

Chip's Landscaping

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E.A.S.Y.

Ecosystem Access in the School Yard

"An **easy** hands-on way to teach sustainability concepts in education programs and cultivate caretakers of our environment"

Program Rationale:

Generic school yard designs are notoriously void of environmental education opportunities for eager young minds. High degrees of man made materials, promote excessive run off, lack of water conservation, and natural plant life. Students lack the natural learning environment to compliment textbook learning. Living in close proximity to the Adirondack Park and our beautiful natural rural settings, students often take for granted the resources of nature and water. Cuts in education funding are limiting ability to fund trips to learn about ecosystems.

Program Methods:

Engage the school community in the design, construction and maintenance of a rainwater and natural ecosystem water feature on the school premises. Designing and maintaining natural ecosystem ponds and plant life complimented with the sustainability elements of rain water harvesting, teach students basic sustainability concepts for all life. The school yard becomes a "backyard" learning environment which will save costly trips elsewhere to learn environmental concepts.

The school community raises the necessary funds for building the system. Chips Landscaping will volunteer time and talents to design, construct, and follow up with complimentary curriculum suggestions.

Program Teachings:

- Students learn the basics of water conservation and re-use with the rainwater harvest system
- Students learn both social and environmental responsibility
- Students learn the basics of hard work with their hands.
- Students learn the value of a community working together towards a common goal
- Students learn the basics of water gardening
- Students learn the basics of natural ecosystem habitats
- Students learn the basics of aquatic life
- Students learn the basics of regional plant life and natural habitat

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