIFY)	Cash	Match (Cash & In-Kind) 2,3	Total
YOUR Request of Lumberjack RC&D	\$ 3,710.00		\$ 3,710.00
TFT Operating Cash Match		\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
TFT Volunteer Time In-Kind		\$ 1,857.00	\$ 1,857.00
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 3,710.00	\$ 3,607.00	\$ 7,317.00

Percent of Match=Match Total/Lumberjack Request **97%**

LJ Percent of Total = YOUR LJ Request/Total Expenses **51%**

General Expenses (SPECIFY & include Match expenses)		
New Picnic Tables - 15 tables X \$200	\$	3,000.00
3 Gallons of Stain - \$50/gallon x 3	\$	150.00
TFT Staff Time - with fringe benefits	\$	-
Maintenance Manager x 69 hrs x \$25/hr	\$	1,725.00
Education Manager x 1 hr x \$25/hr	\$	25.00
Volunteer Building and Repainting	\$	1,857.00
Dry Erase Easel Board x 2 boards x \$130	\$	260.00
Storage Clip Boards x 20 clip boards x \$15	\$	300.00
Total Expenses	\$	7,317.00
NET 4	\$	-



Trees For Tomorrow
Environmental Education Center®



Make an investment in Trees For Tomorrow, our future students and the natural world we live in.

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permitted by law.
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December 8, 2022

Dear Lumberjack RC&D Grants Committee,

Trees For Tomorrow commits to providing a cash match in the amount of \$1,750 and volunteer match in the amount of \$1,857 towards our Outdoor Classroom grant project in 2023.

More details can be found on the breakdown of match in the Project Outline and Timetable Section of the application.

Thank you,



Cheryl Todea
Executive Director