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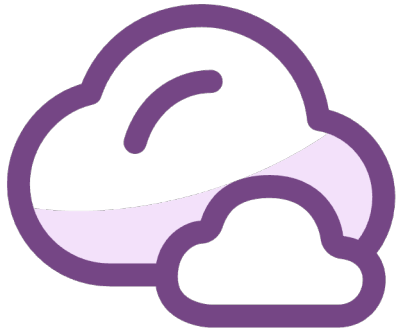


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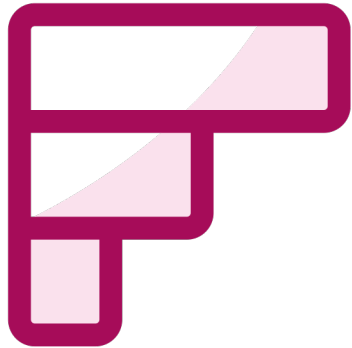


What elements come to mind when you envision the perfect outdoor learning space?

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Which key component do you find often gets overlooked in Green Schoolyards?

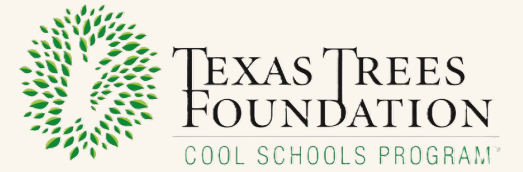
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PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

2024 CONFERENCE



Transforming Schoolyards into Educational Greenspaces



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Participants will **explore the framework and best practices** key to creating a **sustainable program** to **develop green spaces** in urban areas, **emphasizing holistic design, biophilia, and strategic partnerships.**

Our Agenda



About
Cool Schools



Key
Components



Outputs and
Results



Sustainable
Programming

Cool Schools

We Plan. We Plant. We Educate.
We Celebrate.

Problems:

- Urban heat
- Nature deficit disorder
- Environmental apathy

Solutions:

- 🌳 Increase tree canopy and biodiversity
- 🛠️ Promote outdoor learning and play
- ♿️ Increase accessibility to green space



Key Components



Urban Forestry

- Integrating green elements and the biophilic connection



Design

- Balancing child-centric, nature focused aspects (partnering with expert landscape architects)



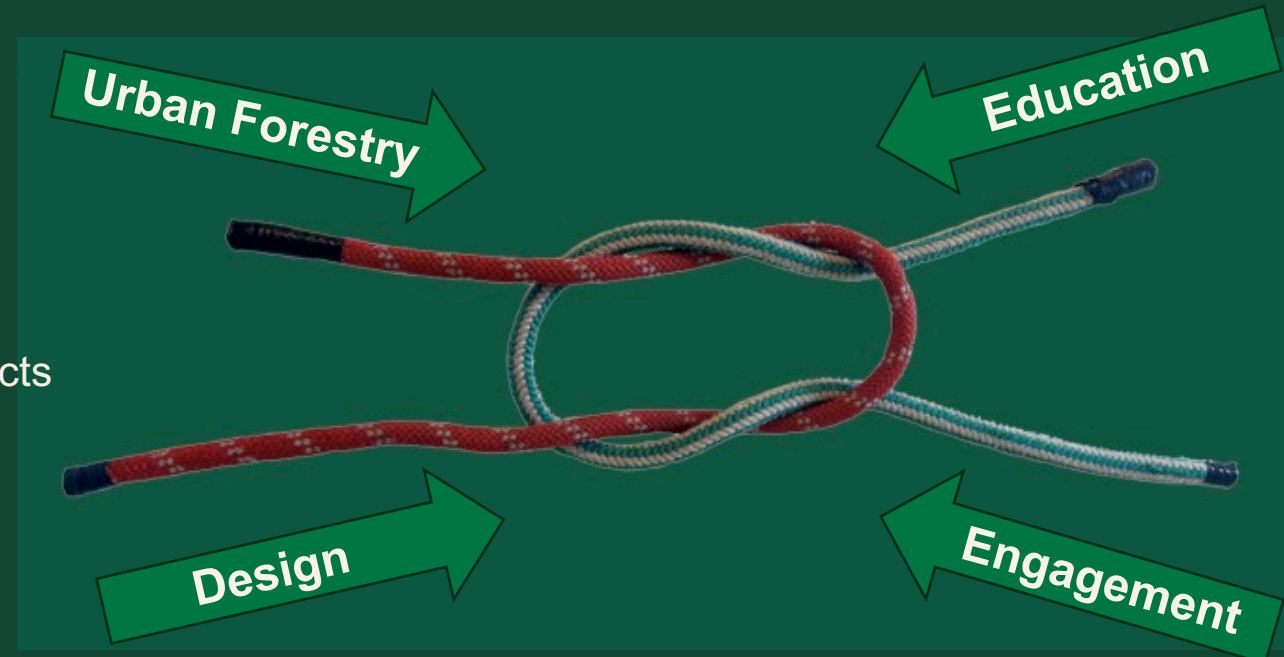
Education

- Fostering hands-on learning about nature in nature



Engagement

- Building strong partnerships and trust with the community



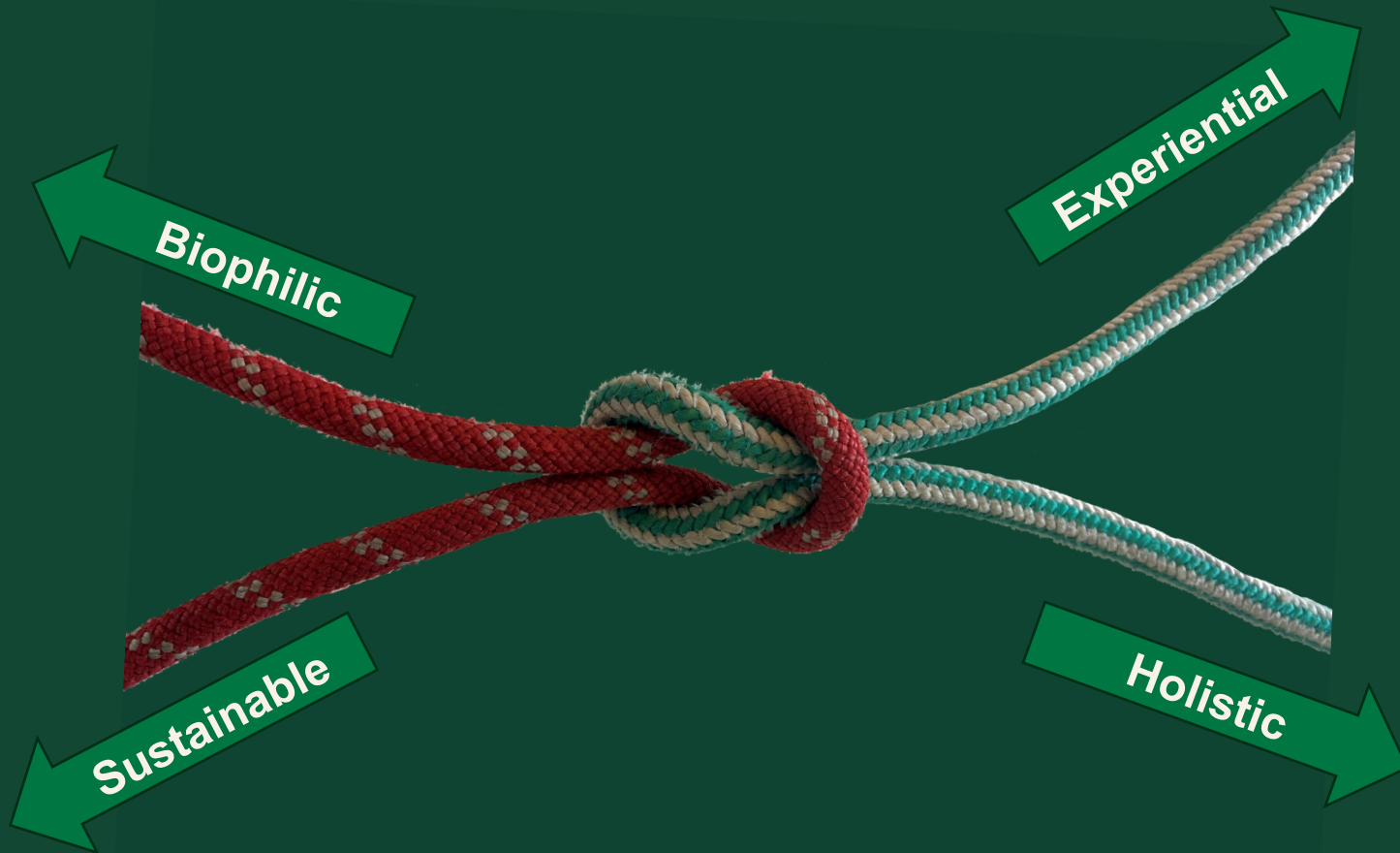
Outputs and Results

Each component strengthens the others, creating a program that is more than the sum of its parts.

Rooted in the community

Centered on the child

Solutions derived from nature



Youth experiencing extended
time immersed in nature,
reported a
**sense of calm and ability to
think
more clearly.**

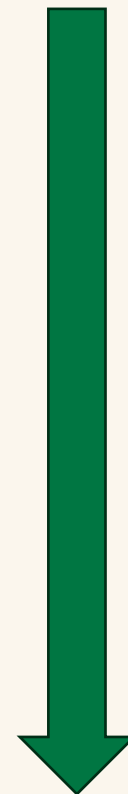
**Nature helps restore attention
fatigue.**

*Some Psychological Benefits of an Outdoor Challenge Program.
(1974). Environment and Behavior, 6(1), 101-116.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/001391657400600107>*





Sustainable Programming



- Support **environmental justice** by prioritizing the creation of green spaces in underserved communities
- Start and end with **education** in mind
- Intertwine **education** and **engagement** throughout
- **Sustainability + education = stewardship**
 - Partnerships help ensure sustainability
- Design + maintenance = **longevity**

Healthy
Trees



Healthy
Places



Healthy
People

FINAL TAKEAWAY

The secret sauce:

Successful program doesn't just include all components in isolation; it intentionally threads each part into the other, resulting in a transformation of place and people.





Want to learn more? Stay connected!



<https://texastrees.org/cool-schools/>