

Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group Inc. (Jocelyne Gauvin, Coordinator)

Gardens of Biodiversity

In the rural Francophone region of Cocagne in south-west New Brunswick, the Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group (GDDPC) and the Blanche-Bourgeois school have been developing gardens of biodiversity as part of an ecological development project for the school playground. This 2009-2011 project is partly financed by Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program.

Several plant beds will provide habitat for plants indigenous to the Acadian forest, while others will be planted with edible produce. All will serve as models for the community, as concrete examples for Pays de Cocagne schools or residents who want to try ecological gardening for themselves. The gardens will be ready in time to celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, 2010.

Interest in the gardening and nature project has been extraordinary... Since the project was launched on June 18, 2009, the whole community has been getting involved, helping with everything from communications (taking photos, or writing for the school's webzine or the GDDPC Website), to gardening (preparing the beds, helping with planting and watering), construction (planters and benches), and fundraising.