OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

by Lori McCurdy
Outdoor Classroom Program Manager
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
(573)514-4174
lori@columbiaurbanag.org
What is an Outdoor Classroom?
The space outside a building that can be effectively used for learning. It can be a set of diverse and complex ecosystems such as gardens, ponds, prairies, woodlands; or as simple as a crack in the sidewalk with views of the sky.
What is the NEED?

- nature disconnect
  - food systems
- sedentary lifestyles
  - technology
- mental and physical health crisis
  - violence
  - obesity rates
Building a foundation for informed decision making by educating about life cycles, food and nature interconnectedness.
Steps to Environmental Literacy

- **Awareness**
- **Knowledge**
- **Attitude**
- **Skill**
- **Action**

**early childhood** (4 - 7yrs)
- Empathy

**middle childhood** (8 - 11yrs)
- Exploration

**early adolescence** (12 - 15yrs)
- Action

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**Steps to Environmental Literacy**
### Understanding CCUA’s Role

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Current partners

- Russell
- Midway
- Rock Bridge
- Grant
- Lee
- Benton
- West Blvd
Which of the following observations have you made in your Outdoor Classroom participants?

(31 responses)

- Increased enviro attitudes
- Increased coop & teamwork
- Increased comm engage
- Increased self esteem
- Increased understanding of sci
- Positive food choices
- Sense of volunteerism
- Sense of nurturing
- Increased leadership skills
- Improved motor skills
- Improved attitude towards school
- General academic gains
- Other
Understanding ecosystems
Making a difference
Across generations
service learning opportunities
5th graders teaching MU students!
Integrating math
Digging for treasure
Art installations to raise awareness
Storytelling
Who doesn’t love garlic?
Professional development
Through the seasons
Flexibility!
Finding your super powers!
QUESTIONS?