Outdoor Classroom Resources

Want a little more inspiration to help you get started on an outdoor classroom for your school? Check out these additional resources:

Outdoor Learning A Solution for Schools During COVID 19 Expert Panel Recording:

View the North American Association for Environmental Education's recording of a panel of experts (outdoor educators, administrators, and a pediatrician) who share the hows and whys around outdoor learning as a response to reopening in this uncertain time.

North American Association for Environmental Education's eeGuidance for Reopening Schools:

NAAEE offers recommendations for schools to reopen or modify procedures amid COVID-19 restrictions and social-distancing, including ways for schools to repurpose and maximize outdoor spaces to be most suitable for instruction.

<u>Turning Education Inside Out: How Green Schoolyards Can Help Make Schools Safer This Fall—and Improve Kids' Lives Permanently</u>

In this special feature article from the Children & Nature Network, author Jay Walljasper paints a picture of what Back-to-School 2020 could like all across America—with green schoolyards offering a safer, more equitable middle ground in the wrenching decisions over in-person vs. online instruction.

Outdoor Infrastructure Planning Strategies for Taking Learning Outside as Schools Reopen

Download tools and resources from Green Schoolyards America for assessing and configuring your outdoor classroom, including a cost estimate tool and the ability to request assistance from a landscape designer in your area.

Building Outdoor Classrooms: A Guide for Successful Fundraising:

Focus on Forests and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation joined forces to outline a helpful guide to inspire educators to get started on an outdoor classroom with tips for ways to create strong funding applications to support.

PLT's Top Ten Tips for Teaching Outside – Early Childhood:

There is a lot to consider for teachers taking students outdoors for the first time. These top ten tips and tricks for preschool educators are sure to keep both students and educators engaged and excited to learn outside.

PLT's Top Ten Tips for Teaching Outside – Elementary:

Cynthia Freeman, a teacher at Dowling Urban Elementary School in Minneapolis, Minnesota shares her top ten tips and tricks for teaching outdoors and connecting Elementary-aged students with nature.

PLT's Top Ten Tips for Teaching Outside – Middle and High School:

There are lots of benefits for students learning outdoors and connecting with nature. But many teachers are uncomfortable with the idea or hesitant to try it out. Hear two teachers in Minnesota's top-ten tips for beginning to teach outdoors.