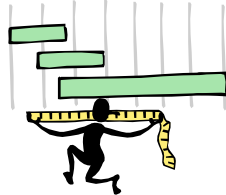
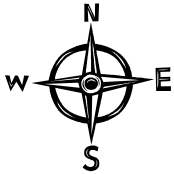


GREEN SPACES: OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS/GARDENS

GIS Maps Using Arc View software and data created by LOJIC (485-3295)

Purpose:

The goal of this investigation is to be aware of the space around you. The first step in using your school campus is to understand your school site. Map out all aspects of your school grounds. Develop a legend that includes a directional compass drawing to show north, and develop a scale for your map.



Background:

Every school has an outdoor classroom. The Outdoor Classroom comes in different sizes and shapes, hosts a diversity of resources, and is used by students and teachers for a variety of purposes. So where is yours? It's right outside your window. You walk through it everyday to enter the building. An outdoor classroom is any site outside of the school building that is used by teachers and students as a place for learning.



Additional resources:

Obtain a commercially developed map from the United States Geographical Survey (U.S.G.S.)
Street maps can be obtained from the American Automobile Association (AAA)
Soil maps and aerial photographs available through the Jefferson County Conservation District (499-1900)
Jefferson County Schools can obtain a site map from the Jefferson County Public Schools Department of General Maintenance/Renovations and Grounds (485-3101)

Step 1

Take a walking tour of an area using the site inventory list.

Step 2.

Develop a base map

- create a boundary map of the entire space
- leave room around the margins to describe neighboring/adjoining properties
- make the map to scale (e.g., 1 inch on map equals 5 feet of space)
- record the scale on the map
- use the compass to determine cardinal directions (N, S, E, and W) on your map

Step 3

Add infrastructure layer. This might be a good point to develop a symbol key.

- record all existing permanent features to your map (those areas that are not likely to change)
- include
 - buildings,
 - roads, paths or walkways
 - hardtop areas
 - fences
 - utilities and power lines
 - playgrounds and ball fields
 - storm-drains and downspouts
 - dumpsters, benches, etc...

Step 4

Perform a site analysis. Document the following on your map:

- water drainage patterns
- wet and soggy areas and streams or ponds
- dry areas or exposed areas
- direction of prevailing winds
- sunny vs. shady areas (remember shadows are longer in the winter)
- erosion areas
- soil conditions
- topography
 - high and low points or slopes
 - surface geology, rock exposures
- Note any areas typically used by people for particular reasons
 - landscaped areas
 - planting beds

- Note areas used by wildlife
 - consider food, water, and shelter resources
- Note native vegetation and exotic vegetation

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LEGEND

Proper

Site Inventory Outline

I. Physical Characteristics

- A. ___ Overall site map
 - 1. ___ General features
 - 2. ___ Dimensions
 - 3. ___ Visual overview
- B. ___ Topography and landforms
- C. ___ Human-made structures and current uses
 - 1. ___ Buildings
 - 2. ___ Sidewalks
 - 3. ___ Water sources
 - 4. ___ Safety hazards
 - 5. ___ Roads and other features
- D. ___ Climate characteristics
 - 1. ___ Temperature
 - 2. ___ Exposure
 - 3. ___ Rainfall
- E. ___ Geology
- F. ___ Soils
- G. ___ Water
 - 1. ___ Sources
 - 2. ___ Movement
 - 3. ___ Depth
 - 4. ___ Dimensions

II. Biological Characteristics

- A. ___ Terrestrial
 - 1. ___ Flora
 - a) ___ Trees
 - b) ___ Shrubs
 - c) ___ Grasses
 - d) ___ Vines
 - e) ___ Herbaceous
 - 2. ___ Fauna
 - a) ___ Insects
 - b) ___ Birds
 - c) ___ Mammals
 - d) ___ Reptiles
 - e) ___ Amphibians
- B. ___ Aquatic
 - 1. ___ Flora
 - 2. ___ Fauna
- C. ___ Components of habitat
 - 1. ___ Food
 - 2. ___ Water
 - 3. ___ Shelter
 - 4. ___ Space
 - 5. ___ Arrangement

III. Cultural Characteristics

- A. ___ Land uses
- B. ___ Safety considerations
- C. ___ Support groups
- D. ___ Authority and responsibility
- E. ___ Recreational considerations
- F. ___ Economic values
- G. ___ Negative feature
- H. ___ Positive features