

Natural Learning Initiative NEWSLETTER

June 2022

NC STATE



Creating environments for healthy human development
and a healthy biosphere for generations to come.

Check out the NLI Website!

INSIDE > OUT NC STATE Design NLI Creating Biotopes as Childcare and Schools

NEW CONCEPTS > NEW LANGUAGE

THE CHILDREN AND NATURE MOVEMENT needs language promoting regenerative biophilic planning, design, and management of urban spaces.

BIOPHILIC DESIGN ("biophilia" Greek: "love of life"), creates biodiversity, equitable, inclusive, everyday places, where urban childhood and nature intersect – beginning in "year zero."

BIOTOPES (Greek: "life-place") provide physical places for biological communities of plants and animals, including human daily life. Biotopes are conserved via landscape planning and created by regenerative, biophilic design.

CHILDCARE & SCHOOL FACILITIES are critically important as biotopes because:

1. Children are obligated to spend the bulk of weekday waking time there.
2. Children can play and learn immersed in a natural world.

AFFORDANCE & ACTIVITY SETTING link perceptual learning & environmental interactions to design thinking expressed in bounded settings: "affording" predictable, activity repertoires (as in "turnover stones" below).

LOCAL-GLOBAL SYNERGY

EXEMPLARS

URBAN SCHOOLYARD BIOTOPE engaged the school community in biophilic design of 1/10 acre site to regenerate:

- 216 plant species
- 102 animal species
- 43 bird species

Resulting in the book, *Natural Learning*.

Inside > OUT Conference

Nilda Cosco and Robin Moore presented a poster, "Childcare and Schools as Biotopes," at Inside > OUT, Atlanta, GA, addressing nature-based built environment design thinking for children and families. Terms commonly used by NLI for site design (activity setting & affordance) were illustrated, together "biotope" – a new term connecting sites collectively to global thinking on human rights, health, sustainability... [learn more](#)



Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments Certificate Summer Course

Registration is closing soon for the Summer section, June 6 – August 26, 2022. The self-paced online course consists of 8 modules and is worth 2.4 CEUs... [read more](#)

Allen Education Center, NC Botanical Garden

The Allen Education Center, North Carolina Botanical Garden, was created through the progressive ideas and commitment of a large group of individuals, including NLI, working very hard over several years to create the first LEED platinum public building in North Carolina (2010)... [read more](#)



COLEAFS Report

The aim of the **Childcare Outdoor Learning Environments as Active Food Systems (COLEAFS)** project is to measure the effectiveness of gardening to support fruit and vegetable identification, liking, and consumption and to increase physical activity in preschool children attending childcare... [read more](#)

Save the Date: POEMS and COLEQT Short Courses

Registration for the July online short courses: Preschool Outdoor Environment Measurement Scale (POEMS) and Childcare Outdoor Learning Environments Quality Tool (COLEQT) will open soon... [read more](#)



Thank you for continuing to support our mission!

CLICK TO DONATE to NLI's Development Fund.

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