

## Watershed Community Projects – \$500

*Our watershed community conservation strategy is to work with residents to create awareness and take action to improve watersheds for healthier communities and healthier people.*

### Purpose of the Watershed Champion Grant:

- To provide schools with funds for stewardship projects that will improve surface and groundwater quality, forest cover and overall watershed health
- To provide schools with funds for public educational projects about the watershed



### Preparing a Strong Application:

This document is designed to help you think about all the important elements of your project. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is looking for projects which have realistic and attainable goals. In addition, your project should have measurable and manageable actions which can be completed within one school year. Take some time to collaborate with your green team and/or school staff to come up with a great project.

- ☐ Make sure all sections of the application are complete
- ☐ Submit your application before the deadline of February 12, 2018
- ☐ Demonstrated involvement of students
- ☐ Approved by the Principal
- ☐ Approved by the School Board or Property Owner
- ☐ Well-articulated problem and project
- ☐ Project considers a seasonal maintenance strategy
- ☐ Project supports local biodiversity
- ☐ Project improves the overall water quality
- ☐ Plans for community outreach

*Please do not hesitate to contact Denise at ABCA at 519-235-2610 or toll-free 1-888-286-2610, extension 255 or email [diszczuk@abca.on.ca](mailto:diszczuk@abca.on.ca), if you have any questions about your project eligibility and/or the application process.*

### General Information:

#### Section A: Eligibility of Applicant:

- Applicant must be staff member of a school located within the jurisdiction of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. Please check the table below to find out if your school is listed as a watershed school. This table also includes the watershed and municipality in which the school buildings are located.

Watershed	School Name	Municipality
Bannockburn	Huron Centennial	Bluewater
Bayfield Headwaters	Seaforth	Huron East
	St. Columban	Huron East
	St. James	Huron East
	St. Patrick's	West Perth

Black Creek	Bluewater Coast	Bluewater
Gullies	St. Boniface	Bluewater
Little Ausable	Wilberforce	Lucan Biddulph
Lower Parkhill	Grand Bend	Lambton Shores
Main Bayfield	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	South Huron
	Central Huron Secondary School	Central Huron
	Clinton	Central Huron
	Huron Christian	Central Huron
	St. Anne's Catholic High School	Central Huron
	St. Joseph's	Central Huron
Middle Ausable	Adelaide W.G MacDonald	Adelaide Metcalfe
Mud Creek	Bosanquet Central	Lambton Shores
Nairn Creek	East Williams	North Middlesex
Upper Ausable	Exeter Elementary	South Huron
	Precious Blood	South Huron
	South Huron District High School	South Huron
Upper Parkhill	McGillivray Central	North Middlesex
	North Middlesex District SS	North Middlesex
	Parkhill West Williams	North Middlesex
	Sacred Heart	North Middlesex
	Stephen Central	South Huron

- Applicant and school Principal must sign the application.
- Project plans must be reviewed by school board and/or landowner to ensure that the project aligns with school board/property best-practice guidelines and align with long-term construction plans at the school or community facility.
- Projects must fit into one of two categories: *Creating Awareness or Taking Action*
- Certification as an [Ontario EcoSchool](#) is not necessary to apply but the proposed project may contribute to your overall certification.
- **Project Accessibility** – Please note that schools must comply with their regional and/or provincial accessibility standards for persons with disabilities. For example, schools in Ontario must follow the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act](#). We recommend working with your school principal or facilities department to learn how to ensure that your project design complies with your local standards for accessibility.
- **Legal Requirements** – Applicant must ensure that the project meets all the legal requirements including municipal bylaws, provincial acts and federal legislation.

## Section B: Project Details

- Must be one of two categories: *Creating Awareness* or *Taking Action*

***Creating Awareness*** is an educational project which promotes and encourages positive action

- Be an ambassador – set a positive example
- Promoting responsible behavior for – Off-road or ATV use, hazardous waste, water use and conservation, use and disposal of harmful chemicals
  - Raise awareness including Yellow Fish Road™ Program
- Create recreational/educational opportunities
- Develop a conservation strategy for school or a carbon offset program
- Sponsor a guest speaker

***Taking Action*** is a hands-on positive action project which monitors, implements or researches water, soil and living things

- Clean water diversion including rain gardens
- Controlling erosion
- Enhancing wildlife habitat
- Grassland restoration and enhancement
- Improving streams
- Planting trees and shrubs
- Wetland restoration and enhancement
- Creating a living snow fence
- Cleanups
- Collecting and reporting on environmental features including performing a tree inventory

### Project Title

Give a suitable and unique name for your project.

### Project Description

**Please answer the questions in a clear, concisely on the application form. Point form is acceptable.**

1. Describe the problem the school is attempting to address and its relevance to the community's watershed health.
  - Think locally, it may be a problem in the schoolyard or at a local park or nearby property. Specify the connection between your problem and the watershed health in terms of soil, water or living things.
2. What actions need to happen in order to complete your project?
  - Think about the steps which will have to happen in the next few months and what your priorities for action are.
3. List two goals of the project.
  - Consider what you want to achieve. Be specific. If you want your project to succeed then you need to have some set goals to help you stay focused.
4. How will the success of the project be measured? (How much, how many, how will I know when my project is accomplished?)
  - Think about how to measure the success. There are many different levels of measuring success. Remember your success is our success and it will help us when sharing with others the merit of your project.
5. Will there be community involvement? Indicate Yes or No
  - A project which has thought about including the greater community at some point through the process will have a greater impact
6. Will there be an educational component to the project? Indicate Yes or No
  - A project which has thought about an educational component at some point through the process will have a greater impact

### **Section C: Project Budget**

Please note that the maximum amount of funding that a school can apply for is \$500. If demand is high, it is possible that you may only receive partial funding. We only require a budget for the items you are requesting funding for through the 2018 grant application.

#### **Eligible Costs:**

- Costs for educational material or supplies for hosting events
- Materials and supplies for specific projects
- Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and herbaceous plants
- Professional services (such as design professional or native species expert) to a maximum of \$500
- Garden tools and equipment
- Soil toxicity or water quality analysis for schools to a maximum of \$120
- Laboratory fees

#### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Rental of School Board facilities and equipment
- Pre-built items (items which students could make)
- Water bottle filling stations
- Non-native trees and shrubs
- Maintenance, repairs or replacement of existing features
- Replacement stock for trees damaged through vandalism, misuse of equipment or spray drift
- HST: Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate

## Section D: Project Design

**Note this section will only need to be completed when your project category is TAKING ACTION.**

### Schoolyard or Community Map

Please attach a map or sketch of your current school grounds or other community area where the project will be completed. Regardless of where you are in your overall project vision, we require an **aerial view** of the school grounds in relation to the surrounding area and labeled with the following details to better understand the context of your project:

- Building location(s), including number of floors
- The direction of North
- The location of all exterior water taps
- Parking areas
- Existing trees and/or gardens on site
- Location of all overhead and underground utility lines, electrical lines, water lines, gas line, septic bed, etc.
- Surrounding roads
- Pedestrian and vehicle access routes (Fire lane, dumpster pickup, etc.)
- Please be sure to circle or highlight the location of proposed project

### Project Plan

The project plan should show the details of what you will be doing for the project being applied for. In other words, your project plan is a close-up map of what you are requesting funding for. In order to understand your project, we need to know what is going where. Since the scale of your drawing may not be the same when viewed online, be sure to include labels for all distances. Where applicable, your project plan should include:

- Proposed location of native trees and/or native shrubs
- Location and dimensions of compost bins
- Fencing
- Signage
- Location and dimensions of raised beds or planters
- Location and dimensions of benches
- Location and dimensions of rock seating, logs, and/or other natural seating features
- Clear labels indicating the spacing (measured in metres) between new features and/or natural features (e.g. distance between trees, distance between seating stones, distance between trees and seating stones, etc.)

Please note that the following distances are recommended between objects:

- Spacing between trees: 5–7 m
- Spacing between trees and seating structures: 2 m
- Spacing between trees and school building: 7 m
- Spacing between seating stones: Less than 50 mm or more than 2 m
- Spacing between seating stones and fences: 2 m

## Maintenance Plan

The final stage of a successful schoolyard greening project is effective maintenance. Inadequate ongoing maintenance is the most common reason for the failure of greening projects according to school ground managers. There are various approaches that the school can take to ensure that greening projects are effectively maintained.

Strategies that have proved successful include the following:

- Clearly establishing, who will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the project. Will it be the school greening committee or the maintenance department? Does there need to be a formal maintenance agreement between the partners?
- Think about what will be needed to care for your greening project on a yearly basis. Has a realistic budget for maintenance been prepared? What are the energy and water requirements?
- Establishing a sense of project ownership among students and school staff as well as the wider community so that the project is respected and there is enthusiasm for upkeep.
- Consider the ecological considerations that affect the timing of maintenance. These might include the role of habitat components (food, water, shelter and breeding); the function of water-related components; the function and relationships of plants on the site; and the areas that should not be disturbed at critical times (such as nesting season).
- Consider the educational considerations that affect maintenance, including the times of year when certain sections of the project will be heavily used and, as a result, maintenance tasks will be interfered with; and the frequency with which interpretive elements should be monitored, cleaned and repainted or resurfaced.

## What happens after I submit my application?

The application deadline for the Watershed Champion Grant is February 12, 2018. Applicants will receive an email confirmation upon receipt of their application. Upon approval from the ABCA Board of Directors, a letter of approval will be sent to all applicants who have been approved on February 28, 2018. At that time, a contribution agreement will need to be signed by the applicant and the Principal along with a copy of the reporting process. Funded projects are required to submit all receipts and invoices along with a video report. All funded projects must have their report and invoice submissions completed by June 22, 2018. A cheque will be issued to the school after the report has been received and reviewed.

## Resources:

[Classroom in Nature](http://classroominnature.weebly.com/) <http://classroominnature.weebly.com/>

[Evergreen](http://www.evergreen.ca/tools-publications/school-ground-greening) [www.evergreen.ca/tools-publications/school-ground-greening](http://www.evergreen.ca/tools-publications/school-ground-greening)

[Heathy Yards Program](https://trca.ca/get-involved/yards/) <https://trca.ca/get-involved/yards/>

[Living Planet @ School](https://schools.wwf.ca/) <https://schools.wwf.ca/>

[Ontario EcoSchools](https://www.ontarioecoschools.org/tools-resources/resource-library/) <https://www.ontarioecoschools.org/tools-resources/resource-library/>

[TD FEF](https://fef.td.com/resources/) <https://fef.td.com/resources/>

[Tree Canada](https://treecanada.ca/en/about-us/) <https://treecanada.ca/en/about-us/>

[Whole Kids Foundation](https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/about/) <https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/about/>

[Wild Spaces – CWF Challenge](http://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore-our-work/connecting-with-nature/in-the-garden/?src=url)

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