

Purpose

- permanent seating provides - a **gathering area for a full class; places for small groups to work independently; and spots for individual study**
- permanent seating provides clear **locations for teacher to assemble and orient students** upon entering the outdoor classroom(class management)

Description & Considerations

- a **variety of seating configurations** ensures that students can easily work together as a full class, in small groups, or individually
- **dispersed seating** - allows students to choose to focus on different landscape features, locate in sun or shade, and have a variety of engaging

experiences both with and separate from classmates

- use a variety of **different natural materials for seating elements** - *consider educational and experiential value* - soft / hard; rough /smooth; metamorphic / igneous; warm / cool, etc. choose materials for durability and sustainability

Design Checklist

- seating for full class meeting up to 25 students in one area, short term use (3-10 minutes), may be densely packed
- seating for small groups, or pairs of students working together, (clusters of 2-3)
- seating for single students, for quiet observation or data collection (located near an object of interest)
- consider age of school population (provide for

toddlers to teen agers as required)

- seating dispersed throughout the area
- seat height - provide various heights between 12" and 22", average 16" high.
- place seating so use does not conflict with planted areas
- log Seating** - use durable wood species: Black Locust & Cedar. **(other local hardwoods and**

softwoods decompose and will not last)

- may vary between 14" to 24"+ diameter

- boulder seating** - vary color and rock type for educational interest, (locally sourced)

- shape: select flat top boulders for seating,
 - large enough to be stable
 - Approximately 18" - 20" high x 24"- 40" wide

Illustrations



individual seating puddingstone boulder (found on site)



dispersed seating, small group seating on grouping of boulders in meadow



gathering area - full class seating (durable cedar lumber mill end waste) & boulder seating



full class seating on durable locust stumps, or cedar (not softwood or other hardwoods)