Purpose

• to integrate examples of earth's materials into the OC in a wide variety of ways - to spark the imagination and for students to touch, closely observe & become familiar with as part of their daily use of the natural environment

• to have materials as a reference when studying specific curriculum about how the earth was formed, impact of human activity on the environment, and the use of natural materials for construction

Description

• **include a variety of size and shapes of different rocks, mineral samples and grain sizes** as key components of the OC design - these materials to be used for seating boulders, pathways, habitat stones, retaining walls, or in specific material display areas

• **include a range of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks**, display local materials: Roxbury Puddingstone, granite

• select materials of a variety of oxides (colors) and dramatic visible morphology such as bits of mica, or iron stain, quartz veins, or embedded shells of fossils

Design Checklist

☐ flat rocks (15-20) to lift to observe habitat underneath, approx. 2"-3" thick x 8"-15", place adjacent to, not part of, pathways in meadow or woodland, vary type

☐ boulders of various types and colors for seats with a flat side for comfort and a variety of heights and widths for a range of ages and sizes. (12-20, see seating page)

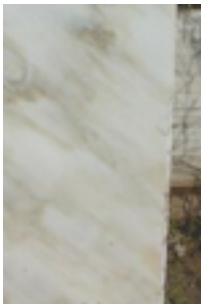
☐ include a variety of scales and sizes of loose materials - gravel, sand, silt, sandy loam

☐ **specify hand selection & rock tagging to ensure materials with dramatic form, shape and color, all rock samples have educational value and potential!**

☐ specify primary and secondary paths with different surfaces and materials, a change in materials helps to define specific OC areas

☐ consider safety issues - set boulder into soil or heavy enough to avoid vandalism and "destructive curiosity" activities, avoid small rocks that will obviously be picked up & thrown

Illustrations



Metamorphic rock: marble tiles or cut pieces can be used in paths and in rock sample beds, pieces available as cut-offs from kitchen counter suppliers

Igneous rock: granite local granite is often available recycled as rectangular cut blocks for seating, old curbstones for edges, or cobbles to make paths

Sedimentary rock: bluestone pallet of old fence stone is a source material for special area paving and secondary pathways

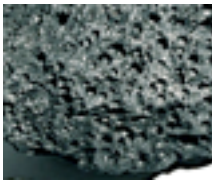
Conglomerate: Roxbury Puddingstone, *the Massachusetts State Rock! often available in boulder form, this is a type of metamorphosed sedimentary rock*

fossil shells in sedimentary rock

recycled concrete shows aggregate

chip seal, small aggregate in binder - consider different colors & rock types - bluestone gravel, pea stone, crushed granite

flat stone inlay in permanent concrete setting bed for walkway - consider patterns of bricks, coal blocks, cobbles, quartz rocks, and mineral samples



basalt, a volcanic rock, small pieces may be displayed in concrete or as border rock

flat stone along the side of a meadow area - placed to protect insect habitats - this is a good location for the display of a variety of rock types and colors