



Rewild My School Park Competition Entry Packet and Waivers

Contest at Jack London State Historic Park
on **Saturday, May 20th, 2023**

Participant Information and media release forms must be filled out and turned into your teacher no later than Friday, May 12th, 2023.

Rewilding is a form of conservation that seeks to reverse some of the environmental damage done to native habitats by human interference, industry, and activity. People all around the world are re-thinking how we design our built environments, from the smallest village to the largest cities. We are realizing that one of the most important things we can do to reverse environmental damage and to slow down climate change is to **increase natural habitats and protect and the world's biodiversity**. One community at a time, we can help achieve these goals! We are challenging you to use your creativity and imagination to design a plan that rewilds a small part of your own community.

If Nature could design a school for humans, what would it look like?

Criteria for contest entry:

THE CHALLENGE: Your task is to re-think and re-imagine your school campus. You want to design an ecosystem that does two things:

- (1) addresses the needs of the school and its students.
- (2) creates space for Nature to thrive alongside, thereby **increasing habitat and the biodiversity levels** in your part of the community.

WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE:

- You will create a **3-dimensional model** of your new school campus. You want to create areas for habitat, wherever you think would be appropriate on a busy school campus. Your design cannot interfere with the regular functions of the school. The idea is to find a balance between human use and Nature's needs. You can change the structure and layout of buildings, as well as the landscape.
- The size of your model should be no larger than **1-meter square** (give or take a few centimeters). This is a guide and models with slightly different dimensions are fine.
- **You will also need to submit a list of at least five of the plant species** you plan to include in your design to the judges on the day of the contest. Native plants are ideal, and you can research the plant communities found in the Oak Woodlands and mixed forests of Sonoma County (example: California oaks, madrone, manzanita, etc.) You should get plenty of inspiration from your field trip!

Tips for brainstorming your project design:

ECOLOGY BASICS TO REMEMBER: Ask yourself, “does my design address the 4 basic building blocks of an ecosystem?” Producers are the foundation of any ecosystem; how diverse is your plant list? Who are you trying to attract? Pollinators? Birds? A variety of native animals? This will help you determine what types of plants you should incorporate.

GEOGRAPHY AND WEATHER: Remember, ecology is about the relationships between the biotic and abiotic elements of an ecosystem. Weather and climate are important factors to consider when choosing locations and plants. Is the area too exposed, or did I include enough shelter from extreme winds, storms, or extreme heat? This can be in the form of shade as well as built structures (think of bat boxes, owl boxes, bug hotels, or other helpful shelters).

DON'T FORGET THE HUMANS: Humans enjoy beauty. When designing for human-centered spaces, don't forget to make your design appealing to people so they will enjoy it and want to support your efforts. Let your creativity flow with this project!

OTHER QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AS I PLAN MY DESIGN:

- What are the limiting factors of my school campus (things that could make it hard for animals to live there)?
- Is there a natural and consistent water source (a limiting factor)? Will I have to create that?
- What challenges will wild animals have to deal with on an active and noisy campus full of people (a limiting factor)? How can I design around that challenge?

WHERE CAN I GET INSPIRATION TO START MY DESIGN? The best model is Nature itself! Think about the research you did during the program. Which research location supported more biodiversity (the school or the park)? Why was that area able to do so? Ask yourself, “can I recreate this natural system on a smaller scale at school?”

You can visit some of these locations for more inspiration:

- **Sugarloaf Ridge State Park:** Naturalist led tours <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>
- **Bouverie Preserve:** Naturalist led tours https://www.egret.org/preserves_bouverie
- **California Academy of Sciences:** tours and shows <https://www.calacademy.org/>
- **Jack London State Park:** Community nature hikes <http://jacklondonpark.com/>
- **Sonoma Garden Park:** <https://sonomaecologycenter.org/sonomagardenpark/>

Below are links to some great examples of how people are rewilding urban and suburban environments all around the world:

- **Regeneration** – regeneration.org
- **8 Cities rewilding their urban spaces** - <https://breathelife2030.org/news/8-cities-rewilding-urban-spaces/>
- **Rewilding our cities: beauty, biodiversity and the biophilic cities movement** - <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/apr/05/re-wilding-our-cities-beauty-biodiversity-and-the-biophilic-cities-movement>
- **Rewilding Cities:** Why it's needed and how you can help - <https://www.mossy.earth/rewilding-knowledge/rewilding-cities>

Planning Worksheet (optional to use)

Step 1: To simplify and focus your research, you can identify one local food chain that you would like to support and attract.

Step 2: For each trophic level of your food chain, identify one or more ways to fulfill the four basic building blocks of an ecosystem (food, water, shelter, space); example provided.

Step 3: Identify any limiting factors of your schoolyard and adjust your food chain to fit the physical space better if you need to. Your chosen food chain should be an appropriate fit for your area.

Limiting Factors of my school	<i>i.e., campus is too small for large predators; surrounded by city and traffic; must share space with sport fields...</i>			
My chosen food chain	PRODUCERS	PRIMARY CONSUMERS	SECONDARY CONSUMERS	TERTIARY CONSUMERS
	<i>Native bunch grasses</i>	<i>Field mouse</i>	<i>Gray fox</i>	<i>Great Horned owl</i>
WHAT DO THEY NEED?				
FOOD	<i>Sandy gravelly soils</i>	<i>Native grasses and seeds</i>	<i>Small mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles</i>	<i>Small-medium mammals, insects, amphibians, birds, reptiles</i>
WATER	<i>Drought tolerant, moderate water</i>	<i>Daily access to fresh water. Much comes through food</i>	<i>Daily access to fresh water. Much comes through food</i>	<i>Daily access to fresh water. Much comes through food</i>
SHELTER	<i>Mixed sun and shade</i>	<i>Brush piles, thick grasses, burrows underground</i>	<i>Dens underground, old fallen logs, small rock shelters</i>	<i>Hollowed trees, owl boxes, need to be perched high up</i>
SPACE	<i>Can fill any space</i>	<i>Small territory needs</i>	<i>One square mile or less</i>	<i>1.5 square miles - flight</i>

Project plant list (*you will turn this list in to the judges on contest day. Must have a minimum of 5 plants - more are welcome*) Don't forget to bring this with you!

Name(s) of student(s) entering the model (please write legibly):

Create a list of some of the plant species you are incorporating into your design. Looking back at your master species list from the field trip will help you think about which plants will work best.

1.)
2.)
3.)
4.)
5.)

Judge's Notes (*please don't write in this space*):

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STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

For the Nature's Design Student Design Competition at
Jack London State Historic Park

This form, along with the media release form, are due to your teacher no later than **May 12TH**. Please make sure they are filled out legibly and that your parent or guardian's signature is included.

Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Working solo or working with a team _____

If working with a team, list teammates:

School: _____ Science class period: _____

Contact Email _____

School Address _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (permission to participate)



Parent or Guardian Release and Waiver for Child in All Media

At Jack London Park, we take the issue of child safety very seriously, including when we use contest media on our website or in our various publications where a child may be recognized. We understand the need to safeguard children who are included in the media, which means that contact information of the children must remain confidential. Before Jack London Park Partners can use any media of a child under the age of 18 in our materials, the child's parent or legal guardian must consent to the photographer or other visual artist, creating or portraying the child's image or likeness, and must consent to Jack London Park Partners using the child's image or likeness on its website and in its publications for the non-profit organization.

Please complete, sign and return this form to the photographer.

I represent that I'm the parent or guardian of the minor named below, and I have the legal authority to execute this release. For valuable consideration received, I give Jack London Park Partners, their assigns, licensees, and legal representatives, the irrevocable right to use the media of the child named below in all forms, media and manners, without restriction as to changes or alterations, for advertising, trade, promotion, exhibition, or any other lawful purposes to promote parks, environmental education, wildlife refuges or forests. I waive any right to inspect or approve the media or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of this media. I understand that the contact information of the child will be withheld from public disclosure.

Name of Child: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Do we have permission to publish your child's name (yes/no) _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____