SCHOOBIO.EARTH

L 4.1 Elements of Ecological, Bioculturally Diverse School Grounds to Consider in a Plan

As you work to create your vision of ideal school grounds, consider these elements (there are probably others, too!). Think about how you want to feel when you are on your school grounds.

- Habitats
  - Consider what is needed for people and wildlife
    - Water
    - Places for shelter
    - Food
    - What maintenance is needed?
    - How will other people perceive the look of these spaces?

- Plants
  - Native perennials are best. Consider:
    - How long do they take to establish?
    - How much maintenance do they need?
    - How much water do they need?
    - What do they look like year-round?
    - Are they good for wildlife (for food, shelter, etc.)?
    - Do they represent our culture in any way?
    - Do they provide food for people?
  - Also consider trees and shrubs.
    - Which ones are appropriate for the space we are looking at?
    - How big will they get when they are mature?
    - How do they meet the questions above?
- Spaces
  - Think about activities you'd like to do on the school grounds. What spaces are needed?
    - Space for thinking
    - Space for games
    - Space for making things
    - Space for cultural activities
    - Space for quiet time
    - Space for gardening
  - Built environment
    - Is there a need for:
      - A new sidewalk? (could it be an impervious surface?)
      - A gardening shed?
      - Benches or other types of seating?

        - Signage?
- Cultural elements
    - What could we put on our school grounds to celebrate the cultures of students and the community?
        - Mosaics
        - Sculptures
        - Walls with artwork
        - Artwork made from natural materials
        - Gardens
        - Water elements
        - Ideas you have!
- Resources
    - Cost
        - To implement
        - To maintain
    - Labor
        - To implement
        - To maintain
- Benefits to the school
    - Cost savings
    - Labor savings
    - Better for people
    - Better for wildlife
    - Better for the environment
        - Biodiversity
        - Climate change
        - Stormwater management