The Children’s Garden & Exploring Toronto Programs

Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

Present
An exciting new project providing the public with a source of inspiration for sustainable living practices in the City of Toronto.

A straw bale building with a green roof, solar and wind power.

The Children’s Teaching Kitchen

A demonstration of sustainable building to conserve energy and reduce waste.

A shining example of green living in the City of Toronto.
The Children’s Garden - A Brief History

Unused picnic shelter and parking lot plagued by safety issues…

..Transformed to the High Park Children’s Garden
The Children’s Garden - A Great Success

Ten Years Later

• A beautiful community haven
• A cherished teaching space
• Publicly recognized through awards
The Programs Grow

Eco Camp

School Programs

Youth Cooking Program

Community Events

Watch Me Grow Family Drop-In Program
• Expand programs annually
• Provide training and support
• Work with 29 community centres

Meeting Community Demand
• **RED** sites have children’s garden and eco programming
• **GREEN** sites offer other types of nature and eco Programming
The Children’s Teaching Kitchen

• Year-round programming and training
  • Reduce carbon footprint
• Municipal facility and green demonstration site
  • Straw bale walls and reclaimed materials
  • An innovative model for Toronto
Straw Bale Buildings
Environmentally friendly, strong, fire resistant and creative

- Highly energy efficient
- New use for waste material
- Locally sourced and inexpensive
- Structures are long lasting
Teaching Kitchen’s Key Features

- Green Roof
- Wind Turbine
- Radiant Floor Heating
- Solar Water Heater
- Solar Panels
Benefits of the Children’s Teaching Kitchen

- Extend programming season
- Support garden harvesting and preservation
  - Develop new programming specialty
- Outstanding and welcoming space
New Programming

- Fall Garden Programming
- Year-round nature programs
- Expanded cooking programs
- March Break Camps and Earth Day Celebrations
- Sustainable Building Workshops
- Green technology and energy conservation school programs