



Wild Schools

Action Project

Millstream Elementary

Boulevard Gone Wild!

It was a damp Wednesday, but it didn't dampen the students' moods at first year Wild School Millstream Elementary. For their first Wild School event, Millstream partnered with HCTF Education, Satinflower Nursery and the City of Langford to naturescape the corner of the school's property.



Naturescaping:

A type of landscaping where native species are planted to help promote biodiversity.



Each class got their opportunity to plant a native species. Before they got their hands dirty, students visited WildBC Facilitator Michelle Paleczny's outdoor station to learn about some of the native plants and receive instruction on how to plant them properly. She also discussed how native plants are important for local ecosystems.



Planting Native Species

After their session with Michelle, learners rushed over to the garden bed, excited to plant their own piece of history. Each learner was given trowels, guidance, and their own plant. Helping out the students were two employees from Satin flower Nurseries and a local city councillor.



The students were having so much fun that many of them ended up planting 2-3 native species. New classes took turns to plant every 15 minutes and by the end of the afternoon, the boulevard had been successfully replanted with hundreds of native species!



HCTF Education

For more information and resources please visit hctfeducation.ca or contact education@hctf.ca



Native Species Planted:

Here are some plant species that are native to the Georgia Lowlands that were planted on the boulevard:

- Yarrow
- Nodding Onion
- Pearly Everlasting
- Howell's Pussytoes
- Kinnikinnick
- Sea Thrift
- Coastal Sage
- Great Camas
- Field Chickweed
- California Oatgrass
- Tufted Hairgrass
- Woolly Sunflower
- Sticky Cinquefoil
- Broad-leaved Stonecrop
- California Aster
- Fool's Onion
- Wildflower blend: *Clarkia amoena*, *Collinsia parviflora*, *Plectritis congesta*
- Red-flowering Currant
- Tall Oregon-grape



Future Studies

This native plant garden will not only be beneficial for local species, but it will also serve as a learning tool for the rest of Millstream's WILD Schools journey and beyond. As students watch the meadow grow, there are curriculum-linked activities that can apply to all grade levels such as:

- Establishing research questions and methods to monitor success of the project (e.g., success of plant establishment, use of habitat by pollinators, ecological and financial benefits).
- Setting up photo station to capture data related to research questions.
- Extracting quantitative data from images.
- Interpreting data to answer research questions and share results with public.



Media & Community Involvement



The media came out to witness the event such as CTV, The Times Colonist, and Capital Daily. Four Langford city councillors also attended, highlighting the value of community involvement for naturescaping projects.

By partnering with and sharing their naturescaping experience with the wider community, more

awareness is raised to inspire similar projects at other schools and the community at large.

The Wild Schools program is a free, whole-school, three-year initiative for K-8 schools supporting outdoor and place-based learning. To learn more visit hctfeducation.ca/programs

