



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 4

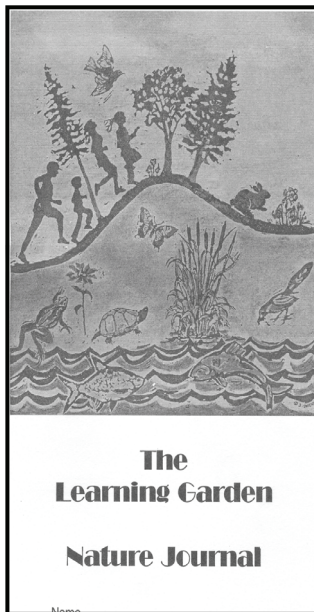
Clara B. Worth Elementary School, 57 Central Parkway, Bayville 08721 (732-269-1700)

Lead: Eileen Giffoniello

The entire school perimeter and surrounding property was transformed into a series of outdoor classrooms and gardens over the course of several years. Some key features include a bog garden and an animal tracking station, as well as a bulb garden, butterfly area, native plants, and an Indian vegetable garden. Each student has a Learning Garden Nature Journal to record observations, notes, and drawings.

The \$ Thing:

- This site has received numerous grants in previous years including: Wal-Mart Environmental Award, Prudential Rising Star, Dutch Bulb Growers, & Lilliponds Foundation Award.
- In addition, the school's PTA allowed for a line item of \$400 to assist in funding for the site.
- This school was also the recipient of a WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) grant from NRCS.



Each Student received a journal to record their experiences with the Learning Garden. Journals are a great assessment tool for teachers!

Lots of Press coverage and continued persistence kept this project in the spotlight for many years.



The Bog Garden was also recognized by the

National Wildlife Federation as an official Schoolyard Habitat!

The Learning Garden



Getting on Track!

A Tracking Station can really help assess & identify the wildlife that visits your school site.

Newsletter Spotlight

- This school site is an example of multiple themes and projects being constructed in phases.
- The lead on this project was a student's parent, PTA member and Girl scout leader, as well as a Master Gardener.
- This school site won the Master Gardeners National Community award in 2004!

Check them out on the Web at www.nwf.org

Update: Despite the years of hard work, many features of this school site were destroyed by new construction at the school and adjacent Board of Education building. Try to avoid areas of the school, parking lots, etc. that will potentially be bulldozed. Although there is no way to know for sure what the future holds, it is a good idea to have open communication with the school board—although this site did have significant input and support from the beginning. Who knew!