

BIO BLITZ McGill!

Sustainability Project Fund Application Form

Project Title: BIO BLITZ McGill!

Budget Requested: \$21,000

Applicant/Project Leader: Ingrid Birker
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Project Team:

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I. Project Overview

Project summary:

- Organizing a McGill BIO BLITZ (one weekend day) in April and again in September at the downtown campus and at Mac campus.
- The BIO BLITZ will be formally integrated into two McGill courses in the spring and fall semesters, however it will be open to the entire McGill community and the public. It will be offered free of charge. Participants will stop at different stations on campus to learn about and inventory the flora and fauna found there. They will use simple ID kits and field guides, and they will be guided by McGill experts in Biology and Ecology, such as the team from the QCBS (Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science) which allies other McGill partners such as the Lyman Entomological Museum, the Redpath Museum, the University Herbarium and BAM!, an open-access knowledge base on the inventory of land biodiversity data.
- The objectives of the BIO BLITZ are to 1) create a baseline inventory of McGill's fauna and flora that can be used to evaluate changes in biodiversity and/or to guide land-use decisions; 2) and to involve students in the collection of these data and engage students in citizen science and conservation activities and decisions on campus; 3) develop the resources, contacts, and structure needed to integrate the BIO BLITZ into McGill credit courses so that professors can continue the project on their own in future years; and 4) increase students' contact with nature.

Project eligibility:

The BIO BLITZ is a great way to bring people together around a common goal. It will identify species of concern, and help guide decisions on how to manage them on campus. To our knowledge, there has not been an inventory of McGill's campus in many years (if ever). In Montreal, there were BioBlitzes in Parc Angrignon and on the Plateau Mont-Royal in 2012, and a large a BioBlitz on Mount Royal in October 2013 using about 300 highschool students. These are the only ones in the city that we know of to date. Adding an inventory of McGill's species on the downtown campus will enhance the data from the Mont Royal BioBlitz and provide a more complete picture of the urban landscape.

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Timeframe/Milestones:

Start: January 1, 2014. End: December 31, 2014.

- January-April 2014: Research expertise and number of stations needed at each campus. Develop simple ID kits for each station. Engage an expert for each station. Train instructors, TA's and other experts on their role at each station. Introduce the BIO BLITZ to students in the accredited courses where it is integrated.
- April 2014: Spring BIO BLITZ.
- April 2014-September 2014. Compile collected inventory data and reports. Review procedure and modify if necessary. Make sure professors have the tools they need to repeat the BIO BLITZ the following year on their own.
- September 2014: Introduce the BIO BLITZ to students in the accredited courses where it is integrated. Carry out Fall BIO BLITZ.
- September 2014-December 2014. Compile collected inventory data and reports. Make sure professors have the tools they need to repeat the BIO BLITZ the following year on their own.

What performance indicators may be used to gauge the success of the project?

- Number of students and professors/instructor's participating
- Number of outside public participating in inventory
- Number of participants attending discussion
- Baseline inventory collected
- Number of courses in which the BIO BLITZ is integrated

How will the outcomes be shared with the community?

The BIO BLITZ itself will be shared via articles in the press (e.g. the Montreal Gazette); on McGill websites (downtown campus and at Mac); McGill publications such as the Reporter or Alumni magazines; e-newsletters such as "What's New"; presentations to the Sustainability Office and the Faculty of Science, etc.

Stakeholders:

Professors and instructors who agree to have the BIO BLITZ as part of their course will be implicated.

Possible courses include: Herpetology BIO 286I, BIO 465 Conservation Biology, BIO 432 Limnology, GEOG 350 Ecological Biogeography, BIOL 205 Biology of Organisms, GEOG 203 Environmental Systems, Organismal Biology BIO 112, Science and Museum REDM 400, and Science Education courses in the Faculty of Education. Students in these courses will also be involved. The professors and instructors will also be involved in future editions of the BIO BLITZ once it has been incorporated into their courses.

Additional professors and instructors will be asked to provide their expertise in local flora and fauna, including invasive species. They will help guide BIO BLITZ participants in the identification of species at BIO stations (e.g., a snail expert up at the rocks at the Reservoir, a tree expert in the "old forest" around FDA, an insect specialist in the orchard behind Lady Davis House, etc). The BIO expert will guide/help/facilitate record collection and makes sure unusual voucher samples get transferred and collected properly.

Who will be otherwise affected by the project? Have they been consulted?

- Grounds personnel and Security will be alerted to the event.

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II. Project Implementation

Tasks and Responsibilities:

Type of Activity-Task	Estimated Time Required	Group Member in Charge
Develop and set up BIO BLITZ (stations, ID kits, inventory sheets, experts, speakers for discussion, etc.)	January-April 2013: 1.5 days/week	Project coordinator
Spring and Fall BIO BLITZ (downtown and Mac campus)	4 days	Project coordinator
Compile data for baseline inventory	April-September: 1.5 days/week September-December: 1.5 days/week	Project coordinator
Video	4 days	Project coordinator
Write all reports and communicate results	8 days	Project coordinator

III. Financials

- **Critical Date:** Funding is requested for January 1, 2013 so that the Project coordinator can be reappointed and continue salary and benefits seamlessly.

Detailed expenses:

Expense Description	Estimated Cost
Salary	\$21,000
Materials (clipboards, photocopying, paper, pencils)	\$300 (TBC)

Detailed revenues:

Revenue Source	Amount Requested	Confirmed?
Sustainability Projects Fund	\$21,000	No
Redpath Museum/Dean of Science	\$300	No

IV. Additional information:

The Project coordinator is an environmental educator and a certified Science teacher with over 15 years of experience. She has a strong background in environmental science, and is currently

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involved in different projects helping to connect Montrealers to nature. She has also successfully carried out two previous SPF projects (*Water is Life!* and *SusEd@McGill*).