



Why Should You Build A Schoolyard Wetland Habitat?

I. Improve the Watershed

One-room school houses have been replaced by huge educational complexes consisting of multiple buildings, parking lots and playing fields. Multiplying the number of acres per school by the number of schools, results in significant acreage. Functioning as habitat for local and migrating wildlife as well as collecting and treating run-off, these nature pockets help to improve the overall health of the watershed.

II. Foster Stewardship

While only a fraction of the population may visit a park or nature center highlighting wetlands, a majority of the community is involved with the school system. The population of students is increased with the addition of family, educators and support staff. In fact, most adults learn about environmental issues through their children who learn it at school. Therefore, a schoolyard wetland habitat has the potential be the first step to stewardship of wetlands by teaching the community about the importance and relevance of wetlands to their lives.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>#Schools</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Students</u>
Elementary	5-10 Acres	Pennsylvania	3,183	PA	1,814,311
Middle	20-30 Acres	Ohio	3,827	OH	1,835,049
High School	30-40 Acres	Maryland	1,342	MD	852,920
		Louisiana	1,508	LA	743,089

III. Create A Place of Wonder and Discovery

It is estimated that by the end of sixth grade, a student will have spent on average, 2000 hours in the schoolyard. A schoolyard wetland habitat transforms the schoolyard into a zone of discovery, where students can explore the natural world and create a connection to it. What can be more fun than catching a frog or watching dragon flies dart?



IV. Improve Educational Achievement

What we have thought for a long time is finally being proven. Environmental education and schoolyard habitats help students learn.

One national study, conducted by the State Education and Environment Roundtable (SEER) found:

- **100%** of schools using environment-based learning had students with **improved behavior, attendance, and attitudes** relative to traditional schools.
- **77%** of schools with environment-based curriculum had **improved standardized test scores** and **73%** had improved **Grade Point Averages**.
- **93%** of educators surveyed observed a positive impact on the learning environment created by schoolyard learning activities, which lead to improved teaching and learning.