Inspiring case | REVITALIZING HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR SPACES!

ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE DES PIONNIERS

Ville de Trois-Rivières (MAURICIE)
±1650 students

50 000$ | 3 years

Project Spark

- Transforming an unused parking into a cool island.
- Opening the way to the outdoors to draw students to their outdoor spaces.

Actions

- Addition of flower beds, raised vegetable containers, fruit trees, berry bushes, perennials and herb plants (urban agriculture).
- Planting of 3 mature trees, shrubs and conifers (to eradicate heat islands).
- Installation of 3 picnic tables anchored in concrete (social spaces).

PROJECT

In 2018, students and members (school team) of the environment committee at École des Pionniers began brainstorming about the development of their outdoor spaces. The ultimate goal is to add more «nature» to the outdoor spaces, and make greater use of the existing greenhouse. Through the committee's boundless passion and ambition the project took flight!

Benefiting from the expertise of various partners and experts, the committee was able to revitalize its outdoor spaces with a unique design that incorporated natural spaces and organic materials such as wood. This project gave the school community an environment conducive to learning, socializing and relaxation, while allowing the students of the school's culinary brigade (cooking course-entrepreneurship option) to use and add value to the produce harvested in the greenhouse and bins. Thumbs up for the optimal use of resources!

The proof of this project's success is that the school community now benefits from numerous educational and playful activities carried out throughout the school year in these outdoor spaces (themed decorations for Halloween and Christmas, compost making, etc.), while a brigade of teenagers has been trained to upkeep the flower beds.

Next Steps

- Addition of an outdoor class (8 bench-tables).
- Creation of a quiet area dedicated to independent or teamwork.
- Addition of plant identification plates.
- Revitalizing of the greenhouse.

Photo credit: École des pionniers

Revitalizing outdoor spaces is in the School Team's nature!

Contributors

- ✓ Students
- ✓ School Team
- ✗ Municipality/MRC
- ✗ Other Educational Organizations
- ✓ Community (citizen groups, Non-Profits...)
- ✓ Organizations that support academic success
- ✗ Private Businesses
- ✗ Childcare centre or Kindergartens

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Photo credit: École des pionniers

Adaptation to climate/Weather

- Use of green spaces and outdoor class for two out of four seasons.
- Year-round use of greenhouse (winterized and heated).
- Use of an automatic watering system.
- Contribution of two environment committees during the summer (adults and teenagers) who handle maintenance on a rotating basis (±2h per week).

Modifications/Adaptations

- Prioritization of certain interventions due to the cost of materials (concrete slabs, wood...) and postponement of others (exterior green wall, shade veils...).

More inspiring projects

Outdoor class and plantation
École secondaire les Seigneuries, St-Pierre les Becquets

Furniture and gardening boxes
Centre des Belles-Rives, Vaudreuil-Dorion

Space for socializing, eating and planting of trees
Centre éducatif Saint-Aubin, Baie Saint-Paul

Pure joy for my students!

A teacher, École secondaire des Pionniers

Photo credit: École des pionniers

Advice from Management

- Make sure the outdoor class is positioned so as not to interfere with nearby classrooms. Privacy film on windows can reduce distractions!
- From the outset, plan strategies to ensure the maintenance and longevity of the facilities (nearby access to water, storage, volunteers from the school team and students, etc.).

Contact information

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Visit the RURLS site, section Programmes, Réenchanter la cour d'école secondaire!

Notes