

# St Leo's Eco Team

Returning our School to Nature - from the Inside Out

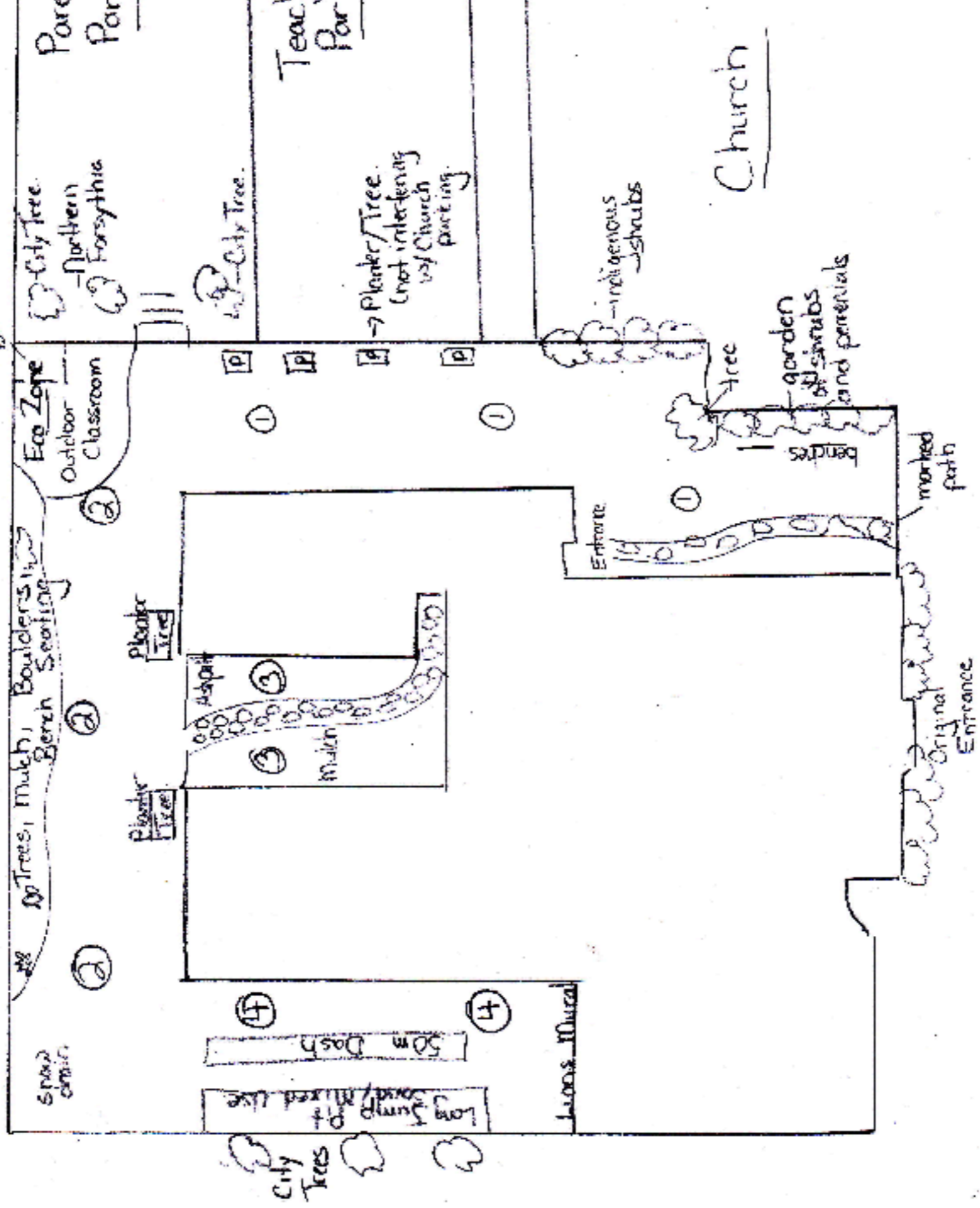
# Need for Improvement



# Objectives

- To create a shaded environment for our children that will protect them from harmful u.v exposure, while at the same time providing maximum efficiency in the school with regard to heating and cooling.
- To foster environmental awareness, conservation, education, responsibility and stewardship in St. Leo Students.
- To create a school environment that fosters nature friendly learning, out of the box teaching and that creates appropriate outlets for active and eco conscious children.
- To promote a return to nature in the St. Leo School yard by engaging the larger Mimico community, while making the Board aware that the community values the heritage of the existing School Building.

# Mimico Adult Centre



# ZONE 1

- To create a welcoming and nature friendly entrance to the school.
- To work with the Church in providing a space that would meet the needs of the church (parking, gathering space for outside socials after mass) and school community (seating areas, meet and greet and shade for children).
- To complete the three new mural projects.
- To create a low maintenance and properly graded garden along the East wall of the Church with shrubs and trees that provides shade, attracts birds and butterflies, and protects the vulnerable brick of the church.
- To create a natural garden of indigenous shrubs along the east garage wall of the Church.
- To plant trees to provide necessary shade for Kindergarten pickup, recess play and seating.
- To paint four square, hopscotch and basketball on the asphalt where indicated.
- Asphalt replaced in select areas that is safe, even and properly graded to move water away from Church and School.

# ZONE 2

- To plant trees along entire chain link fence and in front of kindergarten play area to provide necessary shade from intense southern exposure and create wind break from south westerly, winter winds coming off of the Lake. These trees to have mulch beneath to create optimal growing, earth seating and to encourage wildlife and birds.
- To paint four square, hopscotch, basketball and soccer lines on the asphalt
- To create a phased in, mixed use (outdoor classroom, wildlife stewardship, recess and lunch seating) Eco Zone with mulch, sand, low maintenance bushes, planters and bird houses.
- To replace asphalt where necessary that is even and safe, particularly around sewer grates.

# ZONE 3

- To plant trees on either side of the entrance to the Kindergarten area that will provide necessary shade for young children who are currently exposed to UV rays without any option for shade.
- To create an outdoor environment for play based- all day Kindergarten that reflects TCDSB's standards and promotes inquiry, experiential and integrated learning. This will be done via a blend of hard and soft scape, music/weather wall, planters, natural seating elements and visual art.
- To replace asphalt where indicated that is safe, even and graded properly away from the school foundation.

# ZONE 4

- To plant trees along the east chain link fence and door where children line up for classes.
- To provide shaded seating
- To create a sport area that is accessible from the Gym that will provide students with recess activity but that will also be useful in all levels of the curriculum.
- To paint sport walls, nets and murals on the school walls.
- To create a mixed-use sand pit that could be used for longjump / shotput as well as free play and experiential learning.
- To paint activities such as 50 m dash, foot hockey, four square, and basketball on the replaced asphalt.
- To replace asphalt that is safe and even in indicated areas



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- To work with Mimico businesses and organizations to create an environment that is sustainable, relevant, historical and specific to the Mimico community.
- To work with residential homes immediately around the school to create a more eco friendly, shade plentiful space that can have multi faceted purpose within the community
- To work with the Church community to foster community events, responsibility, stewardship, respect and appreciation for our environment.

# MAINTENANCE PLAN

- Please see attached for Maintenance Plan Budget
- To establish a schedule within school hours for stewardship of gardens and playground.
- To foster an awareness/excitement of environmental responsibility with respect to wildlife, plants, garbage, recycling etc...
- To incorporate fundraising initiatives into costs of maintenance.
- To plant native, hardy, low maintenance shrubs, trees and plants.

# FUNDRAISING STRATEGY

- Annual St. Leo's Cleanup Drive which fosters environmental responsibility in our yard and the community. In pilot year of 2013, we raised \$2000.00. This money could forthwith be dedicated to maintaining and building upon current and new initiatives in our school yard and with respect to environmental responsibility and stewardship.
- Leo's continues to source fundraising dollars from corporations and businesses in the Mimico community that are also interested in revitalizing Mimico and celebrating its unique heritage in the Greater Toronto Area.

# TEACHERS/CURRICULUM

- To continue important eco conscious initiatives such as the Beauty Brigade and litterless lunch.
- To continue new initiatives such as litterless lunch, composting and battery recycling, and Eco Ted and Fred.

To work with teachers to create artwork (4X4 exterior plywood) for the fences that reflect and support the curriculum. This will engage students, create pride for school grounds and encourage stewardship.

- To supply each teacher with a planter and dirt to create a small garden planter garden that will be put together to create the beginnings of our eco-garden. This will serve as a test ground to determine teacher and student involvement/ interest.

# THE BOARD

- To make the Board aware that there are options for renewing our playground if a new school is built on St. Leo or if the current school is revitalized. To make the Board aware that relocating St. Leo and separating us from our Parish is not an option that the school or community wants.
- To establish a committee/ad hoc group of parents who continually put pressure on the Board to meet their responsibility to the students and parents of St. Leo School.
- To keep clear documentation of renewal items and blitz items that have been completed
- To maintain pressure on the Board to complete renewal items and blitz items that have not been completed

