



**Texas Operations
2008 Community Grants Application**

Applying for (Check only one):

- Heritage Grant - Maximum \$25,000** **Diamond Grant – Maximum \$5,000**

Organization Information

Organization Name Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

Contact Name David Plunkett

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

City State Zip

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77566**

City State Zip

Telephone No. 979/297-3322

Email doplunkett@sbcglobal.net

501(c)(3) Federal Tax No.* 76-0440298 (See Attachment A for letter)

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

What is your organization’s overall purpose/mission?

The Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges (Friends) started in 1994 and is a group of volunteers dedicated to sharing and protecting the natural wonders of the Texas Mid-Coast National Wildlife Refuges. The seventy-five (75) members/volunteers raise funds through donations, grants, gifts, to help fund refuge projects, educational programs, and other activities such as the annual Migration Celebration. Actities include construction of public-use facilities, clean-up efforts, promotion of public awareness of area refuges and

wildlife, participation in data gathering and bird counts, and advocacy for protection of refuges and area habitat. All projects and activities undertaken by the Friends are coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Project title Environmental Education Shelter for Wolfweed Wetlands at San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge)

Amount requested \$13,000

(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).

Project Information

Description of proposed project (150 words or less)—include purpose of project, specific activities involved, and start and end dates.

The Friends is seeking funds to build a 20' X 25' shelter/equipment at the Wolfweed Reservoir area of the Refuge to establish an instructional area for a new Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP) at this site. This shelter will be used to protect teachers, students and docents from the elements during the five-hour sessions.

Attached are photos showing the proposed shelter location and a similar, smaller DEEP shelter at the Brazoria NWR which is smaller but similar in design to the planned shelter. See Attachment B.

Proposed activities are site preparation and construction of the shelter. Paid labor is proposed due to a current shortage of refuge maintenance personnel and to accelerate the construction for the next school year.

Construction of the shelter would begin shortly after receipt of the funds and would be completed early in the school year in the fall of 2008.

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.

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

See Attachment C.

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

Yes. Additional funds are available from the Friends budget and a matching challenge cost-share grant from the USFWS.
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Project/program benefits – How many people will benefit from this project? Who will be the primary beneficiaries?

Approximately 2600 students on an annual basis participate in the DEEP at the Brazoria NWR and Hudson Woods Unit of San Bernard NWR. These students are primarily from the Brazosport and Angleton school districts. This new shelter will allow establishing an additional program at the San Bernard NWR targeted for schools west of the Brazos River. The initial annual program estimate is 500 students. The expanded DEEP program will be offered to schools in Brazoria, West Columbia, and Damon, which will represent special population minorities, students with disabilities, rural areas, and youths who might never interact with nature or receive its benefits.

The DEEP program gives the future adults of our community a hands-on exposure to biology and the environment. Some of the students in this program have never been to the beach! To sustain protection of wildlife and habitat, it is critical that future generations have an appreciation of the value of science and the natural world. We also believe that the students should have fun while they are learning and giving them a better learning environment enhances their experience. It is also important that we provide our volunteer teachers with suitable working conditions so they will continue their service and allow us to be able to recruit new volunteers.

See Attachment D for more information on the Brazoria NWR DEEP from the Friends website. The program at the Wolfweed shelter will be similar but with different facilities and a more concentrated study area.

The Refuge is open 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset and approximately 33,000 people visited the Refuge last year. When they are not in use for the environmental education program, the shelter will be available to the public as a shaded rest/picnic area and gathering area for guided tours. In addition, the shelter can be used as a waiting/instruction area for Marsh Buggy rides and the Crabbing for Kids program during the annual Migration Celebration. Approximately 850 people attended the Saturday, April 12, 2008, Migration Celebration program at the Refuge.

The primary beneficiaries will be the students, teachers and volunteers in the new DEEP at and the general public visiting the Refuge.

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

The San Bernard Wolfweed Shelter project will allow the Friends organization to enhance the experience of approximately 500 new students (on an annual basis) and their teachers in their visit to the Refuge. It will take approximately 5 volunteers per day to man the study stations that the students work during the program. Many of the volunteers who participate in the program are Dow retirees, members of the Friends group and/or the Cradle of Texas Chapter of the Master Naturalists. Interaction with the students/teachers (i.e., community members) is essential for a successful program. This interaction and the desire to provide a good educational opportunity for the students is a fundamental driver for all the DEEP program members.

Friends' members also promote the DEEP program/refuges and participate in various fundraising activities in the community. Recent examples were the March 29, April 5 and April

19, Migration Celebration and Envirofest promotions at the Brazos Mall. Also, April 4 and 10 bake sales at the Angleton and Lake Jackson Wal-Marts were conducted. In each instance, Friend's board members (including several Dow retirees) manned a display about Migration Celebration, the refuges and the DEEP program. At each of these promotions, a baby alligator was used to garner attention but also allow on the spot education. A similar effort is planned April 26 in Bay City as part of the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center's Earth Week Fair. These types of community interaction are not only to sell baked goods to benefit the EE program but primarily to sell the benefits of the programs offered at the refuges at no cost to the public. To recognize this partnership between community, industry and government, a bronze plaque will be installed at the shelter.

Friend's board members participate in the DEEP program, the promotion of the program and securing grants to enhance the program. Many active and retired Dow employees are active members and/or volunteers of the Friend's group. Below is a list of the board members and their affiliation with Dow.

- **Torry Tvedt ***
- **Mickey Dufilho ***
- **Sandy Henderson ***
- **Ed Barrios ***
- **Ron Bisbee**
- **Marty Cornell ***
- **Phil Huxford**
- **Carolyn Livanec**
- **Jan Kater**
- **Neal McLain**
- **David Plunkett ***
- **Tracie Teague**

*** Dow retiree**

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

See Attachment E for Statement of Sustainability

Endorsement and Agreement

Texas Operations Employee Sponsor

Name Tom Taroni

Employee Number 140519

Phone No. 979/238-7187

Plant/Department CMP/CEP Laboratory

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 March 1, 2009, 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

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, APRIL 25, 2008

Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

Did you remember to:

- Apply for only one grant?**
- Include copy of Letter of Certification of 501(c)(3) status?**
- Include itemized project cost statement?**
- Fill in all blanks?**
- Have the application signed by Dow Sponsor and Organization Director?**