

Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun
(Blue Thunderbird Land-Based Teachings Learning Centre)
Land Stewardship and Infrastructure Overview

Land Stewardship Plan

The following outlines our anticipated timeline of our core land stewardship actions. These initiatives are our first avenues for land-based teaching.

Prescribed Burn of Right of Way (Spring 2019)

The ditch alongside our property represents a remnant prairie, hosting dozens of Indigenous species of grasses and forbs. A controlled burn strengthens the Indigenous species presence and distribution and reduces pressures from invasive species (weeds). Care and management of this remnant prairie creates a biodiverse buffer strip around our property and will become a space for conservation, seed collection and plant identification.

Vegetable Crops and Medicines (2019 and beyond)

Adjacent to the Learning Centre, a 2-acre area is designated for food production both in-field and in-greenhouse. The area will be cared for with cover crops and green manure to improve soil health and tilth. The area will host a teaching circle and teaching gardens, sharing intercultural perspectives around historic and cultural connections to land, food production and environmental stewardship. The SOSD Wawiyia'kiti'gahn (Circle Garden) will be re-created at the new site, accompanied by ceremonial space, tipi and sweat lodge.

Divisional Composting (2019)

The Biovator, in-vessel composter, will be located near to Ozhaawashkwaa Animikii-Bineshi Aki Onji Kinimaagae' Inun, and will collect organic food wastes from our 25 school sites and administrative offices.

Tall grass prairie restoration (2018-2020)

Our Tall Grass Prairie is endangered, less than 1% of the ecosystem remains today. Thirty (30) acres will be restored to tall grass prairie species of grasses and forbs, using local, ecotype seeds.

Naturalized Stormwater Retention Pond (2018-2021)

The stormwater retention pond collects rainwater run-off from our buildings and infrastructure and brings it to the pond. Native Plant Solutions will engineer the pond and establish grasses, sedges, rushes and forbs around the pond that are Indigenous to Manitoba and best suited to the wetland environment. These plants help to filter and clean the water, and contribute to our water stewardship actions.

Infrastructure Plan

Learning Centre Facility

The student's learning facility is located to the east of the Service Centre. Given the building's passive-solar design, the length of the building sits on a true east-west axis and the south wall contains the majority of the windows. The roof's overhang in relation to the south windows is designed to capture the sun's heat and light in the winter, but to exclude these in the summer. The centre provides a 4-season indoor gathering space, a learning kitchen, a fireplace, washrooms, and office, a walk-in cooler, and a sheltered outdoor classroom and work area.

Greenhouse

Spring 2019

We will construct a permanent passive solar greenhouse. This structure has a solid north, east and west wall, and glazed south face. The north wall is a thermal wall which collects and stores heat from the day which is then radiated at night. These greenhouses have capacity to allow for 4-season growing and have been constructed and tested in and for our climate in Manitoba.

Garage

Spring 2019

We will construct a garage to store field equipment, tools, irrigation and greenhouse supplies.