OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 7

Central Regional Middle School
Forest Hills Parkway, Bayville, NJ 08721
732-269-1100

"Students must be able to meet the demands of integrating science, math and technology to help them understand how the natural and designed world works. They need to think critically and be able to problem solve. They need to expand their minds and learn about "reality based curriculums" that can aide them in making their world a better place, because of what they learn and what they can do with that knowledge."

Excerpted from original grant application by Louise Pesci. Teacher Central Regional Middle School

The $ Thing:

- **Much of the project's $13,000 + budget came from in-school fund raisers and included a greenhouse, lumber, several park benches, and a fish pond, as well as numerous plantings. OCSCD provided $500 to help off-set the costs of this multifaceted project.**

This project was part of a larger initiative at the school to incorporate the study of the Pinelands—its cultural, historical and natural resources into the school's curriculum.

"Children need to know where they came from and what came before them, in order to respect the past, live for the now, and build a better future."

1998- PROJECT PHOTOSYNTHESIS

The purpose of this project was to restore and enhance habitat on an under-utilized portion of the school grounds. Students planted and cared for native plants species as they learned and studied various aspects of the local environment.

Newsletter Spotlight

- Central Regional Middle School also developed a Rain Garden in the Stormwater basin located in the front of the school. See the summary of this additional project under the heading *"Rain Gardens"* on Ocean County Soil District's website.

Left, The close proximity to the school building make the garden areas particularly useful for the staff and students.

Plant identification markers throughout the gardens adds an informational and educational component

Below, students built and installed a variety of nesting structures. The school was fortunate to have a wooded perimeter.

Above, a well placed bench and raised beds provide and define the *Project Photosynthesis* space.

They started small, with a 40' X 40' area.