BSC GROUP

803 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MA 02127 - www.bscgroup.com

TEL 617-896-4300 - 800-288-8123

Nature-Based Solutions Implementation Resource Guide

Nature-based Solution (NbS): Outdoor Classroom/Nature Play

Project Number per matrix: **24**

PREREQUISITES

- Conform to MAAB-Accessibility, and CPSI-ASTM playground safety standards.

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

- **Project Planning and Administration**
  - Assess potential erosion or habitat disruption impacts.
  - Natural features degrade more rapidly than metal structures and require a replenishment/replacement plan for this added maintenance.
  - Assess bordering threats such as proximity of water hazards, and roadways or parking.
  - Assess opportunities for coordinated habitat enhancement and education.
  - Ensure clear communication and understanding of maintenance personnel.

- **NbS Installation**
  - Outdoor classrooms provide alternative learning environments that blend nature and education, allowing students to engage with the natural world as part of their educational experience.
  - These classrooms typically feature seating areas, learning stations, pathways, and interactive elements that facilitate firsthand learning environmental awareness, and ecological understanding.
  - Incorporate natural materials such as rocks, logs, and native plants.
  - Install seating areas, pathways, signage, and interactive learning stations that support educational activities and facilitate outdoor learning experiences.
  - Nature play refers to the design and incorporation of natural elements into play spaces, creating a connection with the natural environment while promoting physical, cognitive, and social development.
  - Nature play areas feature diverse natural elements, such as logs, boulders, sand, water features, and vegetation, to stimulate children's curiosity, imagination, and exploration.

- **Maintenance**
  - Permanent bi-annual maintenance.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTION SPECS

- Typical project size: 3,000 sq. ft.

BUDGET ESTIMATE

- Typical project budget (order of magnitude): $30,000 - $150,000 (site and material specific)
- Use the BSC Group Nature-based Solutions budget tool to develop more detailed concept budgets

SCHEDULE ESTIMATE

- 1 year of preparation.
- 1 month/unit construction.