



Mini Grant Program Application

Project Title:

Amount Requested:

Teacher or Leader's Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

School or Organization Name & Complete Address:

Subject/Grade /Age Range:

Number of Children:

Goals & Objectives: (Include Standards of Learning if they apply.)

The purpose of this grant consists of three parts: 1) To expand the native species of plants in and around the butterfly garden allowing for a greater diversity of butterfly caterpillar species. 2) To share with other schools the excess plants students will grow from the existing butterfly garden. 3) To raise caterpillars in the classroom to be released back into the garden.
LS6: The student will investigate and understand that organisms within an ecosystem are dependent on one another and on non-living components of the environment.
LS10: The student will investigate and understand that ecosystems, communities, populations, and organisms are dynamic and change over time (daily, seasonal, and long term)

Project Timeline: (Include start date, end date and summary submission date.)

November 2015-May 2016. Summary Date June 2016

Project budget: (Provide a detailed breakdown and indicate if you are receiving or applying for additional funds and if so, from whom and how much.)

Native plants: Paw Paw, Passion Vine, Pipevine, Sassafras, Hackberry, Thorny Ash \$95.00
Black mixing pans, clippers, hand trowels, 1 large shovel, kneeling pads, tagging flags \$125.00
Potting soil, top soil, Osmocote (we will be using recycled plastic pots) \$75.00
2-Exo-terra habitats \$115.00

Please also complete the Signature Form and submit both forms via email to HRGreen@hrpdca.gov or mail to Attention: askHRgreen.org Mini Grant Program, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake VA, 23320.



Mini Grant Program Signature Form

Project title: The Importance of Native Plants to Butterflies

Amount Requested 410⁰⁰

Teacher or Leader's Name: Maurice A. Cullen

By affixing my signature, I certify the following:

- All information in this application is correct.
- I have reviewed the proposal with my school principal or organizational leader.

As a condition of accepting the mini grant money, I understand that I will be required to complete and submit the project summary form and pictures from the project upon completion of this project. The anticipated completion date of this project is May 30, 2014. I will submit my summary report within **14 days of completion**.

Your signature Maurice A. Cullen Date 10/26/2015

Principal or Director's Signature Barbara R Brown Date 10/27/2015

Your completed and returned summary form will be submitted for consideration for the *Project of the Year Award*. If selected your project will be recognized on askHRgreen.org!



Please complete the signature form on the following page and submit both forms via email to HRGreen@hrpdcva.gov or mail to Attention: askHRgreen.org Mini Grant Program, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake VA, 23320.

From: [Maurice A. Cullen](#)
To: [Rebekah Eastep](#)
Subject: Re: Mini Grant Program Application
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 10:21:19 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Rebekah,

Sorry for the delay. I have 2 definite middle schools- Bayside and Landstown. If numbers of plants are sufficient I can also have Tim Cole, the Sustainability Officer for VBCPS, to contact all schools. (Or donate them to the Butterfly Society).

The summer maintenance of the garden was done by me. Weeding was the main worry, but I had a student assist with mulching and that helped. There was not much need for watering, due to the number of established native plants. I needed to do weekly checks for caterpillars anyway, so I did not mind the maintenance.

The current state of the garden is great. The environmental club has done some fall weeding, and most plants have been cut back. The club will be responsible for maintenance during the school year. What flags I had were used to tag plants to be recognized in the spring. I found eight different species of caterpillars on host plants in the butterfly garden during the summer.





Butterflies put on a show at Beach school

YOU CAN'T STAND in the Virginia Beach Middle School butterfly garden for more than a minute or two without seeing a butterfly.

Or two, or three, or more. Yellow and black swallowtails, American ladies, skippers, hummingbird moths, bumblebees — nectar lovers, all — flit through the garden, taking sweet sips from the many flowers in bloom.

This time of year, monarch butterflies are territorial, dive bombing (in a gentle butterfly sort of way) the other butterflies and courting female counterparts.

If you look closely, you will see caterpillars munching away at their host plants. Black swallowtail caterpillars are humongous these days, and the monarchs are catching up.

The butterfly show, on the school grounds, is open

and give advice on plants. For example, a stray elm seedling was on the edge of the garden, and members said to leave it because the elm was the host tree for question mark butterflies.

Since then, Cullen has seen the beautiful orange and black butterfly with tinges of violet or blue wafting through the garden, and he has found her eggs and caterpillars on the elm leaves, much to his delight.

Butterfly and moth caterpillars are picky eaters. They feast only on leaves from certain plants, called host plants, and cannot survive unless they are born from eggs laid on these host plants. Female butterflies

and moths will search far and wide for the right tree, bush or plant on which to lay their eggs.

Cullen looks forward to the school year when members of the school's Environmental Club, which he advises, will help out in the garden. In addition, seventh-grade life science classes will raise caterpillars in the classroom, Cullen said.

This summer, folks riding and walking on the bike trail are the ones who are getting educated about butterflies. They often stop when they see the flowers and insect activity and ask questions of Cullen when he's around.

Great big Joe Pye weeds, a favorite native butterfly



nectar plant, anchor both corners of the garden. Planted along both sides of the walkway to the school are such things as native purple coneflower and a non-native nectar favorite, lantana.

"There's always something blooming," Cullen said. "As soon as something starts to peter out, something else comes in."

Cullen wants a good variety of nectar plants so there is always something for the butterflies to feed on.

"But my goal is to get a big variety of plants to encourage many species of butterflies and moths to lay eggs there," he said.

Recently Cullen planted a tiny spicebush and already a spicebush butterfly has found it and laid eggs.

"The telltale sign is a rolled leaf on a spicebush plant," he said.

He bent over and gently unfurled a leaf, and there was a tiny spicebush caterpillar inside, its eyespots already visible. The caterpillar cut the leaf to the center vein by chewing, then rolled the leaf over itself and "did a little webbing to hold the leaf shut," Cullen explained.

He was as pleased to see spicebush caterpillars on the spicebush as he was to see question mark caterpillars on the little elm tree.



to the public and easily accessible. It is adjacent to the bike trail that runs behind the school between 25th and 26th streets. A paved walkway leads off the trail to the back of the school, and the garden is on either side of the walkway.

Tall, lush rain gardens that capture some of the school's runoff are behind the butterfly garden on either side.

Though the garden is only a year old, it is doing everything that Maurice Cullen hopes for. Cullen is Virginia Beach Middle School's life science teacher. He started the garden last year with the help of a Boy Scout Eagle project and small grants from HRGreen and the Virginia Beach Garden Club.

The city pitches in with mulch and "No Mow" signs around the garden. No pesticides are used.

Members of the Butterfly Society of Virginia met with Cullen to look at the site and



MAURICE CULLEN



MARY REID BARROW PHOTOS

TOP: A tiger swallowtail butterfly feeds on sedum.

LEFT: Maurice Cullen takes a spicebush caterpillar off a small spicebush to raise it at home. **ABOVE:** He gently unfurls a leaf to show the tiny spicebush caterpillar inside.

Because of long experience among butterfly aficionados, attracting monarch butterflies to lay eggs on milkweed plants and black swallowtail caterpillars to lay eggs on, say, fennel is not so unusual.

"But seeing the spicebush and the question mark was really nice," he said.

Plaintain, a host for buckeye butterflies, and this-tie, a host for painted ladies, also grow in the garden. E plans call for pipevine for the pipevine swallowtail, passionflower for the fritillary and a pawpaw tree for the zebra swallowtail, as well as other host plants. The spicebush and the el tree have proved his motto: "If you plant it, they will come," he said.

Mary Reid Barrow,
barrow1@cox.net

Follow Mary Reid's blog
at hamptonroads.com/maryreidbarrow





Here are some photos. The top 2 are from last week showing students weeding. The center was an article on the garden from the Beacon section of the Virginian Pilot. The last 2 were of the garden in the summer.

No problem switching Osmocote to Manure, etc.

Let me know if you need any other information.

Thank you,
Maurice Cullen

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2015, at 9:53 AM, Rebekah Eastep <reastep@hrpdcva.gov> wrote:

Hi Maurice –

Just wanted to check back in regarding your mini grant application. We had requested a