Expression of Interest Form to Receive Subsidized Naturalized Playground Consultation Services

A Unique Opportunity for Your Child Care Program

Thank you for your interest in applying to be one of twenty (20) child care centres chosen to receive innovative Naturalized Playspaces Services, offered through the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC), in partnership with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds. Thanks to generous one -time funding made available through Niagara Region Children's Services, the costs associated with your participation in this project (approx. $10,000) will be completely subsidized. Please note: the application submission deadline is **Thursday July 14, 2016**.

The Goal of the Naturalized Playground Consultation and Training Services

The purpose of this project is to provide your child care program with a naturalized playground design plan and training, so that your team has the tools and knowledge needed to transform your traditional playground into a naturalized playground. Naturalized playgrounds provide opportunities for children to experience a genuine connection to nature and a sense of curiosity and wonder, each and every day. Research shows that natural playgrounds are better for children, our communities, and our environment.

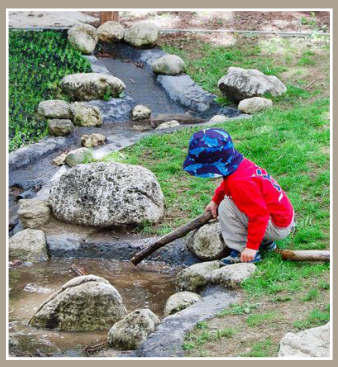
Securing the Subsidy to Participate

Twenty (20) child care centres will be chosen to participate at no cost based upon the information they submit below. Centres who do not submit all of the required information completely will be removed from the selection process.

eccdc
early childhood community development centre

bienenstock
our work is all play

Niagara Region



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Contact Information

Organization name

Address

Is your organization a Not for Profit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have your charitable status? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If your program is a For Profit organization, do you service a minimum of 10% of subsidized children within your enrollment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your program have an ECCDC Group Membership? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Legal Contact for the Organization

Contact Name

Title

Email Phone

Cost to Access the Naturalized Playground Services

- There is no cost to child care programs for these services which include design consultation and nature education training. These services are being fully subsidized by Niagara Region Children's Services for the twenty (20) programs that are chosen to participate. However, child care programs will be required to pay the costs associated with their actual playground build, need to have a budget allocated for the build and should be ready with preliminary plans in place to support the build.
- Please note subsidization includes outdoor spaces 8,000 square feet and under. The costs associated for larger spaces will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Please provide your estimated outdoor space square footage here

Anticipated Playground Build Costs

The average investment to construct a natural playground is around $1000 per child. Complexities such as drainage, site access, resurfacing and Ministry requirements (AODA, CSA, CCEYA) may increase this budget by up to 30%. In kind donations, existing tree canopy, repurposing existing site features and surfaces can reduce the budget up to 30%. These costs, as you are aware, are similar to the cost of a traditional playground. However, it's important to keep in mind that your new naturalized playground may be phased in over time. Also, your naturalized playground will last for many years longer than a traditional playground with only minor, low cost maintenance required.

Please indicate your child care program's expected budget for your naturalized playground build here

Child Care Program Declaration of Follow Up

Only child care programs who are able to commit to the following will be considered.

I confirm that our program has secured the above funds for playground renovations or are dedicated to raising the needed funds for a naturalized playground within one year and we are fully prepared to undertake a playground re-design and build.

Board Chair of or Business Owner Signature

Date

Child Care Centre Supervisor's Signature

Date

Partnerships

1. What partners have you identified tapping into to support your redesign and rebuild?

2. What is your plan to involve community partners in supporting your redesign and build?

What is Included in the Naturalized Playspaces Service?

- The ECCDC will provide a communications liaison to the project to act as a single point of contact between all child care sites and the Bienenstock Team. This liaison will organize and schedule all meetings and video conferences and will distribute all minutes, drawings and estimates from Bienenstock to each site.
- One half day introductory meeting with all selected sites will be facilitated by ECCDC and Bienenstock teams to discuss benefits of a natural playground, project roll-out plans, fundraising ideas, etc.)
- Two additional meetings with all selected sites will be facilitated by the ECCDC team to provide sites with ongoing opportunities to network and discuss plans together
- A consultation session with the children and staff in each child care program will be facilitated to document their hopes and wishes for learning and exploring within the new playground
- A pre- and post-project visit including photo documentation, staff and child interviews, and surveys will be facilitated

Selected Sites Will Receive

- A topographic survey of the centre's current playground that details all existing features, trees, grades, surfaces, services, and buildings (dates to be announced at intro meeting)
- One in- person design consultation meeting (dates to be announced at intro meeting)
- Two Video Conferencing meetings (dates to be announced at intro meeting)
- A 3-D computer model
- A video flythrough of the final concept
- A full technical package which includes a removal plan, layout plan, grading plan and planting plan
- A preliminary cost estimate of the conceptual design and a final cost estimate based on the completed technical drawings.
- Four Reggio-inspired, nature education training sessions for all staff of the twenty selected sites. The training will connect *How Does Learning Happen?* to nature pedagogy and will offer suggestions for incorporating the four elements: fire, water, earth, and air to inspire children's exploration of nature with loose parts and innovative materials. Child care programs will receive training materials and an innovative loose parts kit to support their outdoor pedagogy
- Ongoing guidance and support in facilitating nature based pedagogy

Your Playground Naturalization Team

During your consultation process it's important to have the involvement of your team members. We recommend that your team consists of only three to seven individuals from your centre with a range of individuals, including Administrators, Educators, Maintenance Staff, Board Members, and/or dedicated parents.

The Timing

Bienenstock's design consultation and plans will be completed to distribute at the beginning of the new year. Your installation timeline will depend upon your goals and budget. The training timeline will be yours to determine in consultation with the ECCDC; however, we feel it's best for your team to engage in ongoing professional learning before, during, and immediately following the playground installation.

Additional Application Information

Have you or your team attended any professional learning opportunities related to naturalized playgrounds? If so, please document them below.

Staff Member	Name of Professional Learning Session	Date of Session	Name of Training Service Provider

Age groups served, number of children in each group and indoor and outdoor capacity

Age Category	Current number of children	Max. Indoor Capacity	Current Outdoor Capacity	Desired Outdoor Capacity (if considering expansion)
Infant				
Toddler				
Preschool				
After school				

Playground Naturalization Goals

1. What do you hope to achieve through your playground redesign and build?

2. Please demonstrate how your staff team will be committed to this project.

Required Approvals

Please list all of the individuals and agencies who you have connected with regarding needed approvals, permissions, and support for your agency to re-build your playground below. Please also have these individuals sign below indicating their support and approval (for example Landlords, Facility Management, Ministry of Education Program Advisor, etc.).

Name	Title	Agency	Required Permission	Signature of Support

Application Attachments

Please be certain to complete this application fully and submit the following materials in order to be considered.

- ☐ Photos of your playground from all four corners and from the middle
- ☐ An outline drawing of your playground (on Google Maps or similar) that shows the location and size of your playground. This will inform our surveyor and should also show any areas outside or adjacent to the playground if the facility is interested in expanding the outdoor area.