



Bee School Application

Name of School

St. Anne Catholic School

Address

2465 Bridle Road
Oshawa, Ontario
L1L0H9

Name of Applicant

Jessica Ambra

Applicant's Job Title

Grade 1 Teacher

Organization or Department

Durham Catholic District School Board

Applicant's Email

jessicam.ambra@dcdsb.ca

Applicant's Phone

+19059998945

Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee City School.

St. Anne Catholic School is committed to building awareness around the importance of pollinators, the risks to them and the habitats they need to survive. Staff and student leaders created and provided learning opportunities and workshops for the entire school community. The St. Anne School Pollinator Committee worked in partnership with City of Oshawa staff to apply for funding, design and create the Gulfstream Park Pollinator Garden in October 2022. Now that the garden is complete, our school community looks forward to maintaining this pollinator sanctuary and fostering student understanding about bees and other pollinators through experiential learning experiences.

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff about the vital role that pollinators play in a healthy ecosystem, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Schools:

1. Adopt the Bee City Canada Resolution (see section G).
 2. Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.
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Pollinator Team Members

Jessica Ambra (Teacher/School Project Lead)
Daniel Harrison (Parks Capital Planner, City of Oshawa)
Melissa Casey (Teacher)
Rachel Purcell (Teacher)

Alison Huxter (Teacher)
Jim MacNeil (Principal)
Bill Armstrong (Lead Custodian)
Domenic and Rose Ambra (Volunteers)
Grade 6/7 Student Pollinator Leaders (approximately 25 students)

3. Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:

In partnership with the City of Oshawa our school committed to designing, creating and maintaining a pollinator garden at Gulfstream Park. The garden will be used as a hands-on experiential learning space for our students and community.

The Action Plan can be broken down as follows:

- Consultation between City and School. Location identified and mapped. Garden site is approximately 230 square meters. (Fall 2021)
 - Student led inquiry into pollinator plantings, site design, and plant selection-see photos (Fall 2021)
 - Drafting of landscape plan by City staff (Fall 2021)
 - Applications for grants (winter 2022)
 - Granting funding received and Official Site Plan Confirmed (April 2022)
 - Interpretive signage design and purchase (June 2022)
 - Site preparation, led by City staff (October 2022)
 - Interpretative sign installation by City (October 2022)
 - Planting day, led by School, supported by City. Plants installed (Thursday, October 6, 2022)
 - Garden feature planning and construction (i.e. bird houses, bee houses, logs etc.), student led (spring 2023)
 - Ongoing maintenance, led by School, October 6, 2022 and beyond.
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4. Promote Education about Pollinators:

As part of our student inquiry, grade six students researched and created information texts, google presentations and announcements which were shared with all classes in the school and the parent community. All Signs, infographics and displays were posted around the school. Student and staff generated google presentations were created and emailed to teachers to use as a teaching resource. In early spring 2022, Most classes from kindergarten to grade 6 participated in virtual Bee City Pollinator Workshops and used resources provided by Bee City Facilitators to create follow up activities. In June 2022, Outdoor Education Funding was used to bring Dogwood Forest, a local forest school, to our pollinator garden site and lead an interactive pollinator awareness workshop for all classes from kindergarten to grade 6.

5. Celebrate Pollinators:

-Our main goal is to regularly use the garden as a learning space to connect the Ontario curriculum with this important environmental issue and build student stewardship and community awareness.
-We will continue to use Bee City Workshops , host workshops/field trips led by community partners in the pollinator garden, and provide school staff with resources to educate students about pollinators and their importance.

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly acknowledge Bee City School designation through publicly displayed signage, city/region/community website and other means.
 2. Annually re-apply for Bee City School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.
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Please submit a short 50-100 word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City School.

In November 2021, St. Anne school entered into a formal partnership with the City of Oshawa, a designated Bee City, and worked together to apply and for community (TD Friends of the Environment) and School Board (Outdoor Education) funding to create a pollinator garden in Gulfstream Park, the local park that borders the school property. With this partnership, The Gulfstream Park Pollinator Garden Committee was formed comprising of school staff, City of Oshawa staff, community volunteers and 25 grade 6 and 7 student leaders. Students and school staff organized, prepared and led learning opportunities for the school community. With The City of Oshawa Parks Planning staff, students leaders also created garden design concepts and researched potential plants for the pollinator garden. With grant funding approval in April 2022, a planting date of October 2022 was set. On October 6, 2022, The Gulstream Park Pollinator Committee and the Parks City of Oshawa staff organized a Planting Day where representatives from each of St. Anne's 31 classes (K-8) participated in planting 1100 pollinator plants in the Gulfstream Park Garden. From the beginning, this project has promoted student engagement and environmental stewardship. The community has become deeply committed to creating and preserving healthy pollinator habitats.

Signature of Principal/Official

Jim MacNeil

Date

10/10/2022

