

Imagine a classroom with the sky for a ceiling and the earth as a floor. This classroom without walls is bustling with activity as young scientists explore the world of bugs and leaves, mathematicians measure rainfall, count seeds and graph their garden's growth, dramatists rehearse their play on a windy stage, artists sketch shadows and light, and linguists name the landscape with a thousand words. The schoolyard is just a hop, skip, and jump away.

Kirk Meyer,
founding director Boston Schoolyard Funders Collaborative

BSI Outdoor Classrooms have a common set of *areas and elements* developed with input from teachers and design professionals to maximize opportunity for hands-on teaching and learning.

Each OC may look different in detail and layout, based on the existing conditions and design choices.

Essential outdoor classroom infrastructure components:

- Perimeter fencing
- Entrance gate (lockable)
- Central Pathway
- Secondary Circulation
- Permanent water spigot within outdoor classroom
- Seating for full class
- Dispersed seating /full class

All outdoor classrooms contain the following basic areas:

- Urban Meadow from recommended limited plant list
- Sample Woodland from recommended limited plant list
- Gathering area for full class
- Lab/Experiment area [water is included in here for both curricular use & maintenance of plantings in beds]

All outdoor classrooms contain the following basic elements:

- Planting beds (for hands on growing of annual plants vs. permanent perennial plant found in the woodland)
- Armature and set of poles and stands for teaching tools
- Work table for hands on activities and experiments
- Storage unit (lockable for tools, hose, supplies and materials)
- Teaching Tools with basic selection for Science and Math
- Signage
 - A. Map of site with areas and elements
 - B. Planting plan and illustrated plant list (A & B could be combined)
 - C. Plant labels
 - D. OC welcome sign
 - E. Set of norms/behavior for OC
 - F. Labels for areas and elements
 - G. Seasonal Maintenance

All outdoor classrooms contain

Public Art

Demonstrations of Green practices

“ All of Halprin’s designs reflect his passion to give people as many options as possible to go this way or that, to reverse direction, to pause, to start over, to be alone, to meet others, and to experience as many different sights, smells, and sounds as the site permits”

...about Landscape Architect Lawrence Halprin.