

Rotary Club of Warton



Name of Organization	The Sustainability Project / Regenerate Grey Bruce
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Description of Need	<p>The project "Bioswale" at Warton Public School (PSDS) is mostly executed with student work, volunteers, and support by professionals in the form of workshop hosts.</p> <p>The grant will be used to purchase some construction materials (\$1000), native perennials and trees (\$2,000), and three workshops to be hosted at Warton school (\$500 each). The grant will also cover the cost of signage, which includes design and printing on durable metal.</p>
Goals of the Project	<p>This project proposal supports the establishment of a bioswale with tree planting at Warton Public School, in conjunction with the establishment of a Tiny Forest and an outdoor classroom that are separate projects. The purpose of these combined projects are to create a tangible biodiversity hotspot with high educational relevance that also demonstrates smart water management and establishes a microclimate.</p> <p>This grant application to Lake Huron Forever is focused on (1) integrating a bioswale into the Tiny Forest, and (2) organizing workshops on the role of vibrant landscapes in watershed resilience. This way, the Tiny Forest would help absorb storm water runoff from the nearby parking lot.</p> <p>The Tiny Forest will cover an area of approx 250 m2, be contained with a perimeter fence from native materials, bounded with cedar logs for easy mowing. The planting itself requires soil preparation with composted leafs, an unusually high diversity of native trees and forbs, , and significant mulching for weed control and moisture management. The purpose of Tiny Forests is twofold: it creates biodiversity havens that rapidly restore spongy forest soil. Tiny Forests are located in highly visible locations, because they are designed as</p>

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educational tools that bring a fully functional ecosystem into an urban context. The forest will be planted with students from the school, under supervision of a local Native Plant expert. More information on Tiny Forests is available here:

<https://www.ivn.nl/tinyforest/tiny-forest-worldwide/resources-and-downloads>

An outdoor classroom will be established adjacent to the Tiny Forest, using simple native materials (logs for seating, rough-cut lumber for tables and benches), similar to the one depicted below. This outdoor classroom will be available for students during recess, but also for workshops, community building, and other uses.

Fundraising for both Tiny Forest and Outdoor classroom is ongoing, pursued in partnership with The Sustainability Project (TSP), the Warton Rotary Club and the Climate Forum committee on Nature-based solutions. Total funding will be a community effort of individual community donors, in-kind contributions by local businesses, in-kind support by the municipality with compost, and another grant application that would cover the costs of plants and fencing.

A bioswale will be established if this grant to Lake Huron Forever is successful. The bioswale is adjacent to the Tiny Forest and ensures that runoff from a parking lot is infiltrating well. Currently, a relatively steep slope, covered with lawn, transports runoff rapidly along the surface into a shallow ditch, which runs alongside the track, and drains into the stormwater ditch to the West. The bioswale will collect runoff from the parking lot, and slowly channel it along the contour of the slope. It will maximize infiltration into the ground, and be lined with tree plantings on the lower side for water absorption and transpiration.

The infiltration path of the bioswale will be dug out with an excavator, lined with rot-resistant cedar trees. A drainage pipe will collect the water at the end of the swale, and extend into the Tiny Forest area in order to elongate the infiltration area. and filled with

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	<p>native rocks. The bioswale area will also be lined with rot resistant cedar logs for clear delineation and easy maintenance. The lifetime of these lining trees is at least 20 years.</p> <p>The design of the bioswale will rely on native locally sourced materials, and labour from student and volunteers. This means that labour-intensive methods and techniques can be used that would not be viable in a commercial operation – weaving of branches, manual moving of dirt with wheel barrels, and manual raking. By crowd-sourcing labour, the overall costs of installation can be reduced greatly, while also giving participants the opportunity to gain a unique experience of working in a group.</p>
Project Timeline	Spring and Early Summer 2023
Total Budget for the Project	\$20,000
Budget Amount Requested	\$6,000
Which other organizations will be solicited to help/participate	Lake Huron Forever (cash) Regenerate Grey Bruce (co-ordination, staff time)
How will the success of the project be measured?	Use by school over the coming years Nr of classes and workshops hosted in outdoor classroom
If applicable, how will the project be sustained / maintained?	We have a "teacher champion" at the school who will serve as a liaison between students, school, and project. Maintenance for 2023 is budgeted. The need for maintenance into the future is minimal; the area is designed to be "naturalized". Limits to the area use cedar logs, which are good for about 10 years. Around limits, the school is mowing as usual.
Have you received funding from the Rotary Club of Warton in the last 5 years?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please identify purpose(s) and amount(s).
OFFICE USE ONLY	Lottery Funds: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> AMOUNT: \$ CLUB APPROVAL DATE:

Send Completed from to: wartonrotary@gmail.com Please use 'Appeals Committee' in the Subject Line of the email

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Or, if necessary, mail a hard copy of the Form to Appeals Committee, Box 422, Warton ON, N0H 2T0