



## **GETTING STARTED: THE BENEFITS OF SCHOOL GROUND GREENING**

Research shows that school ground greening benefits all parties involved: students, teachers, schools and communities.

### **For Students:**

- Greater opportunities for meaningful and imaginative play and learning.
- Improved quality of play with respect to cooperation, diversity and less boredom.
- A safer, less hostile outdoor environment, with fewer knock-and-bump injuries.
- Improved academic performance.
- Increased enthusiasm for and engagement in learning.
- Students are better able to retain knowledge and think more creatively.
- Improved civil behaviour with respect to effective communication, cooperation, less aggression and positive student/teacher interactions.
- Increased environmental awareness and stewardship.

### **For Teachers:**

- New curriculum connections.
- Increased morale and enthusiasm for teaching.
- Increased engagement and enthusiasm for learning.
- Fewer discipline and classroom-management problems.
- Increased motivation and willingness to use innovative instructional strategies.

### **For Schools:**

- Better attendance and fewer dropouts.
- Increased pride in school.
- Decreased bullying on school grounds.
- Better connections to community.

### **For Community:**

- Stronger sense of community.
- Healthier natural environment.
- Active involvement for parents in children's school.
- Increased community satisfaction.

### **REFERENCES:**

*Nature Nurtures: Investigating the Potential of School Grounds*, 2000, Evergreen.

*Gaining Ground: The Power and Potential of School Ground Greening in the Toronto District School Board*, by Janet Dymont, Ph.D., 2005, Evergreen.