

# SCHOOL SITES

## Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (07/08)

*The following list consists of selected resources concerning the development and/or use of School Sites. All materials are available for loan at the WCEE Resources Library. Many more resources are available on this and other topics, and there are many resources for specific schoolyard habitats such as gardens, prairies, ponds, etc. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance and/or additional information.*

### Teaching Activity Guides

**Ten Minute Field Trips** by Helen Russell, National Science Teachers Association, Washington, DC. (1990).

*Designed as a resource to enhance science and biology units with outdoor study in the existing school grounds. Sections include helpful background as well as outdoor and related indoor activity ideas.*

*Grade levels: PK-6 Length: 163 pages WCEE call number: AC SS 16*

**Ecology for All Ages** by Jorie Hunken, The Globe Pequot Press, Old Saybrook, CT. (1994).

*Being ecology-based, presents a very holistic view of habitat study. Sections of activities are divided based on habitat type (ponds, woods, etc.) and each section includes helpful background information. Grade levels are not specified for each activity.*

*Grade levels: PK-12 Length: 194 pages WCEE call number: AC ECO 30*

**City Science** by Peggy Perdue and Diane Vaszily, Good Year Books, Glenview, IL. (1991).

*An experimental, science-based activity guide that focuses on outdoor education utilizing urban environments. Chapters are divided based on Earth, Environmental, Life, Physical, and Survey Science and include many student worksheets.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 30 activities, 91 pages WCEE call number: AC URB 8*

**Discovering the Naturalist Intelligence: Science in the School Yard** by Jenna Glock, Susan Wertz, Maggie Meyer, Zephyr Press, Tucson, AZ. (1999).

*A schoolyard activity guide divided into sections based on the process skill they work to develop: observing, collecting, predicting, analyzing, and communicating. Very usable activities set up like many PLT-style activity guides. Subheadings even include a "Literature Entry Point" section.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 36 activities, 123 pages WCEE call number: AC SS 1*

**English in the School Grounds** by Brian Keaney, and **Mathematics in the School Grounds** by Soe Rhydderch-Evans, The Green Brick Road, Don Mills, Ontario. (1993).

*Guides to activities that can be done outdoors in existing sites with topics that are sometimes considered to be "indoor learning". Includes student worksheets.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 56 and 53 pages WCEE call number: AC SS 6 and AC SS 7*

**Schoolyard Science** by Peggy K. Perdue, Good Year Books, Glenview, IL. (1991).

*Chapters cover Physical, Life, Soil, and Environmental Science. The experiment-based activities are all meant to take place in the schoolyard, and include student lab sheets.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 25 activities, 86 pages WCEE call number: AC SS 4*

**Schoolyard Wildlife Activity Guide, The** by Linda Cronin-Jones, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, FL. (1992).

*Focuses on diverse wildlife lessons that can be completed inside and out, but without necessitating fieldtrips. Very usable format, with many helpful sub-headings for each activity. Also provides many helpful appendices.*

*Grade levels: K-9 Length: 35 lessons, 208 pages WCEE call number: AC WL 24*

**Exploring Nature in Winter** by Alan Cvancara, Walker and Company, New York, NY. (1992).

*A good guide for finding activities that allow for use of the school grounds in the long winters of Wisconsin. Setup as a chapter book, it is less usable than other activity guides, but good ideas are contained within, and it provides extensive background information.*

*Grade levels: K-9 Length: 194 pages WCEE call number: AC ECO 29*

**No Student Left Indoors: Creating a Field Guide to Your Schoolyard** by Jane Kirkland, Stillwater, Lionville, PA. (2007).

*This activity guide shows how to create a field guide to the schoolyard and how this could be used as a class project for numerous classes or as a collaboration between classes.*

*Grade levels: K-9 Length: 178 pages WCEE call number: AC SS 21*

**Prairie Restoration for Wisconsin Schools** by Molly Murray, Robin Greenler, University of Wisconsin—Madison Arboretum, Madison, WI. (1993).

*A prairie restoration manual from the UW-Madison Arboretum that includes a curriculum as well as extensive background information. The Arboretum in fact participates in helping fund and initiate restoration projects at Wisconsin schools, and contacts and additional resource lists are included.*

*Grade levels: K-12 Length: Various paging WCEE call number: AC BC GR 1*

**Schoolyard Habitats** by The National Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Reston, VA. (2001).

*The NWF's Schoolyard Habitats programs helps schools create and certify the educational spaces in their school grounds. This manual includes information on the program as well as activities, worksheets, networking information, etc. A separate Planning Guide accompanies this resource (WCEE call number AC SS 13).*

*Grade levels: K-12 Length: 10 activities, 217 pages WCEE call number: AC SS 14*

**Biology is Outdoors** by Judith Hancock, J. Weston Walch, Portland, ME. (1991).

*Using the school grounds as a study site, covers a variety of science/biology topics including Microenvironments, Human Impacts, Soil Science, Plant Life, etc. Each section includes a Teacher Section, a Student Section, a Data Sheet, and Spinoff Ideas.*

*Grade levels: 5-12 Length: 10 lessons, 142 pages WCEE call number: AC SS 5*

## Videos

**Exploring School Nature Areas** by Western Regional Environmental Education Council, Bethesda, MD. (1994).

*Developed by Project WILD, covers the justification of creating/utilizing nature areas in school grounds. Includes exploration of case studies as well as some “how-to” instruction.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 13 minutes WCEE call number: AV SS 1*

**Habitats for Learning** by Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Columbus, OH. (1994).

*A look at how to utilize existing school resources and sites for outdoor learning. The philosophy guiding the video is “use what you have, enhance as you go, develop if and when you’re ready.”*

*Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 14 minutes WCEE call number: AV SS 3*

**Nature Neighborhood** by Environmental Media Corp., Port Royal, SC. (1999).

*A “how-to” guide for three types of schoolyard habitats: butterfly gardens, bird observation stations, and mini-ponds.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 30 minutes WCEE call number: AV SS 5*

**Schoolyard Habitats** by National Wildlife Federation, Reston, VA. (2001).

*An introduction to NWF’s Schoolyard Habitat program, a nationwide project in school site development and certification. Through case studies, explores the benefits and outlines the processes in bringing curricula outside.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 15 minutes WCEE call number: AV SS 6*

**Tapestry of Learning, A** by Wild Ones. (2001).

*A good, comprehensive video guide to school nature areas. Includes “how-to”, justifications, and background information. Also includes discussion of how to utilize the nature areas for a variety of school subject areas.*

*Grade levels: 9-12, Adult Length: 7 minutes WCEE call number: AV SS 4*

## Books for Youth

**Hello, Tree!** by Joanne Ryder, Lodestar Books, New York, NY. (1991).

*Fiction. Encourages the sensory exploration of (urban) trees. Also follows the seasonal changes of trees and touches on the habitat a tree provides for animals.*

*Grade levels: PK-4 Length: 32 pages WCEE call number: BY PL 8*

**Monarch Magic!** by Lynn Rosenblatt, Williamson Publishing, Charlotte, VT. (1998).

*Non-fiction. A child’s activity book that would make a good accompaniment to projects and/or lessons surrounding schoolyard gardens. Very thorough.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 96 pages WCEE call number: BY WL IN 26*

**City Green** by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, Morrow Junior Books, New York, NY. (1994).

*Fiction. A story about the transformation of a city lot into a community garden. Can be applied to schoolyard garden projects or lessons. Includes reference information.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: Unpaged WCEE call number: BY SA 7*

**Growing Wild: Inviting Wildlife Into Your Yard** by Constance Perenyi, Beyond Words, Hillsboro, OR. (1991).

*Fiction. A story that contrasts the habitats provided by lawns versus that provided by natural areas. Excellent illustrations and a helpful list of resources included.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 39 pages WCEE call number: BY LS 4*

**My School is Alive!** by David Barnes, One More Story Please Inc., Canada. (2005).

*Follow Sara's journey through her primary/junior years as her teacher begins a project to promote sustainability and respect of the Earth.*

*Grade levels: K-6 Length: 32 pages WCEE call number: BY SS 1*

**Fairy Dusters and Blazing Stars** by Suzanne Samson, Roberts Rinehart, Niwot, CO. (1994).

*Fiction. A colorful look at wildflowers through the illustration of the picturesque common names (Mule's Ears, Lady's Slippers, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, etc). Excellent accompaniment to prairie studies. References included*

*Grade levels: K-9 Length: 37 pages WCEE call number: BY PL 11*

**Wildflowers, Blooms, and Blossoms** by Diane Burns, NorthWord Press, Minnetonka, MN. (1998).

*Non-fiction. A kids' identification guide to 30 wildflowers. Also includes natural history, habitat, and other information for each flower.*

*Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 47 pages WCEE call number: BY PL 25*

## Reference/Background Books

**Homes for Wildlife** by Marilyn Wyzga, New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, Concord, NH. (1994).

*A wildlife-focused resource developed in response to the need for nature spaces in which to conduct outdoor activities, such as those in Project WILD. Covers many aspects of planning and development. Many appendices of references and resources are provided, and this also includes sample K-12 activities.*

*Grade levels: K-12, Adult Length: 167 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 20*

**Challenge of the Urban School Site, The** by The Green Brick Road, Ontario, Canada. (1996).

*A look at school site possibilities in urban settings through case studies. Also includes aspects of the development of sites that are inclusive to the multi-cultural audience.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 110 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 11*

**Getting into the Classroom Outdoors: A School Forest Handbook** by Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, St. Paul, MN. (1996).

*A good introduction that covers the basics of utilizing a school forest. Does assume a school forest is available, accessible.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 35 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 12*

**Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning** edited by Tim Grant. New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, BC, Canada. (2001).

*A guide that looks at the planning, creation, and use of schoolyard habitats through the published work of many different authors. Developed in conjunction with Green Teacher magazine.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 136 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 15*

**Grounds for Sharing: A Guide to Developing Special School Sites** by The Green Brick Road, Ontario, Canada. (1996).

*A resource that deals specifically with development/utilization of school sites for special needs students. Includes case studies. Very thorough.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 88 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 8*

**Natural Learning** by MIG Communications, Berkeley, CA. (1997).

*Very comprehensive. Focuses on the development of the child as well as the development of the natural space, and how the two work together.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 280 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 20*

**Wildlife and the School Environment** by The Green Brick Road, Ontario, Canada. (1992).

*A handbook about using the school grounds to teach about wildlife. Includes information about using existing resources and adding new spaces. Also includes a list of additional resources.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 35 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 12*

**WILD School Sites** by Western Regional Environmental Education Council, Bethesda, MD. (1993).

*Developed in association with Project WILD. Focuses on conserving biodiversity using the school grounds as a model.*

*Grade levels: Adult Length: 55 pages WCEE call number: BA SS 4*