

Lee Outdoor Classroom, Dorchester, MA

Project Landscape Architect at Johansson Design Collaborative



Project Information:

With a \$25,000 grant earmarked for an outdoor classroom and the help of numerous volunteers, a once neglected area of the schoolyard was transformed into a safe retreat for outdoor study. A collaborative group, including school staff, the Boston Schoolyard Funders Collaborative, an artist and naturalists, developed a program that provides challenges and opportunities for the students.



The young learners now have the opportunity to learn about nature instinctively and interactively- through exploration, gardening, and observation. For programmed learning, (developed by the team concurrently with the outdoor classroom design), a range of quiet and active spaces are available for outdoor activities. Tables and chairs close to the entrance are used for traditional learning or as a starting point to explore the yard. Individual quiet reading nooks shaped by plantings are placed along the accessible path, and a meadow at the furthest point will provide an environment for wildlife. A mural, depicting the seasons in New England, can be used as a teaching aid and also establishes a sense of place for the school and yard.



Year Constructed: 2005



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