



Texas Operations

2011 Community Grants Application

Maximum application length: 5 pages, including project description. The itemized budget can be separate.

Applying for (Check only one):

- Heritage Grant - Maximum \$25,000**
- Diamond Grant – Maximum \$10,000**

Amount requested \$25000

(May not exceed grant levels. Funding requests below the maximum allowable are encouraged, as they allow Dow to increase the number of projects that can be funded).

Organization Information

Organization Name Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

Contact Name Marty Cornell

Mailing Address	P.O. Box 505	Lake Jackson	TX
	77566		

City	State	Zip
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Street Address	2547 CR 316	Brazoria	TX
	77422		

City	State	Zip
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Telephone No. 979-297-2235

Email marty-carole@comcast.net

501(c)(3) Federal Tax No.* 76-0440298

*** (Copy of IRS Letter of 501(c)(3) Certification must accompany application if applicable)**

Project title Otter Slough Boardwalk and Trail

Project Information

Please provide a description of your project and how the funding from the Dow Gives – Community Grant Program would be used

The Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges ask for materials for the construction of a 430-foot boardwalk, a critical component of a new 1.5 trail for a new public-use area on the northern side of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. Currently, the cost of materials is \$26,152.79, \$1,152.79 of which will be paid for by the Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. The boardwalk will be built by volunteers, many of whom are Dow employees and retirees.

The boardwalk and trail are an important project because it will open up an area of the refuge at Otter Slough not previously available to the public.

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge is part of the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex and includes 44,000 acres, protecting critical coastal wetlands for migratory birds and other wildlife. Each year 38,000 people visit the refuge for fishing, hunting, hiking, birding, wildlife observation, nature photography, environmental education, and to get away from the city into a natural environment.

The refuges in Brazoria County provide valuable environmental education programs and outreach to local students. Each year thousands of school children visit the refuge, and feedback from the students tells us that many of them have never spent time outside or learned about the nature around them until their visits to the refuge.

By use of this boardwalk, tourists, visitors and students will be taken through several habitat types completely different from the existing Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge public areas. In addition, we expect substantial interest from birders, both local and tourists, because of the variety and quantity of birds that can be seen from this location.

The Big Slough trail and boardwalk will be accessible Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and one Saturday a month.

When will your project begin and end?**August 1 2011- April 30 2012****Which area of Dow's contributions strategy applies to this project? Check all that apply.**

- Science in Society** – promoting understanding of chemicals and their roles in society, or interest in the fields of chemistry, engineering, technology and/or science.
- Contributing to Community Success** – meeting community needs, increasing employment skills, job creation, improving social infrastructure.
- Environmental Sustainability** – enhancing or protecting the environment, raising environmental awareness.

Project results – how will the community benefit from this project and how will you measure your success?

Southern Brazoria County is especially fortunate in having more than 90,000 acres of national wildlife refuge land, and access to hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, wildlife observation, and the spiritual renewal of nature. Among the the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex are the two large units at San Bernard and Brazoria, and a number of other smaller units such as Dow Woods and Hudsons Woods. Whereas the purpose of these refuges is the protection of habitat and wildlife, many of the units are open to the public. This Dow Community Grant project opportunity opens a whole new area and contributes to the community's educational and recreational opportunities and choices.

One of the most immediate uses of the boardwalk will be recreation, education and eco-tourism. Success of the new public area and trail will be through visitation. Comments and visitation statistics will be collected with a guest log at the trail and/or at the Brazoria field office.

Please provide an itemized project budget and note the item(s) for which you require the community grant (can be a separate page)

The itemized project budget is attached and includes only the building materials needed to construct the proposed boardwalk. Building materials include treated lumber for the boardwalk posts, frame, and railing frame. Tandeck® decking, made from recycled polyethylene, will be used for boardwalk surface and railing and is resistant to insects, mold and ultra-violet light. The construction will be done by volunteers.

Are additional funds beyond the Dow Community Grant required? If so, what are the sources for these funds and how have they been confirmed?

The current quote for the materials is \$26,152.79; of which \$1,152.79 (and any cost increases between now and time of the purchase of materials) will be paid for by the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges. The boardwalk will be constructed by an estimated 640 hours of volunteer work by Friends of the Refuges and other volunteers, many of whom are Dow employees and retirees.

A proposal submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will fund additional enhancements to the Otter Slough public site, including a birding/photo blind on the bank of Otter Slough near the boardwalk and an information kiosk. These enhancements are not critical to the completion and use of the Otter Slough trail and boardwalk. Other site preparation work and expenses will be covered by Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge.

Project/program benefits – How many people will benefit from this project? Who will be the primary beneficiaries?

An estimated 38,000 people visit the Brazoria NWR each year, including those from Brazoria County and the Houston metropolitan area, as well as tourists from across the country and world. Through the Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuges, we provide valuable environmental education programs and outreach to local students, a place for naturalists and tourists, school groups, and families enjoying the bounty of nature of our refuges. Plus the site is important for the variety and quantity of birds observed; birders and nature photographers in the area represent a higher percentage of the total population than in most communities.

How does this project provide opportunities for relationship building and interaction between community members and with Dow employees or retirees?

Formed in 1994, the Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges has a strong partnership with the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and years of collaboration on projects, some of them quite large. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, support, and assist the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge in the operation and development of its refuge programs and to date, the Friends has contributed significantly to the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, through thousands of volunteer hours and by raising money for close to 50 projects and programs.

The current Friends board includes six Dow retirees, one current employee, and one past employee. Among the Friends members and volunteers are a significant number of Dow retirees and employees who make up a vital element of our work and energy. The Friends partner with other organizations in the community, whose members include other Dow employees and retirees. Case in point is next weekend when The Friends and refuge employees are having a volunteer work day at Dow Woods to work on a trail.

How will the project be maintained/sustained in the future?

The boardwalk constructed through this project, the trail, and other facilities at the Otter Slough public area will be maintained by the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge staff. Additional enhancements to the site will be accomplished through the refuge with the support of the Friends. In addition, the Friends will continue to assist in the promotion and awareness of the site and participate in a schedule of interpretive opportunities for the public.

If successful, how will Dow's support for the project be communicated to the public?

A bronze plaque will be incorporated into the completed boardwalk recognizing Dow's financial support. An open house and dedication of the Otter Slough trail, boardwalk, and birding/photo blind will be scheduled October 2012 as part of National Wildlife Refuge Week. Dow officials will be invited to this event. Publicity for the open house and the program at the dedication will acknowledge Dow support. In addition, the new Otter Slough public use area with its trail and boardwalk will need to be promoted with all due acknowledgement to support and partners.

Endorsement and Agreement

Texas Operations Employee Sponsor (Must be a current/full-time employee)

Name James Heller

Employee Number 141039

Phone No. 979-238-3020

Plant/Department Chlor-Alkali-Quality Lab

I have reviewed this project and support this application for funding

Signature _____ Print name

Organization Director (sign and print)

- I certify that all information submitted in this application is accurate and factual to the best of my knowledge
- I agree to submit to Dow, no later than May 1, 2011, a final report of the activities that will document how the grant was used
- I agree to allow Dow to use my photo and application information in communications materials promoting the Community Grants Program (optional)

Signature _____ Print name

Email Address barrios@refugefriends.org

Deliver application to Dow or mail to:
The Dow Chemical Company
Attention: Community Relations---Community Grants Program
2301 N. Brazosport Blvd., Building APB
Freeport, Texas 77541

APPLICATION DEADLINE - 4:00 P.M., FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011
Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

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| <p>Did you remember to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for only <u>one</u> grant? <input type="checkbox"/> Include copy of Letter of Certification of 501(c)(3) status? <input type="checkbox"/> Include itemized project cost statement? <input type="checkbox"/> Fill in all blanks? <input type="checkbox"/> Have the application signed by Dow Sponsor and Organization Director? |
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