Private Landowner Native Seed/Plant for Stewardship Trade Agreement

Application Form

The Green Ribbon Initiative (GRI) is a partnership of conservation groups working together for many years to protect the natural beauty and biological diversity of the Oak Openings Region. The GRI is a shared vision of public and private organizations, landowners and individuals working to preserve, enhance and restore critical natural areas in the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. As part of the Conservation Strategy Development Plan to provide for improved habitat quality and increased abundance of native plants on private lands, the collaborative agencies (Metroparks of the Toledo Area, The Nature Conservancy, The Olander Parks System, Wild Ones, Wood County Parks, Toledo Botanical Garden, and Toledo Zoo) jointly will offer native plant material in exchange for stewardship hours. Requests for plant material must help meet at least one of the following goals:

1. Restore natural communities and increase diversity, creating a greater ability for landscapes to recover from disturbance.
2. Increase native seed sources for use in habitat restoration projects.
3. Increase native plant diversity and create connections between restored habitats, enabling better support for a diverse amount of insects, amphibians, mammals and birds.

Please fill out known information below. Please feel free to contact Native Plant Working Group members to assist with form completion. Stewardship hours will be calculated to scale with plant material needs. Stewardship hours can be banked with any of the participating agencies. Time spent preparing your planting site can count towards 50% of your stewardship hours. All requests will be considered. However, the committee reserves the right to refuse any request.

All applications are due to the GRI Partnership Specialist by June 1 for plant materials being awarded that fall or the following spring. All applications will be approved / denied by the Plant Materials Distribution committee. The committee will look first at the availability of seed / plant materials for that season. Next, the project will be evaluated on its conservation merit (how does this project meet GRI goals and objectives). If not enough seed is available for all projects, the qualifying applications will then be awarded on a first come first serve basis.

If a project is denied, GRI will help find other options such as commercial sources where seed / plant materials can be purchased by the landowner. However, if the reason for denial was due to lack of seed availability, and the landowner wants to wait for the next season, the application will remain on file and will be re-evaluated the following year. (The landowner must submit this in writing.)

Requesting: [ ] Seed [ ] Plant plugs [ ]  Expert knowledge/guidance

Organization/Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organization Type: [ ] Private Landowner [ ] Non-Profit [ ] School [ ] Government [ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Site: Soil type(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ light conditions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ moisture conditions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

List community groups, non-profit organizations, government agencies, businesses and other project sponsors and briefly describe their participation. Include a contact person for each, along with a phone number and email address.

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Briefly describe the specific project for which you are requesting seeds/plants. (Whom will the project benefit? How will this project meet the goals as stated above? What is the size and scope of the project?)

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Describe the current and past conditions of the site. (Are native, non-native and/or invasive species present in or around the site? How have previous plant materials been removed and when?) Contact GRI for help with species identification.

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Preliminary list of native species being requested (both common names and scientific names): (OPTIONAL)

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Proposed Project Time Line (application, preparation, installation and maintenance)

Time Period Activity

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By checking the following you agree that steps have been or will be taken:

[ ] A map of the site will be made and agreed upon by GRI and the landowner prior to the approval process.

[ ] The planting site will be properly prepared prior to installing seed/plants. This typically includes removing existing vegetation and lightly disturbing the soil. GRI will determine the ideal preparation for each site. GRI has the right to postpone the award if the preparation is not complete.

[ ] The amount of seed awarded will be adequate for the coverage of the site. It will be the landowner’s responsibility to install the seed appropriately.

[ ] The planting will remain in place and be maintained allowing GRI 10% seed collection rights for at least 4 years.

[ ] GRI will monitor the site for the first 3 years. Feedback and maintenance recommendations will be made for the landowner to follow-up. Requests by the landowner can be made for further monitoring after the 3 year period.

[ ] I have discussed plans with appropriate neighbors and/or Organization Official (i.e. Superintendent, President, Mayor, etc.).

[ ] I understand that stewardship hours are expected in exchange for seed/plants received.

[ ] I have checked local ordinances and/or neighborhood association’s bylaws.

[ ] A progress report with pictures will be submitted upon installation completion.

[ ] A follow up report with pictures will be submitted during peak blooming season.

Want to further support the Oak Openings Region [Habitat Protection and Restoration](http://oakopenings.org/donate/oak-openings-habitat-protection-and-restoration-fund/)? Consider a gift or purchase a “Proud to Live in the Oak Openings” sign at <http://oakopenings.org/proud-to-live-in-the-oak-openings-sign/> .

By submitting this application, I give Green Ribbon Initiative and collaborating agencies (Metroparks of the Toledo Area, The Nature Conservancy, The Olander Parks System, Wild Ones, Wood County Parks, Toledo Botanical Garden, and Toledo Zoo) permission to use information about how the donated seed/plants were used in publications. I confirm that the donated seed/plants will be used only for the purposes described in this application and that these **seeds/plants are not to be sold**. I also pledge that all required hours to fulfill the Stewardship Trade Agreement will be completed prior to receipt of plant materials.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed application to Ashlee Decker (ashlee.decker@tnc.org; 419.455.4192)

Questions about the application process, eligibility, suggested stewardship hours, or selecting seeds? Contact Ashlee Decker or Penny Niday (penny.niday@metroparkstoledo.com; 419.461.4861)