



# Administrative Guidelines

The Richmond Board of Education encourages and supports the development of school and community food gardens and greening projects. Through stewardship efforts of ecosystem restoration and local food production the school communities can support the biodiversity and cycles of life that depend on the environmental features of our school grounds. Most school grounds today have a limited use and are covered with grass that requires maintenance activities for their continued existence. The development of an ecosystem approach that includes multiple species and habitats will result in more resilient spaces that provide enriched learning opportunities.

For Community Gardens on District lands, the Board of Education and the City have entered into an agreement, which provides for the City or their designate to manage community use of designated plots for the community. An integrated school and community food garden model helps to maximize the potential of and increase usage of school grounds as a valuable community green space. There is an increasing demand for community food garden plots and existing community gardens are reaching maximum capacity. School grounds are often an underutilized community land resource that can alleviate pressures on community food gardens, by offering access to organic food gardens at the neighbourhood level. Schools stand to benefit through hands on education, improved health and nutrition through healthy food choices, environmental awareness of 100-mile diet and issues of food security, active children and intergenerational learning. Communities may become healthier and more neighbourly, better integrated with neighbourhood schools while students may become more informed, caring, responsible adult citizens as they grow up. This innovative and integrated approach will build a stronger and healthier community centered around our fundamental "need to eat".

- Develop a Five Year Action Plan to transform the monoculture into an educational tool of

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- Ensure that the needs of other species of animals and plants are considered in the development of the project
- Coordinate the integration of the green space projects to curriculum learning outcomes
- Create, support and sustain the necessary structures and systems to establish an effective Green Team and its activities
- Ensure that the projects reflect current district standards for soil, mulch, and landscaping materials, irrigation systems, greenhouses, donated materials, and wood types
- Provide opportunities for



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