

Green Up grant winners announced

Our Green Up grant program is designed to help create or enhance an environmental program for students in elementary and junior-high schools in our service area. This year, we awarded \$1,000 Green Up grants to the following schools:

Bluffton School – will purchase tower gardens for classrooms, having living, growing plants within classrooms will encourage students to become connected to nature and the needs of plants,

C. Ian McLaren School in Black Diamond – will build bat boxes to control mosquitoes and bug hotels to create a habitat for pollinating insects,

Caslan School – will develop a school garden and integrate outdoor education,

Chamberlain School in Grassy Lake – will implement a composting program at their school and purchase supplies to create an outdoor vegetable garden,

CW Sears Elementary School in Tofield – will grow vegetables to donate to their local food bank, the raised garden beds need to be upgraded, funds will also be used to purchase flowers to beautify their school community,

East Elementary School in Leduc – will plant flowers, trees and shrubs as part of their Trees and Forests Program,

Erle Rivers School in Milk River – will plant a tower garden to grow healthy snacks indoors so that fresh vegetables are available to students year-round with their Grow Our Own Snacks Program,

Joseph M Demko School –will create a community garden to promote student awareness of environmental responsibility, enhance student knowledge of native plants, life and growth cycles, plant care and forge community connections,

Joseph M Demko School - students will implement and maintain a habitat for birds and also a feeding system for them. Biodiversity is one of nature's gifts to humans and we want our students to experience this as well as they will get a chance to see a variety of different birds,

Innisfail Middle School - In the spirit of reconciliation, students who are part of the Innisfail Middle School Mustang Leadership Team and the Indigenous Circle Club will develop a garden meant to encourage exploration and discussion of Indigenous culture,

Iron Ridge Intermediate School in Blackfalds - will purchase bins and red earthworms for vermicomposting to reduce organic waste in their classrooms and throughout the school,

Lacombe High School – will develop their Roofs 4 Kids Education Garden, plant a pollinator garden and grow a larger variety of flowers, herbs, nut trees and fruit trees,

Linsford Park School in Leduc – will purchase indoor tower garden and aero garden systems to allow students to see a variety of environments where food grows,

New Norway School – will install tower gardens in the science classrooms and grow vegetables in outdoor planters,

Ponoka Secondary Campus – will purchase raised beds to enhance their Outdoor Classroom,

Rimbey Elementary School – will purchase and plant trees as part of their Legacy Tree Project,

River Valley School Green Team in Sundre – will purchase planter boxes, birdhouses, fencing, and a hose holder to complete their outdoor green project,

Rosemary School – will use the funds to start their Student Lead Farm, the focus of this project is to allow students to work alongside teachers and community members to build a farm from start to finish,

Salisbury Composite High School in Sherwood Park – will lead and develop projects including aquaponic system, tree planting, energy audits, and alternative energy ideas to power various school equipment,

Sparling School in Camrose – will add a Tower Garden to their classroom to give students the opportunity to learn and interact with growing food, sustainability, and wellness.