



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 10

Lacey Township High School
206 Haines Street
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
609-971-2020

Teachers Mellissa Bullock and George Morgan initiated a courtyard project in 1994 with the Environmental Club. Student involvement included the planning, construction and maintenance through both regular science class and the after school club. The project had the support of the administration and students were especially enthusiastic about taking on this project.

The \$ Thing:

The school received a \$500 grant from OCSCD to start the courtyard project.

The Environmental Club raised funds to help purchase and maintain supplies.

COURTYARD NATIVE HABITAT

Numerous studies for the outdoor classroom included:

1. *Native Plants*
2. *Animal Habitats*
3. *Ecosystem Creation*
4. *Animal Behavior*

Newsletter Spotlight

THE LIST:
soil sampling equipment,
digging tools, pruning
equipment, trees, plants
& materials to make bird
houses.

The Courtyard at Lacey High School, like most school courtyards, offers a contained and manageable site for creating an Outdoor Classroom. There are a few unique challenges that must be overcome and accounted for before a project begins.



- Courtyards are relatively small spaces and lend themselves to pathways that transect them from end to end. Notice the beginnings of a pathway in the photo to the left and below.

- Be sure to design the paths as meandering, rather than straight and have them lead to highlighted sections of the landscape—and of course, from door to door.



Bird feeders scattered throughout will almost guarantee avian visitors. That is, if they are kept full and maintained! A life list can be easily kept in the classrooms adjacent to the courtyard.

- Compost bins, such as the one below, are easy additions and can provide valuable soil boosters. Perhaps the cafeteria will allow composting of appropriate kitchen scraps.

- Courtyards are microclimates—notice the heavily shaded portion of the space in the photo to the above. Nearly half the space is shaded. Be sure to plant accordingly! A preliminary activity is for students to record the angle of the sun throughout the courtyard and measure temperature

