



Master Plan for Outdoor Classroom

Background

An outdoor classroom can be as simple as a space with seating for students, a sturdy playground that inspires imagination, a naturescape that increases habitat and biodiversity for native plants, birds, pollinators etc., a place to interweave weave in First Nations' knowledge of place or a food garden. This primer provides ideas and a master plan for creating an outdoor classroom.



Circle seating plan.



Circle seating plan.



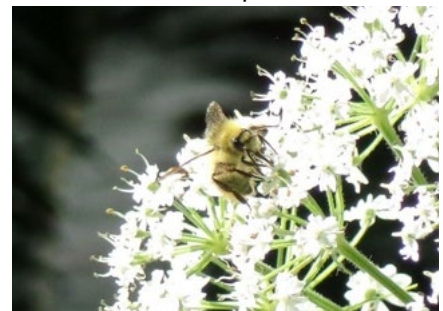
Sturdy sand pit play area surrounded by bedrock boulders and a mound made with the dirt extracted from the pit.



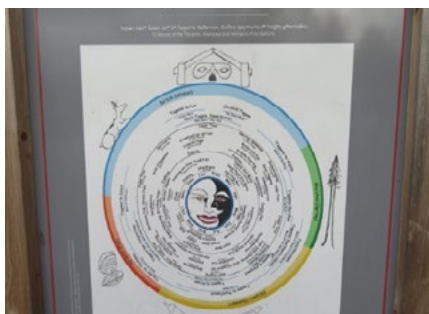
Willow igloo: wigloo.



Naturescape with native flora to attract native fauna.



Naturescape with native flora to attract native fauna.



Weaving in Indigenous knowledge of place.



Weaving in Indigenous knowledge of place.



Food garden to attract pollinators.

Activity 1

Create a vision:

- What is there? What could be there? What needs to happen?

Activity 2

Create a Master Plan that addresses school maintenance and administration concerns:

- Identify: When does project start, when does it end, when does it become self-sustaining?
- Address school administration concerns about funding, upkeep, what happens when champion leaves?
- Identify roles: Teachers, students, PAC volunteers, union, admin, community experts and facilitators, donors
- Include safety, insurance considerations
- Calculate the budget, identify funding sources and potential donors of materials
- Assemble a team, create partnerships with community groups and subject matter experts
- Obtain approval from administrators, buy-in from teachers, PAC, community
- Understand this is a multi-year project – start small

Result: Create habitat for pollinators, songbirds, bats, moss, the human community, decomposers and detritivores, native insects, anthropods, and more.

