

OUTDOOR EDUCATION REVITALIZATION PROJECT 2024

PRESENTED BY ST. JOHN'S OUTDOOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE:
ALLISON, CAROLINE (BOARD REP), JAMIE (CHAIR), AND KALENE
JANUARY 17, 2024



AGENDA

1

THE WHY
OUR GOAL AND VISION

2

THE WHAT
PROPOSED CHANGES

3

THE WHEN
PRIORITIZED TIMELINE

4

THE HOW
MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS.

5

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
PARTNERS




6

FUNDING
AVAILABLE GRANTS & FUNDRAISING

THE WHY

OUR GOAL AND VISION

Enhancing our outdoor classroom to...

-  Foster deeper senses of belonging, wellbeing, expression and engagement in our Preschool Programs
-  Tackle climate change issues that affect the overall health of the land, and all participants in our programs (ie de-paving to address urban heat & water and soil quality and concerns, strengthen biodiversity and naturalizing our outdoor space to benefit all living things).
-  Allow greater opportunities to learn about, support and connect with nature, inspire sustainable living, and implement the Indigenous ways of knowing and being that we continue to learn about through our Professional Development.

THE WHAT

PROPOSED CHANGES

Step 1 - Depave & Naturalize



Depave

Removing concrete from our play space allows for greater biodiversity, improved physical and mental health for children and staff and variety in play surfaces to support development across all domains.



Add Wood Chips

Wood Chips create a natural fall surface for play areas in which children are encouraged to develop gross motor skills like climbing and hanging. Wood Chips do not reflect sun and store heat the way that sand does.



Grass Hill

Incorporating a hill into our outdoor classroom provides countless opportunities for heavy work & gross motor development. It also supports exploration of scientific concepts such as force, motion and gravity.



Water Feature

The addition of a water trough such as this not only supports sensory play but provides cooling opportunities in warm weather and serves a dual function as a water transportation system from tap to garden.

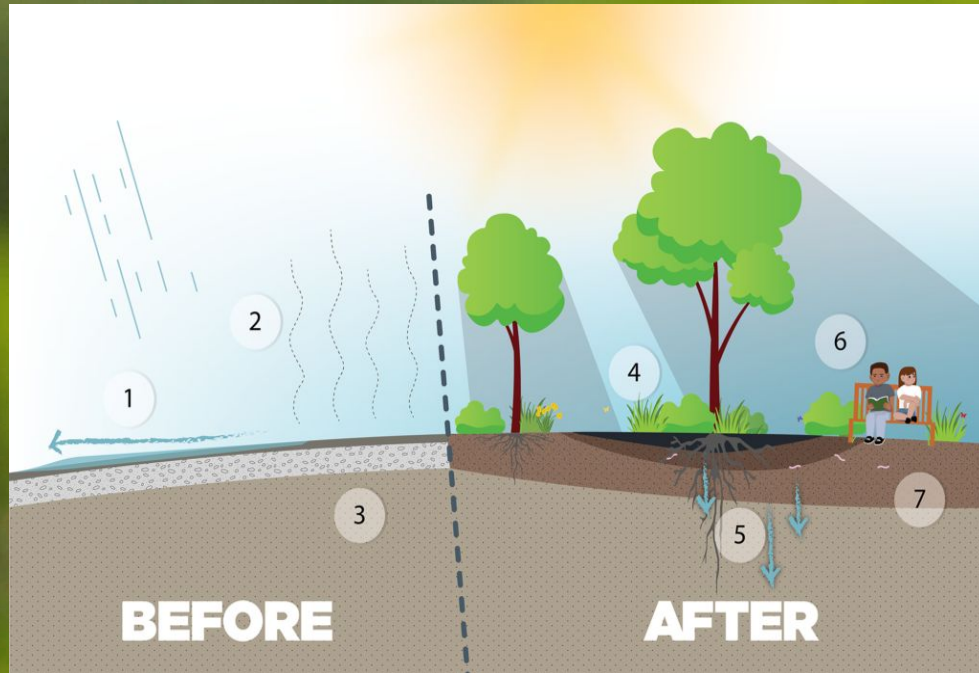


Garden

Gardens support children's exploration of the natural world. Planting and maintaining a medicine wheel garden supports our goal of learning and sharing indigenous knowledge and worldviews in the early years.

Benefits of Depaving

A Depave Paradise project provides benefits for both people and the environment!



Before:

1. Hard surface does not absorb rain, creating runoff.
2. Hot sun reflects off of dark surfaces, creating hotter temperatures.
3. Soil does not receive air, water or sunlight.

After:

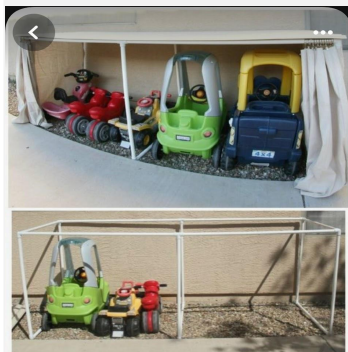
4. Native plants provide food and shelter for insects, mammals, and other creatures.
5. Rain soaks into the ground, getting filtered and cleaned.
6. Trees provide shade that cools off surfaces below.
7. Rain, sun, and air keep soils healthy and productive.

Step 2 - Setting The Stage (Storage & Organization)



Storage Bins

Storage bins in a variety of sizes to support organization and preservation of materials.



Riding Toy Storage

Carport style storage for large riding toys to support organization and preservation of materials.



Natural Loose Parts

Logs, stumps, rocks and other natural loose parts support a variety of play and development opportunities.



Outdoor Art Easels

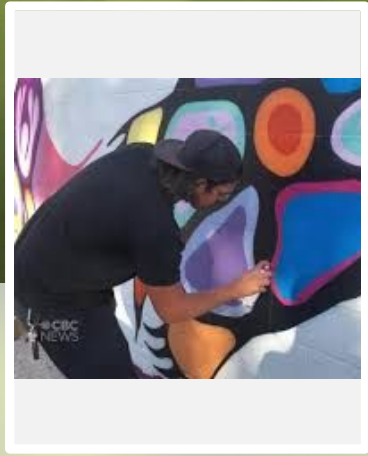
Easels that can withstand weather are ideal for outdoor play spaces. Outdoor art easels provide opportunities for creative expression as well as colour theory and sensory exploration.



Toy Shed

Large weatherproof storage solutions that can be organized to store a variety of play, art and custodial materials.

Step 3 - Visual Enhancements & Curriculum Support



Murals

Incorporating Indigenous art into our outdoor classroom to support Indigenous creators and demonstrate our commitment to learning and sharing Indigenous knowledge and worldviews in the early years.



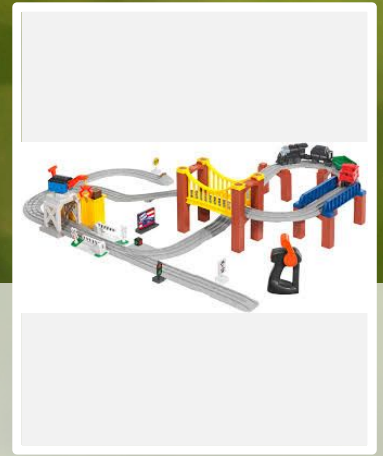
Mud Kitchen

Enlarging our current mud kitchen to create space for more children to play at one time.



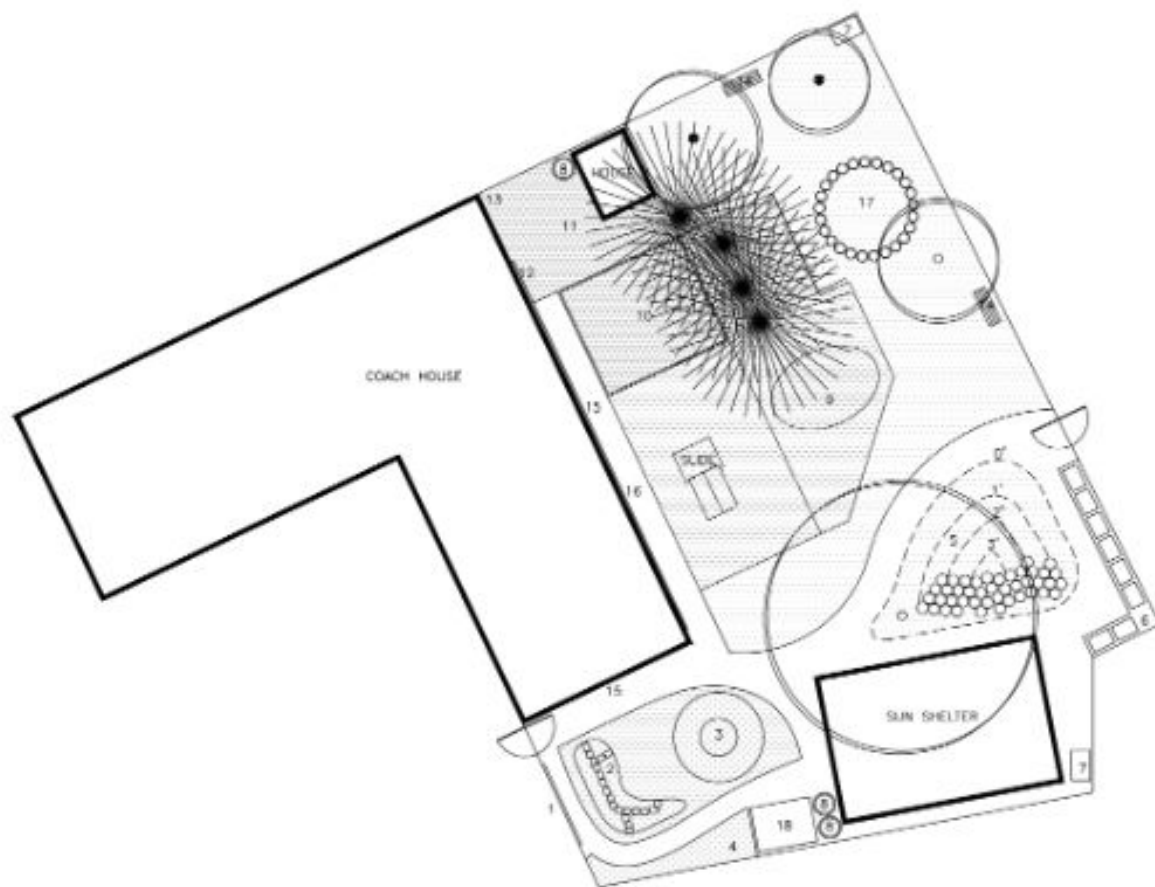
Natural Climbing Structure

An opportunity for strengthening balance, coordination and upper body strength through climbing and hanging.







New Outdoor Toys

Toys and play materials that are to be used only in the outdoor classroom. Many of which can withstand various weather conditions.



LEGEND

-  GRASS/GROUND COVER
-  GARDENS
-  WOODCHIPS
-  SAND

DESIGN KEY

1. ART EASELS
2. SENSORY GARDEN
3. MEDICINE WHEEL GARDEN
4. VEGETABLE GARDEN
5. GRASS HILL WITH STAGGERED STUMPS
6. CARPORT WITH STORAGE (CARS & BIKES UNDERNEATH WITH RIMS ON TOP)
7. LARGE STORAGE
8. RAIN BARREL
9. NATURAL CLIMBING STRUCTURE
10. SANDBOX
11. MUD KITCHEN
12. WATER TROUGH
13. TAP
14. BENCH
15. MURAL
16. PAVED PATH
17. GATHERING AREA WITH STUMP SLATS
18. SHED

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM – ST. JOHN'S NURSERY SCHOOL
22 WILLOW ST. WATERLOO, ON



THE WHEN

PRIORITIZED TIMELINE

Setting The Stage

Incorporating new storage and organization solutions to support the environment as 3rd teacher concept. Creating space for visual arts and natural loose parts to support pedagogy..

1

Depave and Naturalize

Limiting concrete and sand in order to create a wide variety of terrain that supports overall health and wellbeing. May or June.

2

Visual Enhancements and Curriculum Support

Procuring new outdoor toys and materials that support a wide variety of play. Displaying murals that support the centres commitment to learning about and supporting the Indigenous community.

3

THE HOW

MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

	qty	estimated cost per	subtotal
STEP 1 - de-paving & Naturalizing			
de-pave (sf)	5700	\$1.00	\$5,700.00
new paved path areas (sf)	1500	\$5.00	\$7,500.00
reduce sand, new sandbox (reuse sand)	540	\$6.00	\$3,240.00
grass hill (sf)	600	\$4.00	\$2,400.00
prep and add wood chips (sf)	1200	\$6.00	\$7,200.00
prep and add grass/ground cover (sf)	2000	\$4.00	\$8,000.00
prep and create gardens (sensory, medicine wheel, vegetable), no planting	300	\$3.00	\$900.00
create water play (trough) and water collection system and areas	1	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
storage (large) in garden/art area	2	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
sun shade under shelter	1	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
table and benches for under shelter	6	\$1,650.00	\$9,900.00
	sub-total		\$53,840.00

THE HOW

MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

STEP 2 - setting the stage

deck boxes	2	\$778.00	\$1,556.00
bench	2	\$350.00	\$700.00
carport/ride on storage	8	\$300.00	\$2,400.00
storage bins (on top of carport)	8	\$150.00	\$1,200.00
toy storage (large) shed	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
outdoor art easels	1	\$278.00	\$278.00
stumps (25+43) & natural loose parts	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
rain barrel	1	\$180.00	\$180.00
	sub-total		\$7,314.00

THE HOW

MATERIALS AND ASSOCIATED COSTS

STEP 3 - visual enhancements and curriculum support setting the stage

murals on coach house	2	\$8,000.00	\$16,000.00
natural climbing structure	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
mud kitchen	1	\$375.00	\$375.00
new/new-to-us outdoor toys	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
	sub-total		\$29,375.00

THE HOW

TOTAL COSTS

Total Costs

Phase	Total Estimated Cost
Step 1	\$53,840
Step 2	\$7,314
Step 3	\$29,375
Total Costs (All Steps)	\$90,529

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & PARTNERS

Caroline - SG Cunningham – *Each year, we work with one not-for-profit organization embarking on a construction project. We designate this our “Community Project” and give a portion of our profits back to the organization. Our team also rallies our subtrades and suppliers to do the same. This support can make a sizeable financial impact.*

REEP Environmental Solutions - *guidance and support for naturalizing our environment*

Heather MacDonald - Conestoga College Indigenous Services

Aaisha - KW Habilitation Resource Consultant

Outdoor Education Committee volunteers/family engagement events and opportunities

FUNDING

AVAILABLE GRANTS


Hydro One: Energizing Life Community Fund – up to \$25,000-(January 31/24)

Waterloo Region Community Foundation – Community Grants- up to \$10,000
(February)

City of Waterloo – Neighbourhood Fund- Up to \$7,500- (February)

Waterloo Region Community Foundation – International Plowing Match Fund -
Up to \$3,000-(March)

Ontario Trillium Foundation - \$10,00-\$200,000-(March)



Not all
classrooms
have four
walls

Margaret
McMillan

