2010-2011

- Envisioned an accessible ecoschoolyard
- Developed Eco Schoolyard Committee, initial membership includes:
 - Parent of a child with special needs
 - Parent who is a landscape architect
 - School Principal
 - Special Education
 Resource Teachers
 - YRDSC Mobility and Orientation Vision Itinerant
 - YRDSB Plant Services Staff
- Developed Committee Mission Statement: Sub-committee of JRPS School Council status established
- Funding sources research began
- Schoolyard design research began

2011-2012

- Consulted with community leaders and all stakeholders on design of landscape plan, including students, staff, parents, neighbours, and related professionals
- Drawn From Nature donation -Formal survey and conceptual landscape plan
- Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund - Opening of wheelchair accessible sensory garden
- The need for specialized summer program identified
- Landscape Plan approved by YRDSB and City of Markham
- School fundraisers including Dance-a-Thon start-up funds
- Began networking with related community groups/committees

2012-2013

- Dancing Leaves: Studentcrafted chain link fence mural art supported by Artist in Residence Program
- First new shade tree planted
- Rescued 2 trees from VIVA construction site (donations-inkind)
- Built first 60m of paved learning trail (donations-in-kind and ongoing support from Hawkins Contracting)
- TD Friends of the Environment Grant received
- Built Accessible outdoor classroom, including armour stones for seating, and native shrub bed foundation (Funded by grants and donations-inkind)
- Created colour brochures, social media accounts, power point presentations

2013-2014

- Engineers in Residence volunteers joined committee
- 36 trees and shrubs planted
- National Tree Day tree donation (donations-in-kind)
- Memorial tree planted
- Constructed next 140m of learning trail (donations-inkind)
- Constructed outdoor accessible stage (donations-in-kind)
- Fun Fair / Justin Hines Outdoor Concert Fundraiser
- Specialized summer program R.I.M.E.S. (Reverse Integrated Multi-Exceptionalities Site) began – result of a collaboration with YRDSB and City of Markham serving 10 special needs and 30 ablebodied students
- Constructed raised, curriculumbased food gardens (donationsin-kind) with support from Seeds For Change

2014-2015

- R.I.M.E.S. (2014) summer program continued (serving 10 special needs and 62 ablebodied students)
- 2013-2014 York Region
 Character Community Award –
 School Category
- Nominated for David C. Onley Award for Leadership and Accessibility – Role Model/ Champion Award
- Premier's Award for Safe and Accepting Schools
- TD Friends of the Environment Grant received
- Markham Environmental Sustainability Fund
- Landscape Ontario (Toronto Chapter) adoption of project
- Constructed 340m of main trail featuring accessible sand play area, loose parts play zone, kettle rock, storage, shade structure with rock seating, and tree plantings
- R.I.M.E.S. program continued summer 2015 (serving 11 special needs and 80 ablebodied students)

2015 & beyond

- On-going grant applications
- Replacement of aging formal playground structures with new and accessible structures
- Construction of supervised,
 Community Food Gardens
- Special signage
- On-going maintenance of new facilities
- Promote the use of the new green space to other children with special needs and their families from York Region

Continuous Funding Effort – Over \$100,000 raised from monetary donations, donations-in-kind, grants, and fundraisers from 2010 - 2015























