



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 13

Clifton Avenue Grade School K-6
625 Clifton Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-905-3650

This project transformed a vacant lot adjacent to the school into a community garden and outdoor laboratory. Native shrubs, ground-covers, and wildflowers will be planted to attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Birdhouses and feeders were built and then installed to provide additional food and shelter.

The plants they planted:

- Flowering Dogwood
- Honeysuckle
- Sargent Crabapple
- American Holly
- Assorted perennials—yarrow, butterfly weed, bee balm

The \$ Thing

The OCSCD awarded Ms. Pamela Pelletier a \$500 grant in the 1996-1997 school year. The students were instrumental in writing the grant proposal and implementing the actual project. Donations were received from the PTA, Lakewood School Board, Volunteers, Township of Lakewood, and many volunteers, including two employees from Home Depot.

NATURE SOCIETY

- The lack of natural areas in and around the urban school grounds make it difficult to teach hands-on environmental science.
- The purpose of this project was to allow students to plan and re-construct a natural area on a vacant lot that was once the site of an old hotel.

Newsletter Spotlight

The fifth grade class (of 1997) made two "Big Books". Students researched and compiled information. One book lists and illustrates all the species of trees and shrubs in the garden. The other book illustrated information about the birds sited &/or attracted to the site. These books are available for all grades to use in conjunction with a visit to the outdoor classroom.



TEAM WORK & MOTIVATION

- Both photos (left & right) show a well designed corner of the fenced area being planted with shrubs and perennials.
- The fence, although a bit unsightly, actually serves to deter vandals and keep them out of the area.



- Existing large trees—mostly oaks, were utilized as key features of the center of the vacant lot. A irregularly shaped garden bed was designed around them and ground cover was planted.
- Adults and community members helped with procuring materials, labor and donations.

