



# Bee School Application

**Name of School**

Balmoral Hall School

**Address**

630 Westminster Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3S1

**Name**

Lois McGill

**Applicant's Job Title**

Director of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**Organization or Department**

Balmoral Hall School

**Are you the primary contact person?**

Yes

**Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee School**

Becoming a Bee School aligns well with our existing programming. We are eager to enhance the use of our outdoor classroom and the adjacent river bottom forest, a vital ecological zone capable of supporting pollinators. By participating in the Bee School program, we aim to optimize our campus as a habitat for nurturing pollinators. Moreover, we are committed to educating learners to understand their role in maintaining a robust pollinator population.

**Please list the members of your Pollinator Team (add more rows as needed).**

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Lois McGill	Coordinator - Admin
Laila Schwartz	Teacher Coordinator - Junior School
Joel Sawchuk	Facilities and Grounds Keeper
Jackie Demchuk	Teacher - Middle School
Quinn Schmidt	student
Zoey Bostick	student

**Outline any initiatives which aim to improve, maintain or create new habitat for pollinators. Examples could include planting a locally native pollinator garden at your school or in the local community. Describe your plans for habitat and include a plant list.**

1. Expansion of Pollinator Gardens: Utilize existing pollinator gardens and create additional ones in the outdoor classroom and other outdoor spaces on campus. These gardens can be strategically planted with native flowering plants that attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This will be a collaboration with students from Kindergarten to Grade 2.
2. Grade 1 Design Lab Integration: Integrate pollinator protection houses into the Grade 1 Design Lab curriculum. This initiative not only provides practical hands-on learning for students but also contributes to the creation of habitat for pollinators. These houses can serve as shelters and nesting sites for solitary bees and other insects.
3. Research for Wild Growth Area: Conduct research to identify the best solution for promoting wild growth between the campus and the river bank, particularly in the river bottom forest area. This could involve planting native vegetation, reducing mowing frequency, or implementing other habitat restoration techniques to create a biodiverse habitat for pollinators.
4. Collaboration with Urban Beekeeper: Partner with an urban beekeeper to engage students in educational activities focused on pollinators. Students can learn about the importance of bees in pollination, the role of urban beekeeping in conservation efforts, and practical aspects of beekeeping. Additionally, collaborate to establish an active hive on campus, providing a firsthand opportunity for students to observe and learn about bee behavior and hive management.

Current Plant list (not exhaustive):

Pollinator Gardens- Echinacea, Butterfly Bush, Culver's Root, Aster, Karl Foerster Grass, Hosta, Day Lily, Perennial Sage, Zinnia, Bachelor Button, Cosmos, Mallow, Bee Balm, Cone Flower.

Flowering Trees and Bushes: Lilac, Apple, Pear, Plum, Ninebark, Caragana and plans to add Blueberry and Chokecherry shrubs.

Riverbank: Ragweed, Aster, Red Osier Dogwood, Wood Nettle, White Clover, Blue Aster, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Solomon's Seal, Motherwort, Dandelion, Common Plantain, Canada Thistle, Burdock, Red Clover

**Outline any initiatives aimed at educating students, staff, volunteers, parents and/or the local community about pollinators.**

1. Guest Speaker Sessions: Organize regular sessions with the urban beekeeper to speak with classes about the importance of pollinators. These sessions can cover topics such as the role of bees in pollination, threats to pollinator populations, and actions individuals can take to support pollinator habitat.
2. Student Maker Market: Encourage students to create and sell products related to pollinators in the student maker market. This can include some of the pollinator protection houses, live plants and products produced from honey.
3. Employee Training: Provide training for all employees about the importance and responsibility of maintaining a pollinator habitat on campus. This training can include information on the specific needs of pollinators, habitat maintenance practices, and how each individual can contribute to pollinator conservation efforts.
4. Summer Maintenance Team: Utilize summer students to maintain the pollinator habitat during the summer months. This hands-on experience not only helps ensure the upkeep of the habitat but also provides valuable learning opportunities for the summer students about the importance of pollinators and habitat stewardship.
5. Experiential Learning Programming: Implement an experiential learning programming focused on pollinator habitats for Kindergarten to Grade 2 students. This can include hands-on activities and outdoor exploration. Additionally, work with local experts to establish a live hive on campus.

**Tell us how your school will celebrate National Pollinator Week and/or participate in other pollinator-themed events.**

As our school year comes to a close before National Pollinator Week, the school will provide other opportunities to celebrate the culmination of our learning journey. In late May, the Kindergarten classes will mark the release of butterflies they've nurtured, watched grow and transform. In June, we will have a formal opening of our garden spaces. From Kindergarten to 2nd grade, students will extend invitations to the school community to join them in our outdoor classroom and pollinator gardens. Here, they will proudly display their efforts, showcasing their hard work in planting pollinator-friendly plants, constructing shelters for protection, and unveiling the location of our on-campus bee hive.

**I/we, the undersigned agree to:**

- 1. Publicly acknowledge Bee School designation through publicly displayed signage, school website and other means.
- 2. Annually re-apply for Bee School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

**1. What it means to be a Bee School: Please provide a 50–100-word write-up describing what it means to your school to be a Bee School. We will share this write-up in our welcome post on social media.**

Becoming a Bee School complements our hands-on learning initiatives and enriches our outdoor educational resources, particularly for our youngest learners in Kindergarten through Grade 2. We are eager to enhance our use of our river bottom forest, a vital ecological zone capable of supporting pollinators. As a Bee School, we will optimize our campus potential for nurturing pollinators. We are excited about all the opportunities to continue to educate all our learners across campus to understand their role in maintaining a robust pollinator population.

**2. Website write-up: Please provide a 100–200-word write-up outlining your school's most important pollinator initiatives to be featured on your school's page on our website.**

To enhance our existing experiential programming focused on pollinators and their habitats, we are excited about three upcoming initiatives:

**Expansion of Pollinator Gardens:** We will utilize existing pollinator gardens and create additional ones in the outdoor classroom and other outdoor spaces on campus. These gardens will be strategically planted with native flowering plants to attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This project will involve collaboration with students from Kindergarten to Grade 2.

**Research for Wild Growth Area:** We will conduct research to identify the best solution for promoting wild growth between the campus and the river bank, particularly in the river bottom forest area. This may involve planting native vegetation, reducing mowing frequency, or implementing other habitat restoration techniques to create a biodiverse habitat for pollinators.

**Collaboration with Urban Beekeeper:** We will partner with an urban beekeeper to engage students in educational activities focused on pollinators. Our students will have the opportunity to learn about the importance of bees in pollination, the role of urban beekeeping in conservation efforts, and practical aspects of beekeeping. Additionally, we plan to establish an active hive on campus, providing a firsthand opportunity for students to observe and learn about bee behaviour and hive management.

**Applicant's Signature**

Lois McGill

**Date**

24/04/10