

**GREENING THE SCHOOLYARD RESOURCES**  
**Julie Gardner and Kristin Boyd- Eco Links Conference 2012**

There are numerous resources available that deal directly with green schoolyards; many of which give very helpful and specific suggestions. One's search should start with the Internet, as there are many websites available that provide useful tips as well as links to beneficial resource documents. See the annotated bibliography below for a description of some of these many websites as well as some relevant journal articles. Magazines, such as **Green Teacher**, also provide useful information about green schoolyards. Included below is also a small list of useful books.

**BOOKS**

- Bucking-Sporer, A.B., & Pringle, R.K. (2010). *How To Grow A School Garden: A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers*. London: Timber Press.
- Broda, H.W. (2007). *Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning: Using the Outdoors as an Instructional Tool, K-8*. Portland: Stenhouse Publishers.
- Danks, S.G. (2010). *Asphalt to Ecosystems: Designing Ideas for Schoolyard Transformation*. Oakland: New Village Press.
- Gaylie, V. (2009). *The Learning Garden: Ecology, Teaching, and Transformation*. New York: Peter Lang.
- Grant, T., & Littlejohn, G. (Eds.). (2001). *Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning*. Toronto and Gabriola Island: Green Teacher magazine and New Society Publishers.
- Herrington, S. (2002) *Schoolyard Park: 13-acres International Design Competition*. Vancouver: Centre for Landscape Research The University of British Columbia.
- Lott, S.D. (2001). *Patterns, Plants, and Playground: Educational Activities for School Grounds*. Vancouver: Evergreen.
- Mackmillan Johnson, L., & Duffek, K. (2008). *Creating Outdoor Classrooms: Schoolyard Habitats and Gardens for the Southwest*. University of Texas.
- Moore, R.C., & Wong, H.H. (2000). *Natural Learning: Creating Environments for Rediscovering Nature's Way of Teaching*. Berkley: MIG Communications.
- Perry, J.P. (2001). *Outdoor Play: Teaching Strategies with Young Children*. New York and London: Teachers College, Columbia University.

**WEBSITES**

- Chez Panisse Foundation. (2006). Edible School Yard Project. (<http://www.chezpanissefoundation.org/>)  
The Edible Schoolyard foundation supports educational programs that use food to nurture, educate, and empower youth. At the route of the Foundation's belief is that every child has the right to fresh, healthy food. They run a number of programs to help facilitate this goal in public schools. This source is useful as it includes an online resource center that promotes the sharing of lessons and best practices between educational gardens, kitchen and lunch programs across the United States.
- Evergreen. (2000). School Ground Greening. (<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/programs/schools/>)  
Evergreen is a Canadian non-for-profit charity organization that strives to make cities more livable by engaging Canadians in creating and sustaining dynamic outdoor spaces- in schools, communities, and homes. One of their projects is working with schools to assist them to green their schoolyards. This website is particularly useful as it provides a wide range of resources including how to plan and design a green schoolyard, native plant databases, and case studies and examples of schools that have successful green schoolyard programs. It also has links to a number of other useful websites and publications.
- Meyer, K. (2011). Green Schoolyard Network. (<http://greenschoolyardnetwork.org/>)  
The Green Schoolyard Network is an organization dedicated to transforming schoolyards into dynamic centers for teaching and learning, health and fitness, environmental literacy and community life. The blog is useful as it provides

an extensive list of free publications concerning sustainability education, connecting students with nature, and food programs in schools. The blog also has a gallery depicting greening schoolyard initiatives at schools across the United States, which provides a nice visual of what kinds of activities, projects, and diversity of people are involved in these projects.

- Sustainable Schoolyards. (2011). (<http://www.sustainableschoolyard.org/>)

Friends of Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities is a diverse group of United States national organizations that have join forces in order to generate the Sustainable Schoolyards exhibit and website with the goal of creating smart, healthier and more livable communities. The purpose of the exhibit is to illustrate some of the outdoor classroom concepts, ecological teaching tools, and creative play ideas that can be added to almost any schoolyard. This website is particularly helpful as it has a number of schoolyard designs examples.

- San FranciscoGreen Schoolyard Alliance. (n.d.) (<http://sfgreenschools.org/>)

The San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance promotes and supports green schoolyards by providing resources, training, and advocacy to school communities in San Francisco in order to help them create and sustain outdoor learning environments. Although the organization's focus area is San Francisco, their website is still a valuable resource as they provide full-lists of links to a number of other school garden related organization, local environmental education organizations and publications, curriculum resources, and how to get started, many of which are as relevant and useful to schools in Canada.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Langhout, R.G., Rappaport, J. & Simmons, D. (2002) **Integrating Community Into the Classroom; Community Gardening, Community Involvement and Project-Based Learning.** *Urban Education*, 37.3.

This article examines the tensions faced in facilitating the relationship between teachers and community members while working towards a community garden project. The authors use two classroom examples as ways of illustrating this relationship. This article sheds light on how teachers interact with community members in community garden programs.

- Ozer, E.J. (2007). **The Effects of School Gardens on Students and Schools: Conceptualization and considerations for Maximizing Healthy Development.** *Health Education & Behavior*, 34.6

This article describes school gardens in the United States which have gardening programs geared towards enhancing student learning through involvement in in the gardening programs. It identifies literature that recognizes the impacts of school gardens on students and provides a guide for future plans. This article is relevant as it provides a good outline of previous school garden projects and their impacts that can be studied in order to plan current or future school gardening programs.

- Ratcliffe, M.M., Merrigan, K.A., Rogers, B.L. & Goldberg, J.P. (2011). **The Effects of School Garden Experiences on Middle School-Ages Students' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors Associated With Vegetable Consumption.** *Health Promotion Practice*, 12.1.

This article examines garden-based education programs in terms of children's vegetable consumption in relation to school gardening practices. The study was performed on students 11 to 13 years of age at two intervention schools and one control school in San Francisco. This article is useful as it effectively describes previous gardening programs and how they impact nutrition of students.

- Staempfli, M.B. (2009). **Reintroducing Adventure Into Children's Outdoor Play Environments.** *Environment and Behavior*, 41.2.

This article speaks of the need to reintroduce children to outdoor play and unstructured play in light of the decreasing presence of these activities. Adventure playgrounds, also known as junk playgrounds, use the element of recycling and the given environment to inspire outdoor play. This article is useful as it describes ways in which the given environment and recycled resources can be used for outdoor play, which can help keep costs down when creating and maintaining green schoolyards.