






3. Care for and Create Vibrant School Grounds

GUIDING QUESTION Does your school follow practices that ensure care for the natural environment, encourage teaching and learning in the outdoors, and increase biodiversity? ◆ Hold this question in mind as you rate your performance. ■ Initial ▲ Final		No evidence	Emerging	Credible	Accomplished	Comprehensive
Team Self-Assessment and Documentation (85% this year)		0	1	2	3	4
◆ Stewardship of the school grounds						
3.1	 To what extent do students, staff, and parents care for growing things on the school grounds all year round, including summer (i.e., mulching and watering trees, watering and weeding gardens, protecting gardens/nature study areas by removing litter and invasive species)?					
3.2	 To what extent are the leaves on your school ground mulched* and the use of road salt minimized by using best practices for snow plowing, salt application, and salt storage?					
◆ Using the outdoor environment as a classroom for teaching and learning Enter scores in Section 4 EcoReview.						
4.1	 Does the school maximize the potential of its school ground for diverse learning opportunities (e.g., through lessons that develop observation skills, mapping use patterns; by using trees/ other features of the grounds activities, such as interpretive hikes, learning trails, sketching, photography)?					
4.2	 Do teachers enrich student learning beyond the school ground by providing access to nature and the built environment (e.g., through neighbourhood walks; field trips to parks and ravines, Outdoor Education Centres, the Toronto Wind Turbine, TRCA sites, the Humber Arboretum, Downsview Park)?					
◆ Creating and expanding school ground greening projects <i>These projects are a major undertaking and require a Design Consultation with TDSB/Evergreen staff (see section 3 of the Toolkit). They should only be attempted by schools with strong teams who have mastered the more basic parts of the EcoSchools program.</i>						
3.3	 To what extent does your school plan and create healthy and vibrant school grounds by planting trees for shade, establishing nature study areas, growing food and/or establishing other related projects?					
School Visit "look-for" (15% this year) Scored by EcoSchools Auditor		0	1	2	3	4
3.4	The school's grounds appear to be well cared-for (e.g., the trees and gardens have been mulched and litter and invasive species have been removed from gardens).					

* **Caretakers and Grounds Teams** have lawnmowers specially equipped for this task. If the school does not have this equipment, the caretaker should contact the Family Team Leader.