

# Macdonald Schoolyard Greening

**location:** Macdonald Elementary School, 1950  
East Hastings Street, Vancouver

**year:** 2005

**team lead:** Jamie Vala and Erika Mashig

**volunteers:** Dave Hohenschau and Lisa Parker

**partner:** Macdonald Elementary School

## summary:

In 2005, a greening committee made up of teachers, parents, community members and local organizations from Macdonald Elementary School and local community contacted Community Studio to help them redesign their outdoor space. They were full of ideas but were unsure how to realize them. Community Studio helped create a new vision for their school grounds. Community Studio prepared the graphics and helped facilitate an open house which was used to determine the program elements that should be included within the new school yard.

Community Studio also organized and facilitated a half-day design workshop with all of the stakeholders to discuss current uses and future needs of the schoolyard. This was a hugely successful event attended by students, teachers, maintenance staff from both the school and the school board, neighbours, parents, municipal officials, and funding agencies. The concepts and issues that came out of this workshop were incorporated into an overall concept plan for the site. The concept plan, as well as a booklet with documentation of the process, additional information, resources and visuals was presented to the school greening committee to use for their fundraising efforts. The greening committee is still active and is working towards this vision of their schoolyard incrementally as funds and resources allow.

