

Miyawaki Canada Meetup - Jan 20, 2022 (second meetup, the first was held in may 2021)

Synonyms: Little Forest, Pocket Forest, Miyawaki Forest

Apparently led by Nature Canada (Erin) with 16 participants (3 from BC, 13 from ON) and led spiritually by Maureen Buchanan First Nation (Sault Ste Marie?)

- Waterloo (Kyra) 2 sites planted (school board + city); 20 schoolyard sites planned for 2022
- Toronto (Karen D.) school board pilot started; lots of land available
- Hamilton (Steve, Heather S) 2 sites , incl one in Heather's backyard; planning more in conjunction with Duggan Associates (ecologist consultants)
- Kingston (Joanna) 3 sites planted 2021
- Trenton (Ewa) sells "Little Forest Kits" , lawn conversion projects; operates Canplant database
- Ottawa (Aida) "I for the planet" app; Gentle ways for our planet; handles donations
- Cornwall (Susan, Lynn) subgroup of Cornwall Transition Town w/ city rep ; tree canopy policy passed (2 trees must replace every one cut down), funding with gofundme site, city bought saplings to plant;

Presentations by Cornwall and Kingston:

- Hard to find land that might not be "developed" down the road
- Must focus stakeholders on planting a forest NOT just trees (not "treeplanting")
- Involving the churches bogged things down in one site

- Land donated by a church (decolonisation) in another site to local First Nation
- Bilingual Brochures w/ QR were helpfully placed on nearby street furniture to explain
- Outdoor learning area in or near forest is very useful
- Mix of miyawaki and food forest concept
- Related Artwork display on nearest walls
- Funding from gofundme, TD bank, Cogeco, Trailhead , 2 billion tree program
- So important to have stakeholders build relationships to the land
- Never ask City for funds; ask only for in-kind support
- Must involve local community for buy-in (by inviting them to planting blitz)
- Each kid planted one tree and named it (ex: "Tiney Piney")
- Setup learning stations: seeds, cuttings, plantings, etc + music ambiance, sing-alongs, poetry slams, and involve tree planting coaches incl local first nations
- Protect saplings with color coded markers by type of plant (tree,bush,ground)
- Listen for teachings from the forest; visualize its maturation (very important)
- We need ceremony to come in relationship to the land
- Get kids to journal the experience
- Keep it fun, dont expect to stick to the plan, take refreshment breaks; live music
- Once done, offer to make presentation to this group