Fort Lauderdale Garden Club – Learning Garden Grants
Creating Gardens in Community Schools

In 2026, the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club will again offer grants to install learning gardens in Broward County public schools. The purpose of the grants is to provide on-site gardens where children can learn first-hand about the role of pollinators, native plants, food production and water conservation. Children can participate in planting, watering, garden maintenance and learn about environmental stewardship. The gardens will beautify the school campus and enable children to observe nature's creatures at work.

What is Fort Lauderdale Garden Club and Why are We Offering These Grants?

- Fort Lauderdale Garden Club (FLGC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1927.
- The Club's mission is to stimulate the love of gardening, encourage the study of plant life and the cultivation and growing of flowers, trees and shrubs, and to foster good stewardship and the conservation of natural resources.

Application and Completion Timeline:

- **Application deadline: September 11, 2026** *(see application form on page 3).* Applications received by this deadline will be reviewed by the FLGC's Garden Grants Committee (the "Committee") and the strongest applications will be selected for pre-award site visits, after which the final grant decisions will be made.
- Grants Awarded: Applicants selected by the Committee will be notified of acceptance status by October 30.
- Gardens must be installed by January 15.

Grant Amounts and Eligibility:

- Grants will range from $500 to $1,000, depending on the garden size and quality of the grant application as assessed by the Committee.
- First preference will be given to Fort Lauderdale schools. Schools outside of Fort Lauderdale, but within Broward County, will be considered.

Garden Ideas for Grant Application:

- **Native Plant Garden**: Planting a garden with native flora provides habitat for local pollinators and unique species. Students can learn about indigenous plants suited to our region and showcase the importance of biodiversity.
- **Food Forest**: A garden designed with multiple layers of edible plants including trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers. Students can participate in planting, maintaining, and harvesting nutritious produce.
- **Sensory Garden**: A garden that engages all five senses with plants of various textures, scents, colors, and sounds. Students engage in an interactive experience to explore nature through touch, smell, sight, and sound while learning about the characteristics of different plants.
- **Pollinator Garden**: A garden planted primarily with flowers that provide nectar or pollen to support a wide range of pollinating insects.
- **Rain Garden:** A garden planted to capture stormwater runoff to reduce pollution and flooding.

- **Water Conservation Garden**: Introduce water conservation principles, such as incorporating rain barrels. Students can learn about water management while setting up and maintaining a rain barrel to collect rainwater for irrigating the garden.

Garden Site Criteria for Consideration:

- Ample sun.
- Access to water for irrigation.

Participation Criteria:

- Teacher/student participation, including commitment of the teacher who will lead the garden project and work directly with the Committee.
- Principal's approval of the garden project.
- Parent participation.
- The school is responsible for pick-up or coordinating delivery of the plants. The Committee will be available to assist the school contact with plant and nursery recommendations, which will ensure that the best selection of plants is made and that expenditures maximize the grant award.
- The following pictures (including Releases of photographs from the student's parents) must be provided:
  - Pre-installation area (with the application).
  - During the garden installation.
  - Post installation, before the school year ends.
- A year-end report must be submitted, before the end of the school year, describing the project outcomes and providing pictures of the garden during and post-installation.

Distribution of Funds:

- Grant monetary award checks will be provided to the selected schools as advised by each school's contact person

Past Garden Grant Recipients are also eligible to apply.

Past recipients include:

Apollo Middle School, Cypress Run Education Center, Fort Lauderdale High School, Hallandale Magnet High School, Miramar High School, Plantation Park Elementary, Sandpiper Elementary, Silver Trail Middle School, Stranahan High School, Virginia Shuman Young Elementary, Whiddon-Rogers Education Center, William Dandy Middle School, and Wilton Manors Elementary.

Complete the Grant Application on Page 3 of this document and submit by September 11, 2026 for consideration.

Email completed applications and inquiries to: fortlauderdalegardenclub@gmail.com
Sharon Bogard and Maggie Dunn, Community Outreach Co-Chairs, Fort Lauderdale Garden Club
www.flgc.org

Fort Lauderdale Garden Club – Learning Garden Grant
GRANT APPLICATION
(Due by September 11, 2026)

Date of Application: _____

Name and Address of Applicant School: _____

School Contact Name and Title: _____

Contact Email Address: _____ **Contact Phone**: _____

Principal's Name & Email: _____

- **Background** (Characteristics and location of land where the garden will be, size of garden plot, advance internal approvals required if any, etc.):
- **Describe the plans for the garden project** (What will it do for the school, what grades will participate, how will the garden be used, is this part of an existing garden, how will it be maintained, how does it fit in the curriculum?):
- **What are the school's goals for the garden?**
- **What is the plan for maintaining the garden when school is in and out of session?**
- **Who are the key school and parent members who will be involved in the project, and what is their role?**
- **Do you need assistance with designing the garden?**
- **Are you able to arrange pick-up of the materials from a local nursery?**

Be sure to include these items with your submission:
- Grant outline with acknowledgement signatures (page 1 and 2)
- Application page (page 3 – plus additional pages, as needed)
- Photos of the space to be dedicated to the garden.

As school contact person for this project, I have read and understand the terms of the Gardens in Community Schools grant and my role as a school contact person.
(School Contact's Acknowledgement Signature)

_____

As Principal of the school, I approve this project.
(School Principal's Acknowledgement Signature)

_____

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