



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 21

New Egypt Middle School
115 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533
609-758-6800



The shared campus of the New Egypt Middle School (NEMS) and New Egypt High School (NEHS) is situated in rural Plumsted Township, Ocean County. Buildings and school grounds measure 60 acres, of which approximately 12 acres are covered by mature upland forest in the outlying fringe of the site. A winding trail has been established in the area and provides for cross-country and hiking for students. A headwaters stream (first order) runs through the wooded area and has cut a ravine in the sandy and loam soils of the site. These headwaters tend to support a diversity of aquatic species. Playing fields and a detention basin surround the trail area.

Newsletter Spotlight

A letter of support from the Plumsted Township Environmental Commission states:

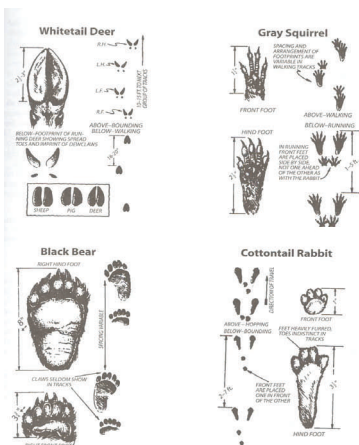
"The grant work to be undertaken is in line with the township's objective to promote preservation of forested areas and other areas of significant natural vegetation, biodiversity and critical habitat."

Stages of Development for Outdoor Classrooms:
Inventory → Identify → Design → Construct → Implement → Evaluate

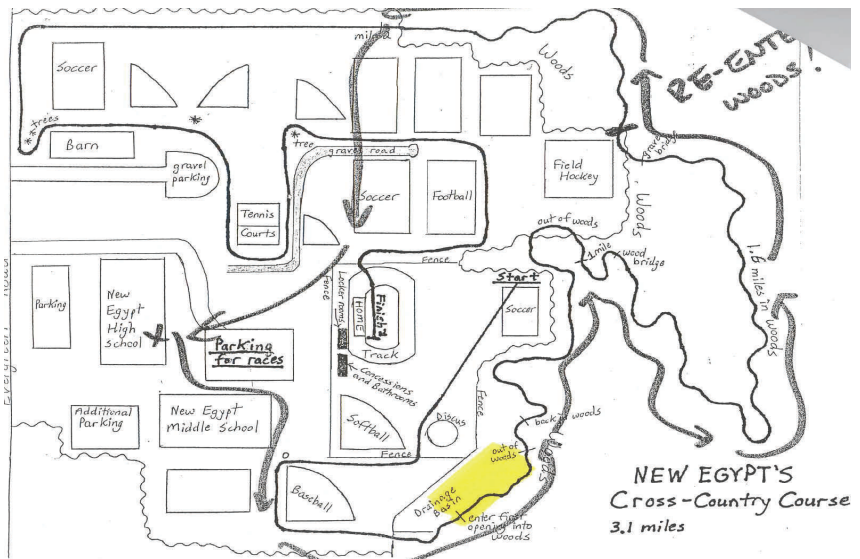
The \$ Thing

In 2003, the OCSCD awarded \$500 to the school for the preliminary development of the outdoor classroom. About \$330 went toward plants and \$180 toward the construction of the tracking box.

Staying on Track! A tracking box was built adjacent to the forested area to determine what animals currently live there. Directions for building a tracking box (~\$180) can be found at <http://wildwoodsurvival.com/tracking/trackingbox/howtomake.html> (here you can also find information and photos about all types of animal tracks.)



(Graphic of tracks from Project WILD)



The area in yellow above is the site for the Outdoor Classroom. As seen in this site map, both the middle school & high school share the campus. The development of the outdoor classroom and habitat enhancement program provided students the opportunity to inventory, design, budget and use an environmental education tool of their creation.