

Apartment Oasis

Kel Youngs

Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School, New Haven, CT
and the CT Green LEAF Team



Overview: Middle School students at Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School transformed a 96 square foot outdoor space into a habitat garden modeled after an Audubon and U.S. Department of Agriculture brochure. Students at other schools could also design and construct similar spaces to include outdoor education in the school's curriculum.

Targeted Grades: K-8

Standard- Based Curricular Connections: *There are many potential connections, based on your grade-level and curricular goals. Check your grade-specific standards for others. Navigate the Next Generation Science Standards (<http://www.nextgenscience.org/search-standards>) and Common Core State Standards (<http://www.corestandards.org/>)*

Science – Students could discover the resources that wildlife need and create a habitat that supports the wildlife active in the school's immediate area. A survey of native plants and an investigation of invasive species could also be conducted.

Math – Measurement and planning can be done to design and create the area. Students could also develop a budget.

ELA – Students could gather information about attracting wildlife using print and digital resources. Students could create signage for the new area with information on why it was built, and what plants and animals may live there.

Social Studies- Students could involving the community to increase social bonds. Students could study ethno-botany relationships around the world, and include plants that represent the cultures of their school community.

Art – Students could draw or sketch the design of what the oasis will look like, the plants in the oasis, and project future plans for the area. Students could also create decorations for the outdoor learning space.

Engineering- Students could design and construct the outdoor learning oasis. Students could build a trellis, pathways, planters, or repurpose found objects for habitat space. Students in

areas with limited school grounds could consider designing learning spaces on building walkways, balconies, walls, and rooftops.

Additional Resource:

“Turning a Small Space into a Big Attraction for Wildlife” 6 points to consider from National Wildlife Federation- <http://www.nwf.org/news-and-magazines/national-wildlife/gardening/archives/1996/turning-a-small-space-into-a-big-attraction-for-wildlife.aspx>

You might even consider getting your habitat certified through National Wildlife Federation. <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify-Your-Wildlife-Garden.aspx>

These suggestions are examples only, and may require adaptation. Check your grade-specific standards to determine whether or not the suggestions provided meet your individual curricular needs.

For more information, contact ctgreenleaf@ctgreenschools.org

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