PROJECT REPORT BY LBLA

The landED Green Guide was written with the intent to inspire landscape stewardship in educators, parents, and students. These intentions align with the core values of the Canadian Landscape Charter. The funding from LACF has allowed us the time to create a comprehensive document that educates children and their teachers on the landscapes around them, encourages stewardship and acknowledges the varying histories we have with the land. Section 1 of the Green Guide offers students background knowledge on topics such as ecozones, the landscapes of Manitoba, and typical schoolyard and daycare spaces. It then offers a vision for resilient communities and best practices for application in educational settings. Section 2 takes the knowledge gained in Section 1 and applies it through a series of lesson plans and activities. The lesson plans in Section 2 are specifically created to target curriculum outcomes outlined in the Manitoba curriculum.

The funding from the LACF also helped support peer review of the Green Guide, including reviews by teachers, school administrators, and landscape architects with a range of experience and backgrounds. The Green Guide will be marketed to schools and made available through our website. By supporting the creation of the Green Guide, LACF has allowed us to create a platform that will encourage students, teachers, and parents to think more critically about these important community landscapes, make deeper connections to the land around them and take responsibility for the stewardship of their environment. It is our hope that the Green Guide also encourages students and teachers to consider the ways that stewardship and creating connections to the land through land-based learning is a tangible form of reconciliation. The Green Guide will be released digitally first, and we hope to be able to produce printed hard copies in the near future.
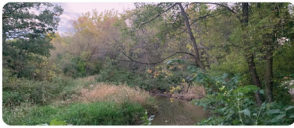
Please download a copy of the Green Guide here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/16frFkaoCY-KCMEOLG9Kj9E2hxBHqMo5z/view?usp=sharing

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The world needs more leaders like you, and we are grateful to be a part of your journey to outdoor education.
Enjoy the MB Green Guide and get outside!

RIPARIAN ZONES

Riparian zones are found along stream banks, rivers, lake shores and wetlands. These areas provide important ecosystem services including pollution and sediment filtering, erosion control and climate control. Riparian zones also provide wildlife habitat and act as wildlife corridors, especially in busy cities. The trees in riparian areas offer places for migratory birds to stop and rest. Many diverse types of vegetation grow in these areas. The vegetation will change as you move down the bank and closer to the water body. More water tolerant species grow at the toe of the bank and more drought tolerant species will grow at the top. Some common riparian species that are found in southern Manitoba include Manitoba Maple, Cottonwood, Basswood, Green Ash, Willow and Dogwood.

ACTIVITY

Try building your own river model out of sand. Have kids pour water into the model. Notice how the banks erode? Now try pouring water on the grass outside. Does the soil still erode? Discuss with your class the importance of vegetation to protect our riverbanks from erosion. Clarify that grass alone is not enough to protect our river banks because rivers are very powerful. This is why it is important to protect the trees and shrubs along our rivers.