



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

**Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts**

of

CATHERINE ORR

BA (University of Manitoba, 2007)

**“Nurturing Landscapes: Creating educational rainwater management systems
on school grounds”**

School of Environmental Studies

Friday, September 11, 2015

1:00PM

David Turpin Building

Room B211

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Valentin Schaefer, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Kevin Connery, Park Planner, City of Richmond (Outside Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Richard Kool, Environment and Sustainability Department, Royal Roads University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. James Young, Department of Philosophy, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

This research poses two questions: How, through collaboration and thoughtful design practices, can rainwater management systems on school grounds be developed as resources for learning? And, what can these systems contribute to the development of more sustainable urban rainwater management? The research was conducted through a literature review, the analysis of three case studies and a pilot project. The research points to the potential for schools to act as a centralizing figure, enabling a community collaboration to occur with the aim of implementing educational rainwater projects. This process generated knowledge, spread awareness and built relationships among the community. The school's participation in this process was key to creating place-based, engaging design solutions. The rainwater systems must be multi-functional and contribute to the learning environment by building on the school's educational philosophy. The four projects offer different scenarios for creating rainwater management systems that engage students through both hands-on learning and play.