

# The Outdoor Classroom: Sustainable Landscaping



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# The Goal: Use the outdoors to teach sustainability concepts

- What does sustainability in the landscape mean?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the impediments?
- What has worked in the past, so that we can improve?
- What content knowledge is required for a successful project?

# Sustainable Landscaping Unit

- ***Sustainable Landscaping Lecture:*** Background
- ***Evaluation of Existing Sites:*** What worked, or didn't, and why
- ***Public Opinion Survey:*** Determine obstacles to sustainable landscapes
- ***Site Assessment:*** Evaluate environmental conditions at site and generate working sketch



# Sustainable Landscaping Unit, Cont.

- ***Research and Design:*** Plants suitable for site, within budget
- ***Presentations:*** Present group plan to class
- ***Formulation of Final Plan:*** Combine favorite aspects into one plan
- ***Implementation:***  
Planting day!
- ***Evaluation:***  
Write utilitarian report



# Sustainable Landscaping at Massasoit

- Native landscapes (8)
- Rain garden
- Perennial edible garden
- Wildflower meadow (35k ft<sup>2</sup>)
- “No-mow” meadows (2)
- Remove invasive species



# Benefits

- Content assessment scores increased:
  - Fall 2010: 52% to 72%
  - Spring 2011: 49% to 71%
- Student participation and excitement in class
- Getting students outside and dirty
- Sustainability education
- Increase interest in sustainability on campus
- Increase sustainability on campus
- Campus beautification



# Considerations

- Budget
- Class time
- Weather
- Prep time
- Long-term maintenance

