

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR LOAN FROM



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VIDEOS

Grounds for Change : An introduction to school ground naturalization. Evergreen Foundation, 2001. 15 minutes

This video is a popular resource for anyone interested or involved in creating more dynamic and vibrant natural areas on school grounds. In 15 minutes, Grounds for Change provides an excellent introduction to the subject that is both inspirational and educational. Use this video to:

- Interest others who you want/need involved in your idea for a school ground naturalization project.
- Demonstrate the social, environmental and educational benefits of a school ground naturalization project.
- Draw inspiration from others who have worked to create successful projects.

A Crack in the Pavement: Growing Dreams. National Film Board of Canada, c 2000. 19 minutes.

Growing Dreams gives an inspirational overview of school ground greening. It shows what kids have done to transform bare pavement into dream schoolyards; growing trees for shade, flowers for butterflies, vegetables for a food bank; building a greenhouse, a rooftop garden and constructing a courtyard pond as an outdoor classroom and refuge for wildlife.

A Crack in the Pavement: Digging In. National Film Board of Canada, c 2000. 18 minutes.

Digging In follows students from Toronto's Jesse Ketchum School as they take steps toward the greening of their schoolyard. Along the way they get "how-to" advice and inspiration from kids across the country; from Pauline Public School, where students raised \$10,000; from Broadacres School, where a family of wild ducks found a home in their pond; and from Queen Mary School, where the student tip is to "get help from your parents and teachers to make your garden happen!"

Asking Children / Listening to Children: School Grounds Transformation. Canadian Biodiversity Institute, c2003, 19 minutes.

This video clearly shows the benefits of asking children for their ideas and opinions and involving them in decision-making at the outset of the project. The whole process of making life grow and flourish where only asphalt and grass existed before is on that transforms both school grounds and the behaviour and attitudes of the children who spend so much time in their outdoor school environments.

PRINT RESOURCES

A Breath of Fresh Air: Celebrating Nature and School Gardens. LEARNXS Foundation & Sumach Press, c2003. 134 pages.

A Breath of Fresh Air is filled with stories and luminous images of children and gardens, as well as the schools, communities and teachers that nurture them. Exploring the myriad benefits of gardening and outdoor education in public schools, this book looks at exciting schoolyard greening projects across Toronto. A Breath of Fresh Air investigates the effort and dedication it takes for a community to transform a schoolyard from packed earth or asphalt to a living landscape. We learn how nature teaches through planting, bird-watching and habitat rehabilitation, activities which develop ecological literacy as children learn how human actions can alter the workings of the earth's natural systems. This is a book to inspire all educators and parents to celebrate their schoolyards in a new light as we seek to achieve a sustainable society.

Jumbo book of Gardening. Kids Can Press, c2000. 240 pages

The Jumbo Book Of Gardening is a practical hands-on manual for gardening with kids. It covers the basics of gardening, plants and how they grow, and different types of gardens. It is well laid out and easy to use with step-by-step instructions.

There are many projects in the book including plans for planting a peace garden, building a sunflower fort, constructing a toad garden and making a scarecrow. It gives instructions on creating wildlife gardens full of birds, bees and butterflies. You can grow your own fruits, vegetables and flowers.

Kids learn how to create wonderful organic gardens in the backyard or on a balcony. This 240-page practical resource also offers green-thumb tips, plant checklists and step-by-step instructions.

Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning . Green Teacher Magazine, c 2001. 136 pages.

In Greening School Grounds, readers will find ideas for numerous schoolyard projects, from tree nurseries to school composting to native-plant gardens, along with ideas for enhancing learning by addressing the diverse needs of students. More than a dozen schoolyard habitat and garden options are presented, ranging from roof top and multicultural gardens, through desert and butterfly gardens, to ponds and prairie restorations. For project planners, there are practical tips on minimizing vandalism, maximizing participation, and raising funds. For teachers, there are dozens of outdoor classroom activities and curriculum links, an annotated bibliography of learning resources, and up-to-date listings of funders and training organizations.

Asking Children / Listening to Children: School Grounds Transformation. Canadian Biodiversity Institute, c2004. 32 pages.

This guide is designed to accompany the video of the same name to help schools organize and conduct class-by-class brainstorming sessions at the start of their school grounds transformation projects. The book explains the benefits of involving children from the outset of school grounds projects, helps you plan your consultations, gives you useful tips on how to question children and show them that you are listening to their answers, and suggests ways to integrate people and site surveys into the curriculum.

All Hands in the Dirt: A Guide to Designing and Creating Natural School Grounds. Evergreen Foundation, c2000. 68 pages.

This book is a guide and support to schools interested in making improvements to school grounds. It promotes a participatory design process that actively engages the whole school community, particularly the students, in the process. It answers questions such as “How do we meaningfully involve students?”, “What are the most important things to consider?” and “How have other schools organized such an undertaking?”

School Grounds Transformation. Canadian Biodiversity Institute, 2005. unpagged.

This book is a collection of articles downloaded from the Canadian Biodiversity Institute’s website. It includes information on getting started, planning your project and how-to ideas for implementing your project.

Design Ideas for the Outdoor Classroom: Dig It, Plant It, Build It, Paint It. Evergreen Foundation, 2005. unpagged.

This book is a collection of articles downloaded from the Evergreen Foundation’s website. It is a collection of practical “how to” fact sheets that provide schools with a variety of ideas to help them transform their grounds into more dynamic play and learning environments. The topics were chosen because they address some of the

most frequently asked questions. Design Ideas has been organized into four sections: Gardening Techniques, Natural Features, Built Features and Artistic Elements.

Special Places; Special People: The Hidden Curriculum of School Grounds.
World Wildlife Fun for Nature, c1994. 140 pages.

Many of those who embarked upon the development of school grounds were convinced that in addition to the benefits of specific changes, other less tangible benefits accrued as a result of the process of change which had a significant impact on the operation of their school as a whole. Examples cited include a reduction in vandalism; changes in social behaviour and attitude; the development of a new ethos of care for the place and the people in it; increased levels of community interest and involvement; a reduction in truancy levels; improvements in discipline, and generally that “everyone somehow seems happier.”

Schoolyard Ecology. The Regents of the University of California, c2003. 112 pages.

Be it rural green or urban asphalt, the schoolyard is a host to a multiplicity of life. Students become schoolyard ecologists, learning key ecological and biological concepts as they investigate their most immediate environment. Special investigations focus on ants and spiders. Biological sampling and mapping techniques develop mathematical capabilities. Student journals and an introduction to environmental writing provide strong language arts connections. Schoolyard Ecology sparks the excitement of discovery and nurtures a sense of stewardship toward living things.

The Jumbo Book of Nature Science: All About Birds, Bugs and Plants.
Federation of Ontario Naturalists, c1996. 159 pages.

The Jumbo Book of Nature Science contains more than 100 activities and experiments that explore nature indoors and outdoors and in every season. Using materials found around home, you'll get nose to nose with nature and discover the amazing birds, bugs and plants that live at your doorstep and down the street.

Teaching About Climate Change: Cool Schools Tackle Global Warming. Green Teacher Magazine, c2001. 58 pages.

Teachers and students will gain comprehensive understanding of global climate change by participating in activities found within Teaching About Climate Change. The hands-on, minds-on teaching strategies will engage students in the critical thinking skills they will need to make important decisions about their energy use both now and in the future.

PLANT LISTS

Plant Lists. Canadian Biodiversity Institute, 2005. unpagged.

The plants in these lists are a combination of hardy native, naturalized, introduced and cultivated plants. Planting native species is recommended, however, some non-invasive, non-native plants are good choices for difficult growing conditions, particularly in urban areas.

Northern Garden. Science North, 2005. pamphlet.

This is a list of native plants that can be used to create a naturalized garden in your backyard.

Plant List – School Yards. Sudbury Master Gardeners, 2005.

This is a list of trees, shrubs and perennials recommended for planting in Northern Ontario gardens by the Sudbury Master Gardeners.

CD-Rom – Northern Ontario Planting Guide. Sudbury Master Gardeners, 2005.

This powerpoint slide show provides photographs and information about the trees, shrubs and perennials recommended by the Sudbury Master Gardeners for planting in Northern Ontario gardens.