

Cities Connecting Children to Nature - Green Schoolyards SW WA

We will use this Padlet throughout our Steering Committee Action Planning journey - add ideas, thoughts, suggestions and edits. Feel free to include ideas from your colleagues. When rating, 1= Low priority up to 5= High priority

LOWER COLUMBIA NATURE NETWORK NOV 09, 2022 08:48PM UTC

Who to add to our list of partners?

School Foundations

More people from other-than-Clark County

Activation Ideas - how to get teachers, staff and students outside learning?

It would be awesome if we could get our local non-profits to get native plants to schools! I know we have local organizations propagating native plants from seeds.

We also need a classroom kit that could be checked out by teachers and local partners with hand tools and gloves. Funding is a constraint, so let's change that and have a resource to get some green spaces activated.

Explore/Publish Barriers

Offer teacher/school forums to better understand their felt and perceived barriers to taking students outdoors on their campus

informal garden visits

I learned about a teacher who uses the designated "snack time" to go to the school garden that ended up being a mini-lesson at a time that would usually be academic time

Joint volunteer clearance check

Have a universal check that all districts can use

Mark Watrin is coordinating talks with district leadership
— LOWER COLUMBIA NATURE NETWORK

This issue is real for us. Longview & Kelso districts have different vetting processes, one is free, one costs \$60. — ANONYMOUS

This would be a game changer. — ANONYMOUS

This would make a great difference!!! — ANONYMOUS

Short term action items

Similar to the inventory of existing Green Schoolyard sites - it would be interesting/helpful to know which sites have good potential for future projects. I'm thinking mostly about stormwater retrofits, but it could be other green infrastructure as well.

"seasonal" what to do in your garden

There really is no down time in a garden if you have a calendar to guide your activities from, soil testing to weather data even the cold months can be utilized

Could this be a curriculum or a kit for teachers to download or borrow? — LOWER COLUMBIA NATURE NETWORK

Build relationships with key partners

Identify key school leaders, city partners and community do-ers to start and build the conversations to move pieces forward

Superintendents — LOWER COLUMBIA NATURE NETWORK

Assemble our "Elevator" speech about what are GSY and why they are important in our community

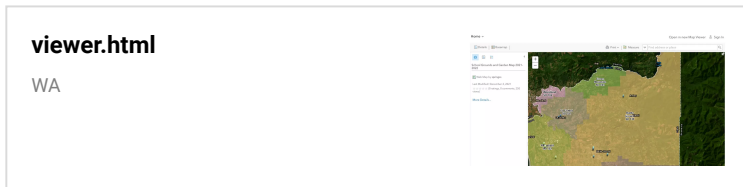
- Create a short video to post
- Create handout/flier to share at meeting OR QR code to web page
- Present to local school and city leaders - who needs to hear the message

Create forums to share ideas that welcome all voices

Including teachers, students, families, communities and school leaders

Continue to build inventory of existing Green Schoolyard sites

- Continue to work with Clark County Green Schools staff to populate the map.
- Add short videos for each site to help share their successes



We regularly schedule every 6 month check up
— LOWER COLUMBIA NATURE NETWORK

Create centralized data portals

Where partners can post and share information, one-stop-shop for schools/users

Educator Resources - Lower Columbia Nature Network

LCNN is working to build a network of schools for peer to peer networking and support: School garden tours - In partnership with WSU Extension Master Gardeners, tour local school gardens for tips and ideas for school gardens Peer Quarterly Workshops- Join school garden teachers and community for focused meetings to support on-site improvement ideas, curricula and programming School garden stewardship support - LCNN partners support volunteer stewardship events seasonally to support gardens (post-COVID restrictions) Student mentoring & internships - Partners work with schools for community service and CTE projects, including volunteering, skills building and project implementation

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Consider FieldScope as an option: <https://www.fieldscope.org/>
— ANONYMOUS

Medium term action items

Tie the City of Vancouver's Climate Action goals to projects on school grounds

What are realistic projects that can help meet mutual goals:

- Lots of tree plantings
- Add more native habitat for wildlife
- Add more pollinator gardens
- Share learning opportunities
- Engage youth voices

school grounds are often a good site for stormwater retrofit projects too... — ANONYMOUS

I love some of the new stormwater features on new schools, so much runoff on a regular school ground. — ANONYMOUS

Create a centralized list of resources to help teachers teach OUTDOORS

- Hire a district staff person to coordinate outdoor learning opportunities
- Hire a district staff person to work with schools to get projects in the ground
- Centralize curriculum for all areas, for teachers to utilize
- Centralize list of resources to help activate spaces (i.e. BioBlitz teams, recess programming, specialized outdoor learning kits)

This could be tied with the Clark County Green Schools Map to help partners identify other projects and connect with project leaders
— ANONYMOUS

Create local Goals & Standards for each district / region

Tools to help expedite projects to get in the ground

Identify schools that need GSY to address Equitable Access to Nature

Where are the school communities that have little access to nature and need to move to the top of the "Help" list?

Identify meaningful ways for the community to contribute

Using the school community, neighborhood and local partners, how can folks help

Teacher trainings and staff professional development (with clock hours)

Provide teacher and staff training for various uses and goals, including social-emotional learning, behavioral regulation, NGSS, language arts, specialty curriculum, etc.

We often hear that teachers are not taking kids out to the garden because they are unsure what to do/not do, afraid their students will break stuff. – ANONYMOUS

A step back from this could be an "activation" and connect to forums with teacher/school/student stakeholders -- to explore with teachers/schools what the barriers actually are in their experience – ANONYMOUS

It sounds like in addition to training, we need to collect examples of students at work for all grade bands. Pictures of the work and what the academic, SEL, other connections are. – ANONYMOUS

Create "stories" list of successful GSY sites

Short video to highlight the project, who was involved, what is working and what lessons have been learned to improve

Long term action items

Expand the workforce

November is parent involvement month sponsored by PTA. Leveraging parent involvement I believe has great potential

Create forums to share information with the community

- Craft messaging and talk to the communities
- Bring in lots of voices from throughout the community

This feels important. There are many people that care about this stuff, but aren't aware of current efforts. No platform for collaborating – ANONYMOUS

Reliable funding for Outdoor Learning support

To train teachers, hire Outdoor Learning/School Garden Coordinators, fund Environmental Educators providers to work with schools,

Engaging with Sheila and others at RCO/OSPI may be helpful as there is increasing state funding grant programs for outdoor learning – ANONYMOUS

Reliable funding stream to help build/install Green Schoolyard projects

- Capital funds to build and support maintenance of GSY features

Emphasis on the maintenance. – ANONYMOUS

Kits with Hand Tools and gloves that could be checked out by the community could be helpful for getting projects in motion. – ANONYMOUS

Incentives for teachers to be involved. Recognition, community awards, showcasing student's projects, etc. – ANONYMOUS
