



Creatively Using Your Outdoor Classroom Year Round

Learning Inside Out Workshop
March 19, 2024



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

RI Dept. of Education (RIDE) Learning Inside Out Program

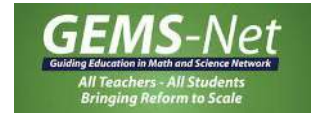
- In 2023, RIDE Awarded \$7.5 Million to 89 projects across RI to create outdoor learning spaces
- Be sure to visit the RIDE [Learning Inside Out Outdoor Classroom Initiative](#) page for updates and resources



**Audubon Society
of Rhode Island**



THE
**UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND**



How can the RI Farm to School Network support your Outdoor Classrooms?



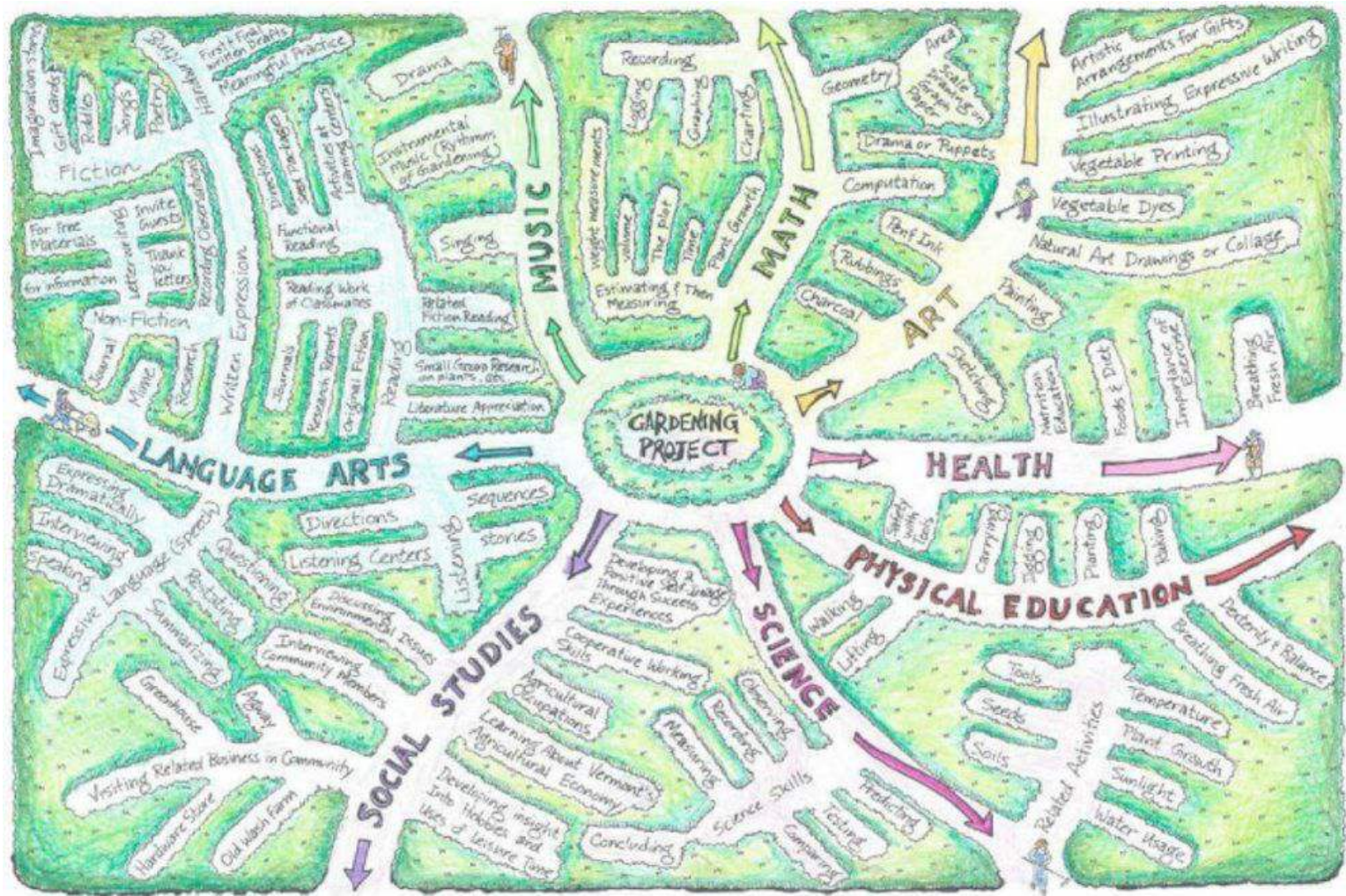
Cafeteria



Classroom



Community



Creative Uses for the Outdoor Classroom



Overview

- Thinking beyond the vegetable garden
- Curricular Connections
- Seasonal Uses
- Resource Sharing



About Me

- 10+ years of garden/outdoor education experience
- Curriculum work, teacher PD, facilitating classes
- MAEd in Natural Sciences and Environmental Education



Beyond A Garden

- How can we think about these spaces beyond them as “just” a garden?
- Requires a little more forethought, but outdoor classrooms can bring so much of what we think of as school to life



Rhode Island Growing Calendar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION		RHODE ISLAND PLANTING CALENDAR FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES																	
Fruit or vegetable	Days until harvest	February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October	
		1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
ASPARAGUS (buy crowns)	1-2 Years						CR	CR	CR										
BEANS, BABY LIMA	60-100								S	S	S	S	S						
BEANS, PINTO	60-80								S	S	S								
BEANS, SNAP	60-80								S	S	S	S	S	S					
BEETS	60-90					S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				
BLACKEYED PEAS	90-120								S	S	S								
BOK CHOY	45								S	S				S	S	S			
BROCCOLI	60-90 from transplant					I			T			I	I	T	T				
BRUSSELS SPROUTS	100-120 from transplant							I				T							
CABBAGE	80-90 from transplant			I			T				I	S	S	T	S				
CABBAGE, CHINESE	45 from transplant					I			S	T	S		I	S	T	S	S		
CARROTS	60-80				S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S					
CAULIFLOWER	80 from transplant						I		T	I	I	T	T						
CELERY	90 from transplant			I					T	T									
CHARD	40						S	S	S	S				S	S				
CORN, SWEET	70-90								S	S	S	S							
CUCUMBERS	60-90								T	S	S	S							
EGGPLANT	80 from transplant			I	I					T									
ENDIVE/ESCAROLE	80-120				S	S							S	S					
GARLIC	5-7 months																		C
KALE	60-90				I	S	S	T	S				S	S	S	S			
KOHLRABI	45-60 from transplant					S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		

https://web.uri.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/336/CoopExt-2021_PlantingCalendar.pdf



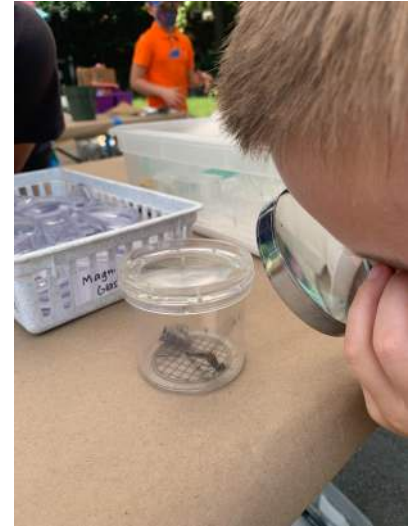
What else can these spaces be used for?

- Meetings
- Events
- School wide initiatives
- Student support
- Breaks
- Community engagement
- Story Telling
- Team building
- Classroom connections



Science

- Climate Change
- Pollinators
- Phenology - the study of seasons
- Habitats and Ecology
- Horticulture
- Observation
- Weather



Language Arts

- Nature as inspiration
- Book connections
- Reading areas
- Performances
- Journaling
- Labeling and Describing



Math

- Measuring
- Calculating yields
- Patterns and Shapes
- Observation
- Graphing Data
- Manipulatives



Arts

- Crafts
- Photography
- Painting
- Natural art projects / collages



Social Studies

- Social history of plants
- Themed beds
- History
- Mapping Skills
- Natural Resources
- Regionality
- Business



Fall

- Cool weather and overwintering crops
- Harvest
- Planting perennials
- Leaf ID
- Noticing changes
- Preservation
- Plan and Document



Winter

- Considerations
 - Clothing
 - Time
 - Movement
 - Routine
- Activities
 - Observation
 - Tracking
 - Sensory Walk
 - Science Connections



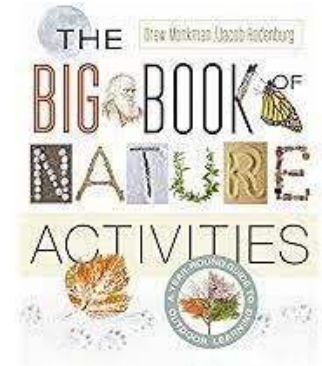
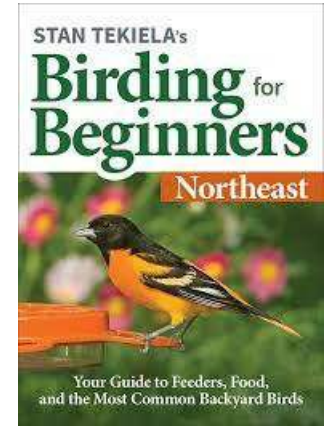
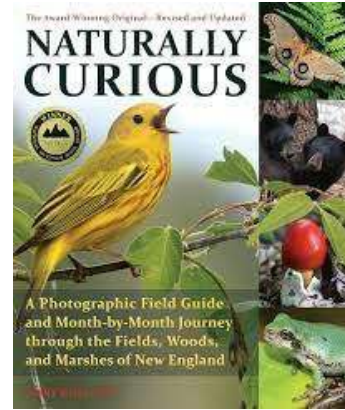
Spring

- Seed starting
- Greenhouses
- Seasonal Changes
- Harvest
- Setting up for Summer



Resources

- Curriculum
 - Shelburne Farms / Project Seasons
 - The Edible Schoolyard Project
 - Life Lab / The Growing Classroom
 - KidsGardening.org
 - LiFE Curriculum - Columbia Teachers College
- Networking
 - Children and Nature Network
 - Rhode Island Environmental Education Association
 - School Garden Support Network
 - KidsGardening.org
 - The Outdoor Learning Store



Thank You!



Sign up to receive updates
on all things Farm to School



<https://rifarmtoschool.org/enews/>