



## BOSTON SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

Transforming schoolyards into dynamic centers for recreation, learning, and community life.

### BSI Featured in Landscape Online and Build Boston



Photo by Julio Cedano

BSI's recent collaboration with Warner Larson Landscape Architects to transform the Perry schoolyard has been getting lots of visibility- and not just in Southie! At the recent **Build Boston Conference**, BSI teamed up with David Warner of Warner Larson and Perry School principal Amy Marx to present a workshop on "Designing Outdoor Learning and Play Environments." The presentation was well recieved by the designers and architects who attended, and we hope it

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inspired new thinking about how to use schoolyards in other cities. The Perry School project was also featured in a recent article on **Landscape Online's** website. You can read the article [here](#).

## Teacher Trainings Begin Soon- Register Now!



### Science in the Schoolyard

BSI is gearing up to offer its latest courses for teachers:

#### **Developing Life Science Ideas Using the Schoolyard**

This course is designed for elementary science specialists who are willing to take their students outside on a regular basis during the course. Participants will learn how to do activities from the Science in the Schoolyard Guides that were developed for each FOSS Science Kit (Animals 2x2, New Plants, Insects, Structures of Life) by The Boston Schoolyard Initiative in conjunction with Boston Public School teachers.

#### **Developing Energy Concepts Using the Schoolyard**

Energy is a major theme that connects life, earth and physical science. This course will help elementary school science specialists and regular classroom teachers who teach science better understand where and when energy concepts are taught in the K-5 BPS Science Curriculum and how to use the schoolyard to extend student knowledge of those concepts.

[Learn more or register now...](#)

## Outdoor Writers Workshop Comes to the Condon School

January 24 seemed more like April 24 as **teacher Christine McCabe led her fifth grade students from the Condon Elementary School outside** to enjoy the spring-like weather in the outdoor classroom. The temperature on the sunny side of the weather post recorded an amazing 62 degrees as students, with clipboards and magnifying glasses in hand, went to work on their writing. This was the second lesson on acquiring domain-specific and precise

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### SCHOOLYARD STEWARDS NEEDED

Have a green thumb? Looking for a way to support your neighborhood school while putting your gardening or landscaping skills to good use? **Volunteer to be a Schoolyard Steward** and help keep our outdoor classrooms alive and thriving. Contact Maureen White for more info [maureenwhite@schoolyards.org](mailto:maureenwhite@schoolyards.org)

### COMPLETE THE SCHOOL GARDEN SURVEY

**Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom** is working to develop a number of new resources for the school garden. As part of this effort they are putting together a directory of schools with garden-based education programs throughout the state. If you work at a school that is using a garden, please take a moment to [fill out the survey](#).

language where students used close observation of trees to gather information. [Read more...](#)



## GARDENERS GATHERING MARCH 31

The Boston Natural Areas Network is hosting the 37th Annual Gardeners Gathering on Saturday, March 31 11AM-5PM at Northeastern University's Curry Student Center. Build skills in workshops, connect with fellow green thumbs, find local gardening resources, and applaud the community garden awards. Walk-in registration day of the event. For more info contact BNAN at 617.542.7696 or visit the [website](#).

## Boston Cares Volunteers: Coming Soon to a Schoolyard Near You!

**Does your school yard need a spring cleaning? Boston Cares can help!** On Saturday, May 19, Boston Cares will be organizing volunteers from over 20 local companies as part of Corporate Volunteer Day, and they are currently seeking projects at Boston Public Schools. Volunteers can help with general yard clean-up, painting new or refurbishing worn playground games and maps, or cleaning up plant beds and outdoor classrooms. Indoor tasks such as library organization and clearing out of storage areas can also be completed by volunteers. For more information or to request volunteers, contact Sara Hamilton at [shamilton@bostoncares.org](mailto:shamilton@bostoncares.org) or 617-422-0910 x203.



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Boston Schoolyard Initiative  
One Center Plaza  
Suite 350  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
[www.schoolyards.org](http://www.schoolyards.org)

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Boston Schoolyard Initiative | One Center Plaza | Suite 350 | Boston | MA | 02108