



**Texas Operations
2007 Community Grants Application**

Applying for (Check only one):

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

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)**

Organization Name Friends of the Brazoria Wildlife Refuges

Mailing Address	P.O. Box 505	Lake Jackson	TX
	77566		
		City	State
			Zip
Street Address	119 Bougainvillea	Lake Jackson	TX
	77566		
		City	State
			Zip
Contact Name	Dick Hickner		
Telephone No.	979/297-7726	Email	rhickner@houston.rr.com

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. Activities 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 Shelters for Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge (BNWR)

Is this a new project? **Yes** **No**

How many people will benefit from the project? Directly - approximately 2600 students on an annual basis that participate in the Discovery Environmental Education Program (DEEP) and the 25-30 volunteers who conduct the program. Indirectly - the BNWR is open 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset and approximately 35,000 people visited the refuge last year. When they are not in use for the environmental education program, the shelters will be available to the public who chose to use them.

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.

Amount requested \$5000

(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).

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 B.

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

The environmental education program at the BNWR hosts ~2600 students from BISD each school year. Most classes are held outside at different stations. In 1999 the Friends received a grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to build shelters at three stations. We are now seeking funds to build shelters at two additional stations to protect teachers, students and docents from the elements during the five-hour sessions. The students are at the site for one hour but the docents are there the full day.

Attached are photos showing the proposed shelter locations, one of the older shelters and the general design for the shelters. See Attachments C-E.

Proposed activities are site preparation and construction of two shelters. 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 shelters would begin shortly after receipt of the funds and would be completed early in the school year in the fall of 2007. The general design of the shelters would be the similar to the shelter at the Salt Lake fishing site.

Project/program benefits – Who will benefit? How does this improve the community over the long term?

The DEEP has been in operation for fourteen years, is highly popular with the students (4th and 7th graders) and is part of the BISD science curriculum. The USFWS has a skilled educator working part time to lead the program. He is assisted by 25-35 volunteers who contributed 5480 hours last year. Many of these volunteers are Dow retirees. Many other schools have shown interest including home-schooled groups and church-school groups. In addition, other groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs also participate in DEEP. See Attachment G for more information on DEEP from the Friends website, a schedule for this year and information on the Boys and Girls Club program.

This 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 to allow us to be able to recruit new volunteers.

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

The Environmental Education Shelters project will allow the Friends organization to enhance the experience of approximately 2600 students (on an annual basis) and their teachers in their visit to the BNWR. It takes approximately 17 volunteers per day to man the various study stations that the students work during the program. Many of the 25-30 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 EE program members.

Friend's members also promote the EE program/refuges and participate in various fund raising activities in the community. Just one example was the April 5, 2007, bake sale at the Lake Jackson Wal-Mart. In addition to selling the bake goods, a Friend's board member (Dow retiree) manned a display about Migration Celebration, the refuges and the EE program. This community interaction was 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.

Friend's board members participate in the EE program, the promotion of the program and securing grants to enhance the program. Below is a list of the board members and their affiliation with Dow. We believe the board members are also a reflection of the membership's affiliation with Dow.

- **Torry Tvedt ***

- **Mickey Dufilho ***
- **Dick Hickner ***
- **Ed Barrios ***
- **Ron Bisbee**
- **Marty Cornell ***
- **Phil Huxford**
- **Carolyn Livanec**
- **Jan Kater**
- **Neal McLain**
- **David Plunkett ****

*** Dow retiree**

**** Active Dow employee**

If the amount of the project exceeds the amount of the grant, how do you plan to raise the remainder of the funds?

In recent years, bake sales have been held at Wal-Mart or at the Migration Celebration. The profits are designated for the Environmental Education program. This year's bake sale at Wal-Mart raised \$402 which we expect to be matched by Wal-Mart. This year's Migration Bake sale amount was \$534. Approximately \$900 was raised in 2006 with the Wal-Mart bake sale/grant. Money from the bake sales is held in a special account and will cover any shortfall.

How will the project be sustained in the future?

See Attachment F for Statement of Sustainability

Endorsement and Agreement

Dow Employee Sponsor Signature

Print Name

**Department: EH&S Operations Regulatory Management
979/238-4538**

Phone:

- 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, 2008, a final report of activities that will document how the grant was used.*
- I agree to allow Dow to use my photo and entry in publicity materials promoting the program (optional).*

I have reviewed and endorse this application.

Directors Signature

Print Name

Email address: ttvedt@earthlink.net

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 20, 2007

Applications received after this date will not be accepted.