Professional and Continuing Education Credits

For CPRE/CPRP licensure - Please submit your CEU tracking form to the room monitor prior to the start of the session and pick it up at the end of the session.

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  • From the home page, select schedule
  • Go to today’s date and find the title of this session and tap
  • In the middle of the page, tap General Session Survey
  • Fill out the Session Survey

Your responses will be shared with the accrediting agency.
SCHOOLYARD GREENING

Breakout Session
Green schoolyards and shared use

C&NN is leading a global movement to increase equitable access to nature so that children and natural places can thrive
The Children & Nature Network defines green schoolyards as nature-filled, multi-functional school grounds *designed for and by* the entire school community. Green schoolyards include places for students, teachers, parents and community members to play, learn, explore and grow.

They can include:
- outdoor classrooms
- native and pollinator gardens
- stormwater capture
- traditional play equipment
- nature play areas
- edible gardens
- trails
- trees, etc.

During out of school time, these schoolyards are ideally open to for community use.
Our vision: All U.S. communities will have access to green schoolyards by 2050 to enhance children’s healthy development, community wellbeing and positive environmental impacts.
The state of schoolyards today. One word: Asphalt.

- Not enough play area to engage all children during recess and PE
- Not designed for hands-on learning outdoors
- Does not excite, motivate kids to want to come to school
- Lack of green space= increased temps outside & higher cooling costs inside the school
- Asphalt replacement and repair costs
- Increased costs for snow plowing
- Increased flooding & inability to use the space for periods of time
The potential of green schoolyards

- Ample play area to engage more children during recess and PE for increased physical activity
- Outdoor classrooms areas for hands on learning; helping meet Environmental Literacy Plan goals
- Reduction in stress levels and increase in mental health
- Increase in academic performance
- Increase in enrollment
- Increased student attention and attendance
- Increase in family and community engagement
- Lower energy costs for cooling the building
- Reduction in schoolyard and localized flooding
- Schoolyard is available for use throughout the year and in different weather conditions
Benefits of Green Schoolyards
POTENTIAL PARTNERS FOR GREEN SCHOOLYARDS

- Water Agency
- Park Agency
- Mayor’s Office
- Community Organizations
- Transportation and/or Planning Departments
- School District, Superintendent’s office, Capital Improvements, Curriculum Department
- Health Departments
- Non-profits
- Universities
- After School Program Providers
SPEAKERS

Joan Keener, Deputy Director, NYC Playgrounds Program, The Trust for Public Land
Meg Kelly, Director, Space to Grow, Healthy Schools Campaign

MODERATOR

Jaime Zaplatosch, Director of Green Schoolyards, Children & Nature Network
SCHOOLYARD GREENING
Empowering for Transformation

The Trust for Public Land
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
Joan Keener, Deputy Director
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
History- 1996-present

- 204 Green Schoolyards completed
- Public-Private partnerships: adaptation is key
- Community-based design engages and empowers the local experts – kids - to design the playspace of their dreams
- Building stewardship integral to success of program
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM

Outdoor Gym Class at PS 261
Boerum Hill, Brooklyn
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
Participatory Design – Project-Based Learning

Measuring Size

Orienting to Base Map
### Schoolwide Survey

**Sports**
- 442 Open place to run
- 350 Running track
- 299 Turf field
- 288 Basketball
- 246 Kickball
- 212 Turf pod

**Play Equipment**
- 510 Spider web climber
- 507 Monkey bars/Jungle gym
- 493 Slide
- 488 Spiral slide
- 462 Fireman’s pole
- 440 Rock climbing
- 398 Net climber
- 394 Spring ride
- 362 Playhouse
- 350 Gymnastics turning bar
- 342 Balance beam
- 315 Play car/train

**Site Furnishings**
- 590 Drinking fountain
- 485 Benches
- 422 Green roof gazebo
- 392 Outdoor classroom
- 357 Stage/Dance area
- 349 Chess tables
- 289 Storage shed

**Garden/Nature**
- 514 Trees
- 418 Garden pathway
- 398 Garden beds
- 361 Insect habitat

**Art**
- 435 Art on the ground
- 386 Painted games

### Field Trip to Nearby TPL Green Schoolyard
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
Participatory Design – Project-Based Learning

CUP’s Sewer in a Suitcase to demonstrate Combined Sewer Overflows
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
What Does Greening Look Like?

• Learning Gardens/outdoor classrooms
• Environmental Ed Signs

• Porous surfacing
• Green roofs on sheds and gazebos
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
What Does Greening Look Like?

Rain gardens and infiltrating turf fields
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
Building Ownership After Playground Opens

Students Amend Soil and Plant Garden
P.S. 78, the Bronx
Building Community

Planting Days: Kids and Senior Center at P.S. 19
East Village/Yoga class at Spring in the Stuy
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
Programming Support for Schoolyards

Parcours experts Movement Creative and NY Horticultural Society at 2019 Stewardship Workshop
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
Green Schoolyards and Public/Private Partnerships

- City Agency: School Construction Authority and Dept. of Education - recreation
- Mayoral Urban Sustainability Initiative: PlaNYC 2030 – 10 Minute Walk
- Climate / Water Quality: NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection – pays for Green Infrastructure elements
- Gov. Cuomo’s Economic Development $10.6 for 8 projects in central Brooklyn (New York State)
- NYC Office of Resiliency HUD/CDBG grant for GI in areas recovering from Hurricane Sandy
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM - Impact over 25 years

• 3,600 trees planted
• 19,000,000 gallons of storm water captured
• 6,800 student designers trained
• Partnered with 3 mayors, 1 governor, and 4 City Agencies
• 4 million New Yorkers within a 10-minute walk of a TPL playground
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM
GREENING SCHOOLYARDS FOR 25 YEARS

PS 213 Flatbush, Brooklyn Opening Ceremony Performance

MS 354/KIPP Crown Heights, Brooklyn Opening Ceremony Celebration
May 23, 2019
NYC PLAYGROUNDS PROGRAM

Piagentini & Jones Ed. Complex - Throggs Neck, Bronx – opened 2017
Space to Grow transforms Chicago schoolyards into vibrant spaces to play, learn and be outside.
Healthy Schools Campaign

Healthy Students are Better Learners
Openlands

Conserving Nature for Life
Chicago Public Schools Context

- 360,000+ students enrolled
- 89.5% students of color
- 76.6% economically disadvantaged students
- 20,898 teachers
- One of the main owners of impermeable surfaces in Chicago
Managing Partners

HEALTHY SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

Capital Partners

Evaluation Partners

USGS

LOYOLA

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
**PLAY**
Fun play equipment for all ages and abilities encourages physical activity.

**GATHER**
Thoughtful design elements naturally beckon parents and neighbors to gather in a welcoming green space.

**LEARN + GROW**
Native gardens and outdoor classrooms provide a living laboratory for hands-on learning and stewardship.

**NURTURE**
Edible gardens nurture healthy eating habits and connect families who help tend the vegetables.

**GET ACTIVE**
Turf fields and courts dry quickly so students and families can be active and play sports throughout the year.

Permeable surfaces across the schoolyard allow water to seep through.

Deep-rooted plants soak up lots of rainwater.

Underground storage keeps water from rushing to the sewers and helps reduce neighborhood flooding.
Health & Wellness

- Support Chicago Public Schools wellness, recess and physical education policies
- Address high childhood obesity rates
- Create access to green space and play areas
Outdoor Learning

- Spaces designed for hands-on activities
- Increased awareness of environmental issues
- Improved cognitive development
- Daily connection to nature
Stormwater Management

- Addressing flooding and pollution issues
- Capturing rain where it falls
- Engaging communities to use best practices
Community Engagement

- Inclusive planning process
- Community events during every step of the process
- Shared community space: open after school and on weekends
Site Selection: Three Stages

Stage 1: Minimum Criteria
– Invited to apply

Stage 2: Application Review/Rank
– Includes school readiness and community data

Stage 3: Final Partner Review
– Geographic equity, site suitability
**Schoolyard Planning, Build + Support**

### Planning
- **September**
  - Orientation School + Community Outreach
- **October**
  - First School Community Meeting
  - Brainstorming + Photo Surveys
- **November**
  - Second School Community Meeting
  - Review Conceptual Designs
- **December**
  - Third School Community Meeting
  - Final Design

### Build
- **December-May**
  - Designs Go Through CPS Review Process
- **May-June**
  - Groundbreaking Celebration
- **June-October**
  - Construction, Planting + Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
  - Schoolyard Opens to the Community

### Support
- **Three-Year Support Plan**
  - School + Community Events
  - Workshops
  - Evaluation + Research
Community Input

- Provide multiple opportunities - visual, written, spoken
- Be aware of power dynamics - ensure everyone’s voice is heard
- Build deep relationships early
Davis Construction Progress
Davis Student Planting Days
Measuring Impact

- Kids are more active: Physical activity is increasing on the schoolyards, among all ages and genders.
- More positive social interactions: Behavior on the schoolyards shows less bullying.
- Increased community cohesion: Staff, parents and community members report that the schoolyard has been positive for the community.
Q & A
SPEAKER CONTACT

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Meg Kelly, meg@healthyschoolscampaign.org

Jaime Zaplatosch, jaime@childrenandnature.org
MEMBERSHIP

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• Online resource library
• Urban park study tours
• Advocacy tools
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