

The simplest and most immediately effective way to establish the POLLINATOR MEADOWS is to stop mowing the grass. For quicker results, add native perennials in drifts. Consider a sign, "Meadow Experiment in Progress". Keep a narrow mown edge for better habitat comparison.

The RAIN GARDEN is constructed to slow the rush of stormwater to the catch basin and increase habitat diversity with "wetland" plants. The logs and rocks and tables are good spots to watch the insect visitors.

The roots of the central oak tree are liberated from impervious asphalt when THE ISLAND is constructed. Crushed stone surface acknowledges the reality of foot traffic in this busy area. If the tree is removed, an earth berm can be added for sitting to watch PLAY AND PERFORMANCE.

Flowering vines on fences and on wire wall-trellis improve the habitat - and view for neighbors.

Few people will visit this fenced-off area, but the birds will love the new plants.

A perch in the mini-woodland of sumac on a low mound becomes THE TREE HOUSE. The universally accessible path can be part of an exercise loop that traverses all the habitats.

The FARM GARDEN grows vegetables and flowers in accessible raised planters. The inner circle benches, under the airy gazebo, seat a small group discussing garden biology or maybe just nibbling.

The LOOKOUT is a place for a few friends to sit and survey the schoolyard scene.

The WEST PLAZA entry has taken on the lively feel of an open air market at the beginning and end of the day and has become an important gathering place. It should be developed to reflect the important social setting that it is.

An arbor could be an arts project with a wildlife theme.

The OAK TREE PLAZA opens an alternative route into the schoolyard and has extra benches for dismissal time. People can gather under the ancient oak...the neighborhood is invited in.

Stepping stones lead around THE MOLE HILL through hayscented fern. Shining sumac and witchhazel shelter a sitting spot at the top.

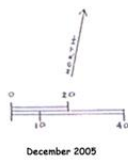
Amidst the oak, sumac and grey dogwood of WOODY OLD FIELDS of the region, new benches make bus-waiting comfortable and educational throughout the seasons. The sequence of growth and color will contribute daily drama and attract visiting birds for observation, study and enjoyment.

CONCEPT

A complex system of habitats for wildlife and children claims every nook and cranny of this small schoolyard

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MILTON, MA



The base map was prepared from "Planting Plan L3" (April 7, 2003) by J.G. Crowe Associates, and "Revised bituminous walk configuration" (June 6, 2004) by DRA, plus on-site observation October 2004.

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