



## Hendrick Hudson Free Library

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185 Kings Ferry Road • Montrose, New York 10548 • (914) 739-5654  
[www.henhudfreelibrary.org](http://www.henhudfreelibrary.org)

The Hendrick Hudson Free Library seeks a WLS Mini-Grant in the amount of \$607.00 for our Backyard Bird Sustainability project.

### **Project Details:**

Exploring the Big Ideas of interdependence and systems of sustainability, we are looking to educate the community about the benefits that backyard birds provide to our environment.

### **Purpose for which we seek funds:**

We seek funds to provide educational professional visits to our library to discuss the ecological impact of birds on our environment. Funding will also be necessary for supplies to complete the projects that will be accomplished following these visits.

### **Specific activities:**

Guest educators from the Saw Mill River Audubon Society will visit the library for two workshops, each with different age groups, to provide an overview of Westchester birds (feeder birds and raptors) and why they are so important to our environment. We will demonstrate how encouraging birds to our backyards with feeders and housing come with benefits to the environment, such as flower pollination, organic fertilization, and seed dispersal. After learning about backyard birds we will conduct two workshops where we make bird feeders and birdhouses based on the knowledge acquired. Feeders and houses will be placed around the library grounds with children (and parent) volunteers to maintain them on a weekly basis.

### **Target audience and maximum capacity:**

Audubon workshops have a maximum capacity of 30 students. We plan to provide a workshop for four-year-old through second grade and a workshop for third through eighth graders (along



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with their parents). Following the talks, the younger children will join a workshop to focus on making bird feeders and the older group will make bird houses from recycled materials.

### **Strategies for engaging participants:**

Audubon workshops will engage participants through hands on explorations of wildlife artifacts (presentations do not include live animals). At the feeder and birdhouse workshops, participants will make items to bring to their home as well as some to install on the library grounds.

### **Project Dates:**

All workshops will occur between the months of September and November 2015. We hope to encourage participants to continue observing backyard birds through the winter.

### **Project Goals:**

To help children gain a better understanding of the vital role that bird wildlife plays in our local environment. In a study done by Stanford University, it is estimated that 10% of all bird species are likely to disappear by 2100. By providing a habitat that is hospitable, we can help sustain the bird populations in our area. Participants will also learn which foods attract certain species and the best kind of housing to provide for the local area.

### **Community Impact:**

Bald eagles have returned to our area and have raised awareness of these beautiful creatures that were brought back from the brink of extinction due to human contamination of their environment. This is a wonderful illustration of how we can turn things around if we are aware of the impact of our actions. Using examples such as this, we will encourage participants to create an inviting backyard bird habitat that helps sustain their way of life.



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### **Professionals involved and their qualifications:**

Anne Swaim, Executive Director of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society will conduct the community presentations. Presentations provide an engaging link between standardized curricula and what students can observe in their own environment.

### **Community involvement and their roles:**

The community will be engaged in learning activities to help them create habitats that help birds survive and thrive in their changing environments.

### **Culminating activity planned:**

We will encourage participants to join in with “Project FeederWatch” (<http://feederwatch.org/>), once we have installed our feeders and birdhouses. This is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders at backyards, nature centers and community areas across North America. Birds can be counted at the Library feeders, or those participants make to take home.

### **Total project budget amount:**

Two Presentations by Saw Mill River Audubon Society - \$300.00

Materials to create and maintain birdhouses and bird feeders - \$307.00

In-kind services provided by all library staff

Promotional Materials – provided by Hendrick Hudson Free Library

### **Total project request amount:**

\$607.00



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## Backyard Bird Sustainability Project Mini Grant Budget

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Audubon Workshop</b>	\$ 150.00
<b>Audubon Workshop</b>	\$ 150.00
<b>Materials</b>	
Seed	\$ 187.00
Hardware (nails, glue, paint, etc.)	\$ 50.00
Misc. (making suet, etc.)	\$ 70.00
	<b>\$ 607.00</b>
<b>In-Kind Services</b>	\$ 410.00
Includes Librarian salaries, building fees, etc.	