



Photo credit: Juliette Carman



Photo credit: OutClass™



Photo credit: Monica Thom

## GARDEN

The garden acts as a container and represents an access point. Food is fundamental to growth and longevity. The purpose of this garden is not only to transform the heat-creating concrete schoolyards of Montreal into lush, green, productive, ecosystems, but to provide food security for local communities as well as sites for environmental education.

## EDUCATION

As this project is situated in learning sites, it strives to leverage the power of environmental education by creating outdoor classrooms to encourage learners to not only engage with nature, but nurture their own self-confidence, autonomy, and leadership skills as well. The outdoor classrooms are spaces for grade and high-school students to learn outside the confines of traditional indoor classrooms, but also as locations for community workshops.

## COMMUNITY

As a whole, this space acts as a contact zone, that is, a space for people of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds, to come together and cultivate community. Young learners need community support, and the support of young people often acts as a catalyst for individuals to be their best selves, work together, and generate respect and reciprocity for the benefit of future generations.

# The SCHOOLYARD ECOSPHERE Project



Photo credit: Juliette Carman

## CONCEPT

To tackle the issue of heat zones in Montreal, our project transforms concrete schoolyards into thriving ecosystems. Our concept merges an edible garden with an outdoor classroom, a playground made out of natural materials, and a community meeting space.

## A WILD IDEA

In Montreal, there are far too many schoolyards that resemble parking lots. Like an oak tree in a forest, problems do not exist in isolation but in ecosystems of interconnected components. This concept - though a little bit wild - addresses the issue of heat zone as well as a handful of related urban needs including food security, environmental education, & community development.

## CULTIVATION

The implementation of this project will require the collective efforts of the City of Montreal, participating school, students, parents, grandparents, & the greater community

## FRUITS OF LABOUR

This radical shift will not only contribute to canopy cover, ground cover, soil health, and water retention, but cultivate deep rooted connections between humans and the environment to inspire individuals to be conscious planetary citizens. Our environment has much to give, but so do the individuals who inhabit this Earth. By building relationships between the two, we believe that a sense of reciprocity & respect is sure to blossom.

**Project by**  
Pauline Bellec, Juliette Carman, Julie Lehmann, & Monica Thom.

**Special thanks to**  
Carly Ziter, Hannah Harper-Smith, Teagan & Abigail Scholander, CitéStudio Montréal, & Katja Neves.