

Children & Nature Network

CHAMPIONING PARK EQUITY

Equitable Access to Parks

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ABOUT THE CHILDREN & NATURE NETWORK



Nature has the power to make children healthier, happier and smarter.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



To increase equitable access to nature, we need to influence the big systems that impact children's lives: **city** policies and programs; **schools** and early childhood programs; **family** access to safe, nearby green spaces and outdoor experiences; and **youth** development programs to inspire a new generation of diverse, nature-smart leaders. To drive systems-level change, we will:

- **FOSTER THE BELIEF** that nature connection is critical for children's healthy development, using evidence-based tools and research
- **CHANGE THE CORE SYSTEMS** that impact children's daily lives through place-based strategies, policies and partnerships
- **GROW THE MOVEMENT** and our collective impact by providing cross sector leaders with tools, resources, technical assistance, training, and opportunities for peer learning.



green schoolyards

ACTION AGENDA

*Increasing equitable access to nature's
benefits in schoolyards across the U.S.*

our vision

**All U.S. communities offer access to green schoolyards
by 2050 to enhance children's healthy development,
community wellbeing and positive environmental impacts.**



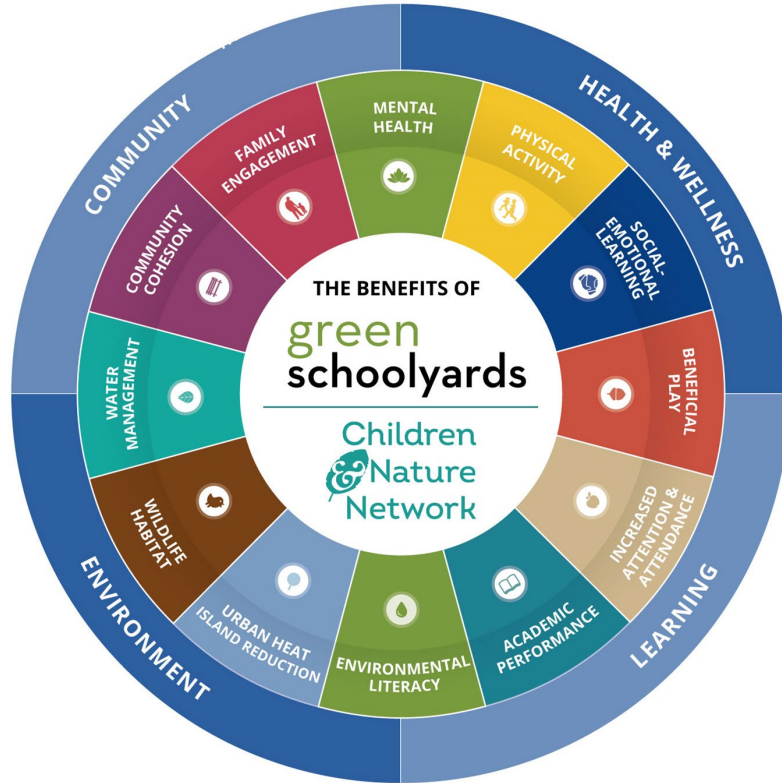
What is a Green Schoolyard?

A green schoolyard is a nature-filled, multi-functional school ground designed for and by students, teachers, parents and community members that offer spaces to play, learn, explore and grow. During out-of-school time, green schoolyards are ideally open for community use, increasing access to nearby parks and improving the health and wellbeing of surrounding communities.

They can include:

- outdoor classrooms
- native and pollinator gardens
- stormwater capture
- traditional play equipment
- nature play areas
- edible gardens
- trails
- trees, etc.

Benefits of Green Schoolyards





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