

## Notes for community connections and resources for Project Impact applicants

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**Assembled by Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury.**

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## General Resources

### Getting connected

Pulling together a team of people to realize your project is the first step in getting it done. If you already have a group, great! If you don't, you might want to consider partnering with an existing group such as a Community Action Network in your area, a Neighbourhood Association, a like-minded community organization, a school, or youth group. Alternatively, if your project is neighbourhood focused, you might want to chat with your neighbours, and even knock on some doors or drop off some flyers explaining the project, giving contact information, and inviting them to a neighbourhood meeting. Connect with businesses and residents in your area to see what they might be able to contribute (financial donations, donations of material, loan of equipment, labour, etc).

Making connections in the community will also allow you to learn from others who've taken on something similar, and/or tap into resources and other support.

### **Here are some suggestions for tapping into existing expertise and energy in the community:**

- Neighbourhood projects: find out if there is a Community Action Network, Neighbourhood Association, or other active community group (e.g. a Best Start Hub) in your area
- Vital town centres: partner with local businesses, and with a B.I.A. No B.I.A. in the area? Talk to local businesses about starting one.
- Public art: Myths and Mirrors Community Arts is a source of expertise, ideas and possible partnerships
- Park revitalizations: in addition to City staff, look to Community Action Networks for their experiences in park revitalizations. Neighbourhood Associations are associated with some parks.
- Local food: for advice starting a community garden contact the Greater Sudbury Community Garden Network. For insight on starting a local farmer's market, or other local food initiatives, contact the Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council.
- Trails: Rainbow Routes Association can partner with community groups to provide expertise and equipment to develop walking and cycling trails.
- Green Space: Is there a natural area your community values? Review the work of the Green Space Advisory Panel and ask the City for up to date mapping to find out whether the area is parkland, and if not, what steps may be possible to maintain its natural and recreational value.
- Lake water quality and watershed health: contact the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance, and your local Lake Stewardship Committee. No Stewardship Committee for your local lake? Consider helping start one. Is Junction Creek in your area? Contact the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee
- Regreening: contact VETAC for information, or to volunteer to assist with revegetation efforts. VETAC can also provide information on native plants suitable for naturalization projects. Consult Junction Creek Stewardship Committee for plantings near the creek.

- Volunteers: partner with schools, youth groups, employers, service clubs, churches, etc to get people out for clean-ups, plantings, events, and other projects. Invite residents to join in community wide initiatives.
- Brownfields: speak with the private owner and local developers to develop a proposal to revitalize local brownfields. Take advantage of the financial incentives available through the City.
- Partner with private land owners for: property revitalization and beautification that benefits the community; trail access; protection of natural heritage such as wetlands and woodlands; naturalization and plantings; watershed health and lake water quality; sustainable farming practices.

For more information, contact the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury ([clsudbury@live.com](mailto:clsudbury@live.com); 705-691-5538).

### **Volunteers**

At some point in your project, you might have a big work day where you need lots of volunteers to help. If you are not already connected to a large pool of volunteers, you may wish to partner with schools, youth groups, employers, service clubs, churches, etc to get a good number of people together. If your project is neighbourhood based, you may wish to drop off flyers or knock on doors to connect with neighbourhood volunteers.

Elementary and high school children and youth can be a good source of volunteers for your project. One of the challenges is that you may need volunteers in the summer months when school is not in session. You may wish to contact the principal of nearby schools now to see if you can circulate a volunteer sign-up sheet while school is in session. For high schools you may also want to connect with guidance counsellors to see about using the hours that students help towards their required 40 hours of mandatory volunteer work.

Contact information for principals can be found in the Rainbow School Board's Directory of Schools 2014-2015 website (<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/schools/schoolsDirectory.php>). After clicking on a particular school you will be taken to a page with school specific information. A list of Sudbury Catholic schools is found at the following site

(<http://www.scdsb.edu.on.ca/schools/schools.php>). Most schools also have a parent advisory group that may help. Also more and more schools have a facebook page and you can ask the principal if you could post your need for volunteers on the school's page.

Some schools have student groups or classes that may have a special interest in your project (e.g. Roots and Shoots, Environmental Clubs, shop classes, etc).

During the summer, the MNR Youth Rangers are looking for stewardship related work such as clean ups, plantings, trail development, removal of invasive species, and community gardens.

### **Funding**

Sometimes, for a small project, the quickest and easiest way to pull together funding is to pass the hat among your supporters. If 25 people pitch in \$20 each, you've just pulled together \$500.

Holding a small event like a community supper and/or benefit concert is a way to raise funds while also connecting to the community.

Working with an organization with resources can be helpful (e.g. a Community Action Network, school, service club).

Donations in kind are invaluable. Businesses can often donate goods more easily than they can donate money, and donations in kind from businesses and residents can reduce the cost of your project a lot. Need some paint, for example? Don't immediately buy it off the shelf – there is a good chance you can get some donated.

Healthy Community Initiative funds have been available for small community projects. The application is currently being updated. Contact Chris Gore at the City (call 3-1-1, or e-mail [Chris.Gore@greatersudbury.ca](mailto:Chris.Gore@greatersudbury.ca)).

The Sudbury Community Foundation provides some community grants. Eligible groups are: registered charities, registered Canadian amateur athletic associations, housing corporations providing low-cost housing, municipalities, provinces, qualified educational institutions, hospitals, etc. Non-profit organizations may partner with a registered charity to become eligible. See <http://www.sudburycf.ca/apply.html> for more information.

The United Way also funds some projects through community grants (again charitable organizations only). See <http://www.unitedwaysudbury.com/index.php/funding>.

The IODE City of Lakes Chapter grant may pay directly for items needed by an organization. Contact Shirley O'Neil, vice-president, IODE, City of Lakes Chapter 705, 705-897-5423, 1713.

Environmental (including community garden) projects can be funded through TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (<https://fef.td.com/funding/>) and Evergreen (<http://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/>).

Projects that protect water quality can be funded through the RBC Blue Water Project (<http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/environment/rbc-blue-water/>) and the WWF Loblaw Water Fund ([http://www.wwf.ca/conservation/freshwater/loblaw\\_water\\_fund/](http://www.wwf.ca/conservation/freshwater/loblaw_water_fund/)). This can include rain gardens, shoreline plantings, etc.

For projects with a focus on accessibility in terms of people with different abilities there is a grant through the federal government called Enabling Accessibility (<http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/disability/eaf/community.shtml>). The funding is to support:

- renovating, retrofitting or constructing community facilities where programs and/or services are offered to people with disabilities;
- retrofitting motor vehicles used as community-based transportation; and,
- providing information and communications technologies to make them more accessible for the community.

A lot of the funding for the accessibility components for Ridgecrest Playground was provided by multiple Enabling Accessibility grants. The website has information on eligibility criteria, development of your proposal and the application package.

For other projects that need help with funding a small aspect to improve accessibility and include children, youth and adults with different abilities you may want to contact Easter Seals or Ontario March of Dimes to determine if they have funding you can apply for to improve the inclusiveness of your project. Another approach is to contact a local business or group of businesses to see if they would sponsor this part of the project.

### ***Schedule of grant applications***

*\* Note that these timelines do change, so be sure to check with the funder directly for updated information.*

As of April 2015

Sudbury Community Foundation	Stage I application due March 1
United Way community grants	Deadline: April 30, 2 p.m.
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	Next 3 application deadlines: July 15, October 15, February 15

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## **Parks, schoolyards and public space regreening, beautification and revitalization**

### **Community connections**

#### **Schoolyards**

##### ***Obtaining permissions and building support:***

Depending on the scale of the project you will need the approval of the principal, the school council, the School Board, and the plant department of the school board. Find out early from the school board what their restrictions are.

Having the support of the teaching staff can be a great help because they can tie in class activities into the project (e.g. growing and planting plants; helping with grant applications in older grades).

Maintenance staff can also be key partners.

On-site daycares, on-site after school and summer programs are also important partners, and can be especially helpful in addressing the challenge of summer maintenance.

Get the school community on board. Do an open ended type survey or class discussion with all classes to find out what the students want in their school yard. Complement this with some observation of how students are using the schoolyard - this will really help in any planning because if you are putting in gardens and seating you don't want them to be on path lines, or high traffic areas, and you don't want the kids to resent a well used space being taken away. Involve the kids in planning and implementation. Three big benefits to this: the kids feel ownership of it and care for it; you have a ready and large work force for maintenance; and you

can take advantage of the educational component - this adds a whole other beneficial dimension to greening (the outdoor classroom) and one that is attractive to educators and school boards

If you need more family support, send a family survey home as well to get them involved in discussing what type of schoolyard they envision, and present information at school events. Keep in mind that a schoolyard often doubles as a neighbourhood park after school hours. Reach out to the wider neighbourhood with flyers or knocking on doors. Find out what's important to them, and find new supporters.

Some school families and neighbours may have businesses who can donate skills, use of equipment, or supplies. You can also approach local businesses for donations or other support. People love to support school projects, especially when the kids are involved.

### ***Regreening, plantings, natural play spaces, outdoor classrooms***

VETAC runs the Ugliest Schoolyard contest annually. You can apply for the chance to receive funding and other support for your schoolyard if you demonstrate both a need and a commitment to carry through with the project. Find more information and resources at: <http://www.greatersudbury.ca/living/environmental-initiatives/regreening-program/ugliest-schoolyard-contest/>

Whether or not your school wins funding from the Ugliest Schoolyard contest, VETAC can provide solid advice. The Master gardeners are another great source of gardening and planting knowledge. Wayne Hugli is a contact for both: [whugli@hotmail.com](mailto:whugli@hotmail.com).

Native plants are suited to local conditions and do well on their own – great qualities in a schoolyard. They also provide food and habitat for wildlife (and you can access a wider range of funding for native plant species).

Native plant species can be ordered through Southview Growers and Azilda Green houses who are both experienced in assisting with schoolyard greening projects.

It is recommended to put in plants that are large enough to be noticed and not easily stepped on or 'loved to death' by the students. Putting in physical reminders (e.g. slightly raised soil for the planting area; sitting stones around the planted area) is also helpful.

### ***Play equipment***

Play equipment is very expensive, is generally not funded by school boards, and there are fewer funding sources. Therefore, fundraising is usually a big part of efforts to put in play structures. Councillors Dutrisac and Landry-Altmann, and the New Sudbury CAN (Ward 12) have had experience successfully putting in play equipment and accessible playgrounds, and may be able to point you to additional resources.

## Parks

### ***Obtaining permissions and building support:***

Parks are city land. Therefore, city support and permissions are needed before undertaking projects. This can be done by going directly through the Parks Department or Community Development. However, it is often easier to go first to a community group already working in the park, who have an existing relationship with the city.

Check if there is a Community Action Network or Neighbourhood Association in your area.

Community Action Networks are listed at: <http://www.greatersudbury.ca/inside-city-hall/citizen-advisory-panels/community-action-networks/>, or call 3-1-1 to reach the city and ask for this information.

Neighbourhood Associations are listed at: [http://www.greatersudbury.ca/living/leisure-guide/community-contacts/m-r/#Neighbourhood Associations](http://www.greatersudbury.ca/living/leisure-guide/community-contacts/m-r/#Neighbourhood%20Associations), or call 3-1-1.

Contact them to tell them about your idea, find out how it fits with their plans, and how you can work together.

If there is no CAN or NA in your area, or you are unsure, contact your councillor. Getting your councillor on board with your idea can make it easier to get it done. Find your Councillor and their contact information at: <http://www.greatersudbury.ca/inside-city-hall/city-council/>.

If there is no existing group in your area who you can connect with, you will need to reach out to other residents. Talk to your neighbours. Get together at the park and talk about your vision. Share your vision with the wider neighbourhood knocking on doors or dropping off flyers. Build a working group and wider support for what you want to do.

Many of these people may have businesses or know businesses that can donate materials, funds, use of equipment or other support.

Local businesses in your area may also be able to help.

Service clubs (especially in smaller communities) can also be a very good source of financial and other support.

### ***Regreening, plantings, natural play spaces***

VETAC, the Sudbury Horticultural Society, and the Master gardeners are all great sources of gardening and planting knowledge. Wayne Hugli is a contact for all three: [whugli@hotmail.com](mailto:whugli@hotmail.com).

Native plants are suited to conditions and do well on their own. They also provide food and habitat for wildlife (and you can access a wider range of funding for native plant species).

Native plant species can be ordered through Southview Growers and Azilda Green houses who are both experienced in assisting with schoolyard regreening projects.

It is recommended to put in plants that are large enough to be noticed and not easily stepped on or 'loved to death' by kids.

**Play equipment**

Play equipment is very expensive and there are fewer funding sources. Generally, play structures in parks will need to meet CSA standards.

Councillors Dutrisac and Landry-Altmann, and the New Sudbury CAN (Ward 12) have had experience successfully putting in play equipment and accessible playgrounds, and may be able to point you to additional resources.

**Other Resources****General information**

Evergreen has great on-line resources for schoolyards, parks and public spaces, mostly focused on greening projects (planting, gardens, natural play spaces...).

There are resources specific to schoolyards, teachers, community greening, growing local food, as well as a data base of native plant species:

<http://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/resources/>

There is also information on the wealth of research showing the positive benefits of natural areas to students, and the mental and physical health of all of us.

The Canadian Biodiversity Institute has a wealth of resources intended to guide and support schoolyard transformations. However, this guide is useful to any group undertaking a child centred or community centred transformation of an outdoor play area.

See: <http://www.biodiversityonline.ca/schoolgrounds/home.html>

For projects involving parks and splash pads, the Ontario Parks Association website (<http://www.ontarioparksassociation.ca>) may be a helpful link. The Association has created a Playability Tool Kit that gives excellent information about the importance of designing for inclusive play for children of all abilities. The Association offers playspace accessibility training and the site (<http://www.ontarioparksassociation.memberlodge.com/Accessibility>) has some good starter videos. The online store also contains access to the Playability Tool Kit (<http://www.ontarioparksassociation.memberlodge.com/store#!/Books/c/8938035/inview=product34918165&offset=0&sort=normal>). This kit talks about the importance of inclusive play and provides guidelines of how to achieve this goal. Dr. Nicole Yantzi at Laurentian University has a copy of the CD and also a hardcopy of the Tool Kit and is happy to let community agencies borrow this resource. She can be reached at 705-675-1151 ext 3355 or email [nyantzi@laurentian.ca](mailto:nyantzi@laurentian.ca).

**Funding**

Funding for regreening, plantings, and especially for native species and trees, are readily available.

Evergreen has grants for community regreening, as well as specifically for schools:

<http://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/>

TD Friends of the Environment Fund is also a good source of funding:

<https://fef.td.com/funding/>.



Note that community gardens and growing local food can also be funded through these grants.

### ***Wildlife Habitat gardens***

Here is a resource from Ontario Nature on backyard habitats that could also apply to parks:

[http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/resources/PDFs/id\\_guides/backyard.pdf](http://www.ontarionature.org/discover/resources/PDFs/id_guides/backyard.pdf)

Native plant species are of course optimal in providing wildlife from insects to birds to small mammals with the food sources and shelter they need. Native species also act as seed sources for dispersal into the surrounding landscape.

Locally, native plant species can be ordered through Southview Growers and Azilda Green houses.

Here is a local list of native tree and shrub species:

<http://www.greatersudbury.ca/living/environmental-initiatives/regreening-program/tree-species-information/>

Here is a native plant database that can be searched by area and condition:

<http://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/>

It is a good idea to get advice specific to your location about which species are best.

### ***Bird houses, bat houses, squirrel houses***

Wild at Heart builds bird houses, squirrel houses and bat houses, so is a source of information, plans and other assistance, including educational material for students and the general public.

<http://wahrefugecentre.org/>

### ***Butterfly gardens***

Here is a list of native plants used in a local school garden:

<http://www.liveablesudbury.org/AdamsdaleGardenPlantOrder.pdf>

Here is a good resources with recommended plants for butterfly larvae and adult butterflies:

<http://www.nanps.org/pdfs/butterfact.pdf>

Here is the species list from the butterfly garden at Evergreen's brickworks in Toronto:

[http://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/lists/view-list.php?list\\_ID=00197](http://nativeplants.evergreen.ca/lists/view-list.php?list_ID=00197)

This webpage also has some basic info on butterfly gardens: <http://www.cbif.gc.ca/eng/species-bank/butterflies-of-canada/butterfly-gardening/?id=1370403265513>

Having a sunny site is important.

In addition to plants for the larvae and adults, having shelter from the wind, a patch of damp sand, places to put out cut oranges, and providing overwintering site (e.g. pieces of old logs) are things that can be added.

### ***Milkweed planting***

Monarch butterfly populations are declining. Monarch caterpillars rely on milkweed as their sole food source. Planting milkweed supports Monarchs, and is also a great experience for kids to observe the life cycle of Monarchs while making a positive difference.

Source of free milkweed seeds: <http://yogawithlorilucas.com/2014/03/04/lets-save-the-monarch-butterflies-also-free-milkweed-seeds-in-canada/>

Tutorial on growing milkweed from seed:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=656718281123872&fref=nf>

### ***Rain Gardens***

Rain gardens look like any other beautiful garden, but they are built to absorb, slow and filter storm water run-off which would otherwise degrade water quality by carrying pollutants into lakes and waterways. Rain gardens benefit watershed health in any location where they reduce the amount of storm water runoff from a hard surface like a roof, driveway, parking lot, or even a lawn.

For an example of a rain garden at Adamsdale Public School, see:

<http://www.liveablesudbury.org/adamsdaleschoolgarden.html>.

Here is the list of plants in that garden:

<http://www.liveablesudbury.org/AdamsdaleGardenPlantOrder.pdf>

Here is another list of native plants:

[http://issuu.com/sudburyinfo/docs/nativesudburyplants\\_pics?e=2196220/3501546](http://issuu.com/sudburyinfo/docs/nativesudburyplants_pics?e=2196220/3501546)

For information in how to build a rain garden, and other steps you can take to protect watershed health, see: <http://www.liveablesudbury.org/docs/RainGardensRainBarrelsWhatYouCanDo.pdf>

## **Community gardens**

### **Community connections**

The Sudbury Community Garden Network brings together community gardens in Greater Sudbury. They are a great resource to find out what has worked for other community gardens, where they sourced resources, and to get tips on getting started and keeping going. The Network is also planning on holding workshops and developing online resources. The Network has many linkages that can help you move forward, including Earthcare, the Fruit for All project, the Sudbury & District Health Unit, Ontario Works, the Sudbury Horticultural Society, local farms, and more. They have a partnership with the College Boreal Carpentry program to help with labour, and some materials. The Network also coordinates group discounted purchases of soil and other gardening supplies, and donations, including a yearly donation of Meeker's Mix (fish fertilizer) from Vale. Membership is free and meetings are monthly.

The Network also has a presence at the yearly Seedy Sunday and Gardening Festival events, and members can provide flyers and other materials for a Network table.

The city staff liaison is Barb McDougall (Barb.McDougall@greatersudbury.ca).

The chair is Colleen Zilio (zilio@mac.com), who also leads the Ward 1 community garden at Delki Dozi. Contact them to ask questions, get on their mailing list, or join monthly meetings.

You can locate existing community gardens with this EarthCare map:

<http://www.greatersudbury.ca/living/environmental-initiatives/earthcare-sudbury/food-2014/food-access-map/>

Many local businesses are strong supporters of community gardens, donating materials and labour.

Community gardens can be on city land, other public land, or private land, and each have their own benefits and challenges. In all cases, you want to have clear and open communication, and a clear agreement on what will happen on the property, and who is responsible for what. Ideally you want a long term agreement for stability, a sunny location and a water source. You will need to check soil quality and decide whether you are building garden beds or working with and amending the soil directly. There are also rules on what can be built (sheds etc.) on City lands, so you'll want to liaise with the City's Community Gardens liaison to get guidance.

The first step is to gather a number of volunteers who are interested in forming a community garden and then reaching out to the Network, to other community gardens and to local experts for help on developing a plan.

## **Other Resources**

### ***General information***

Here is a Community Garden Resource Guide from Toronto:

[http://www.torontohousing.ca/webfm\\_send/210/1](http://www.torontohousing.ca/webfm_send/210/1)

Here are some tips and tricks put together by community gardens in the Waterloo Region:

<http://together4health.ca/workgroups/community-gardens-waterloo-region/starting-community-garden>

### ***Funding***

Evergreen: <http://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/>

and TD Friends of the Environment Fund: <https://fef.td.com/funding/>.

both fund community gardens.

## **Community Art (including murals)**

### **Community connections**

Myths and Mirrors has many years experience facilitating community art projects. They can provide direction on involving the community, planning and creating a mural, choosing and sourcing supplies, choosing and preparing surfaces, etc.

<https://mythsandmirrors.wordpress.com/>

Contact: Alex Dean. Email: [mythsandmirrors@gmail.com](mailto:mythsandmirrors@gmail.com); Phone: 705-222-1305

We Live Up Here has successfully completed murals and other art projects that have engaged and delighted the community.

<http://www.weliveuphere.com/>

You can reach out to local artists through the Sudbury Arts Council

([sac.communicate@gmail.com](mailto:sac.communicate@gmail.com)), and La Galerie du Nouvel Ontario ([info@gn-o.org](mailto:info@gn-o.org)).

Many local businesses will donate paint, or otherwise support community art projects.

### **Other Resources**

Ontario Arts Council Community Arts Workbook: <http://www.arts.on.ca/Asset363.aspx>