



5th Ward Foster School Outdoor Learning Gardens

September 25, 2024



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes



Do you need Spanish interpretation?/
¿Necesita interpretación al español?

Please raise your hand and we will assist! /
Por favor levante la mano y le ayudaremos.

Welcome, Introductions & Goals



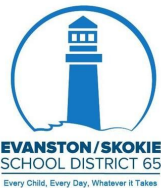
We are excited for the future opening of
Foster School and bringing our Phoenix
community together!

- Build relationships and partnership
- Integrate community ideas and suggestions into plans
- Opportunity to share your voice and co-design outdoor learning gardens
- Today: Explore the surrounding area through a Wondering Walk

Introductions



District 65



Karen Bireta, Sustainability Coordinator
Alissa Berg, Director of Science
Carla Shortino, Science and Sustainability Education Coordinator
Kirby Callam, Director of Strategic Project Management

Learning in Places (Northwestern)



Shirin Vossoughi, Faculty, Northwestern University
Teyona James Harris, Ph.D Student, Northwestern University

Evanston Grows



Laurell Sims, Executive Director

Shorefront Legacy Center



Laurice Bell, Executive Director

Agenda



1. Outdoor Learning Gardens
2. Let's do a Wondering Walk and Sharing
3. Q&A and Next Steps



Family and Community Garden Practices



Turn and talk to a partner or small group.
Then we'll share out with the whole group.

**What are some experiences you and your family have had with gardens and/or gardening?
What makes these experiences meaningful to you and your community?**



Garden Co-Design



**Family &
Community**



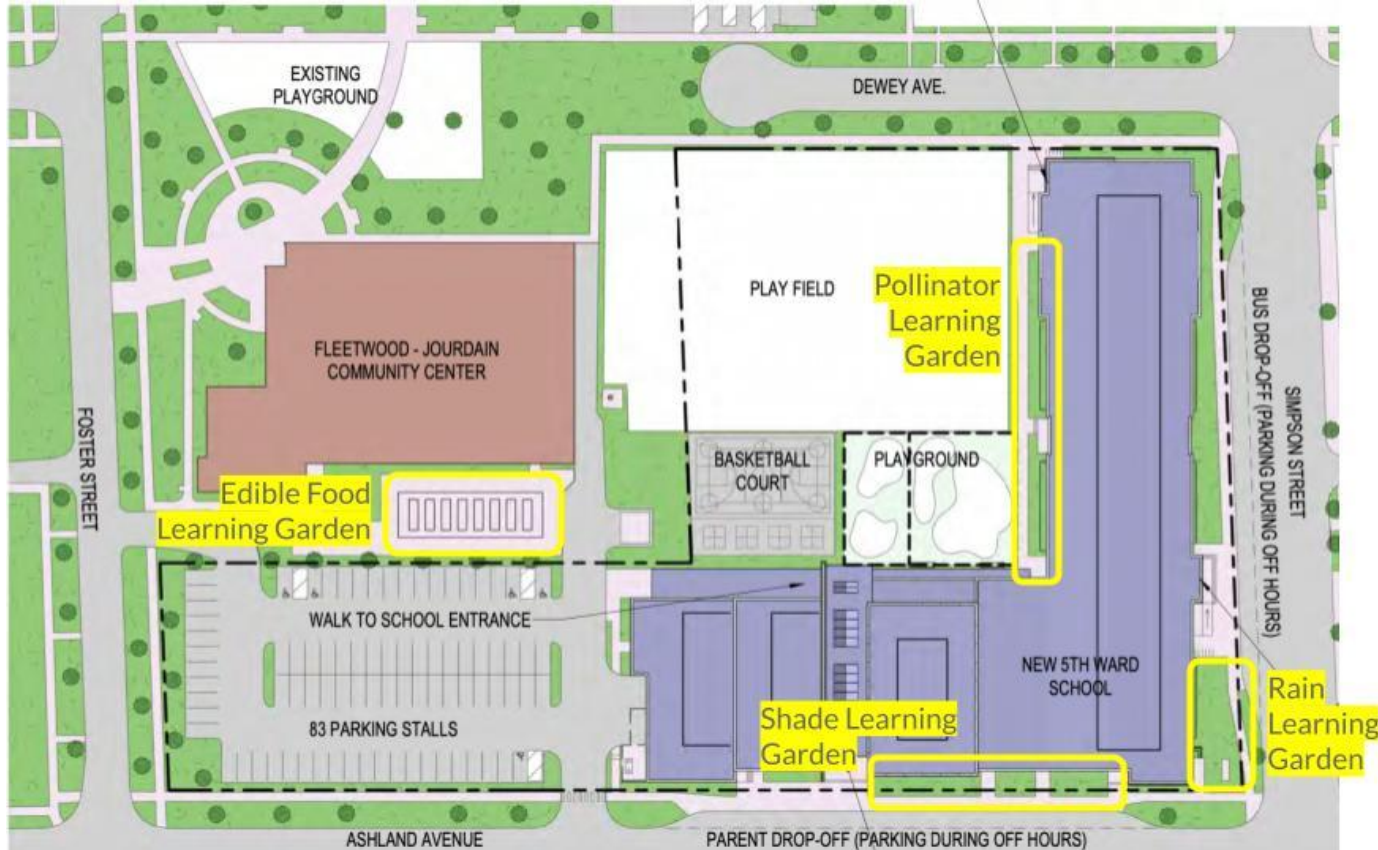
SHOREFRONT
Collect | Preserve | Educate





Outdoor Learning Gardens

Foster Campus Site Plan: Reserving Space for Outdoor Learning Gardens / Community Co-Design



Gratefully acknowledging the 3 existing edible food gardens near Fleetwood Jourdain.

Outdoor Learning Gardens: Inspirations for Community Co-Design



Pollinator Learning Garden

Sunny spot in the afternoon, filled with native pollinator plants.

Shade Learning Garden

Shady spot, filled with native plants.



Rain Learning Garden

Rain garden plants, ideally with infrastructure connected to the garden as a learning experience for students.

Perhaps a walk through nature path for students to explore.



Edible Food Learning Garden Examples



Existing gardens cultivated by Evanston Grows near the Foster Campus as co-design examples allowing students and community members to collaboratively plan, innovate, and enhance edible garden features for the new campus.



Where Faith Grows Farm

1943 Dewey Avenue

Family Focus Farm

2010 Dewey Avenue

Emerson Square Community Garden

1600 Foster Avenue

Opportunity: Community Co-Design



Today we're introducing Outdoor Learning Gardens and have reserved space on the site plan for 3+ learning gardens:

- ★ Pollinator Learning Garden
- ★ Shade Learning Garden
- ★ Rain Learning Garden
- ★ Edible Food Learning Garden (on community campus)

Looking Ahead, we welcome you as Community Members to join us for a series of Community Co-Design Meetings starting this Fall focused on the design of these Outdoor Learning Gardens.

Some key features of the Learning in Places Model



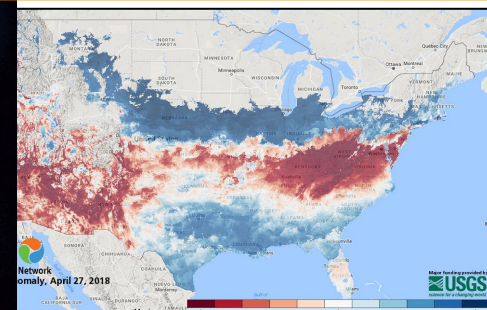
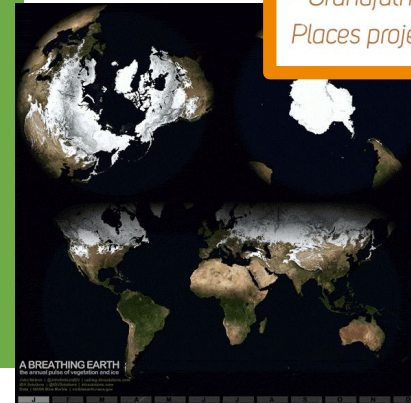
- Field based (outdoor) learning!
- Integrated learning across classrooms, outdoors and family/community contexts!
- Multiple content areas! (Science, civics, literacy, social studies and some math)
- Culture & identity are central to learning.
- Motivates learning through “should we” questions - asking children to engage in ethical deliberation and decision-making.
- Attends to socio-emotional wellbeing with an emphasis on wonder, awe, and sustainable & just futures.

Phenology - Nature's Calendar - is a meta-organizing phenomena

- Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate
- Altered by changes in temperature and precipitation.
- Phenology is vital to many aspects of ecology and society.

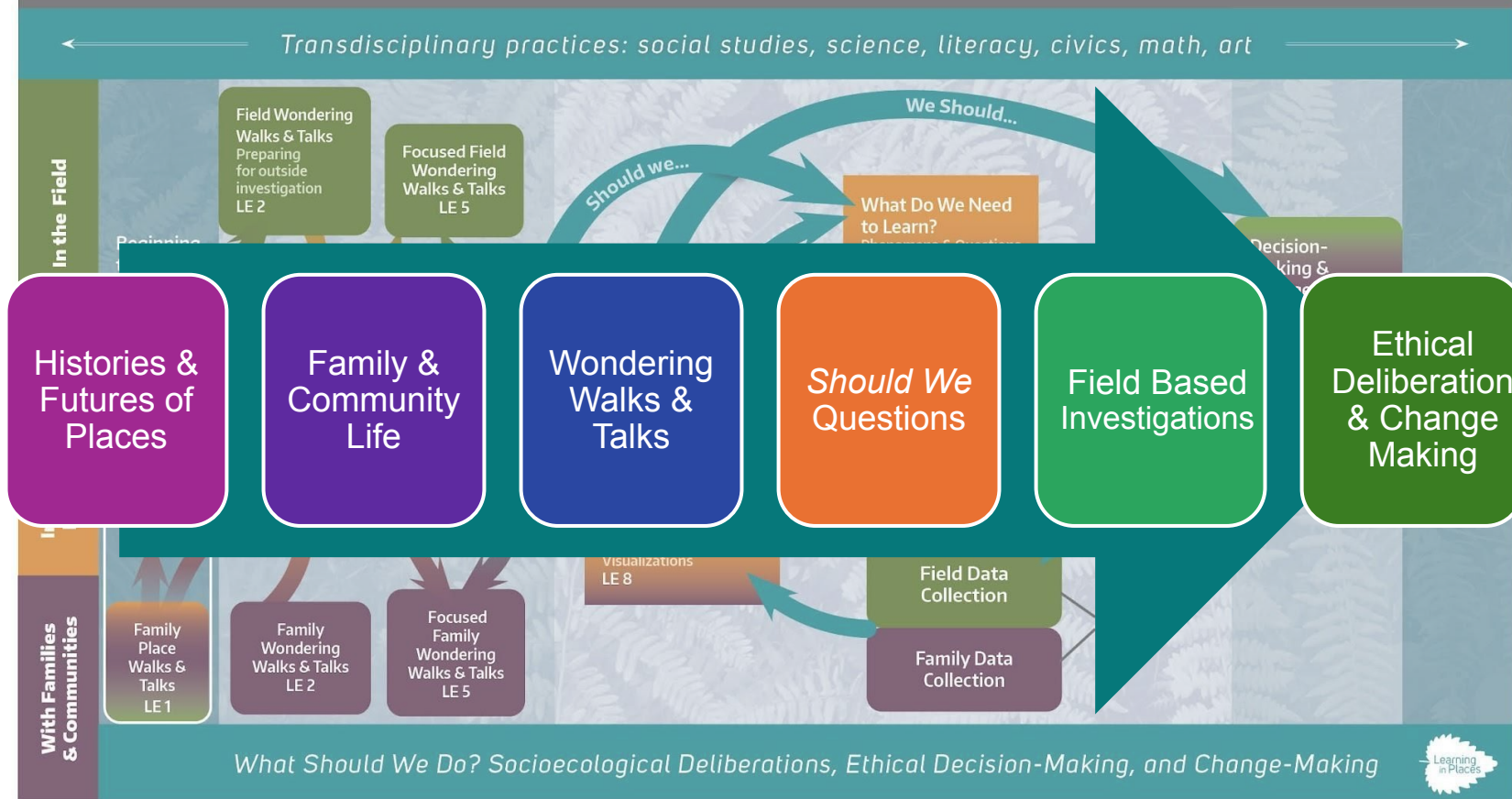
“Seasons control everything in the world”

- Grandfather of an elementary student in the Learning in Places project, sharing a Cantonese proverb



SEASONAL STORYLINE FOR FIELD-BASED TRANSDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

Why and how do seasons matter for thriving futures?



Wondering Walks

A routine practice of going outside to learn

1. Wonder, awe, and joy as central to STEM learning
2. Deep connection to local places and their histories and futures
3. Learning as connected to real-world phenomena and to who students are
4. Ethical decision-making



Grounding learning in routine outdoor experience expands opportunities for affectively rich socio-ecological sensemaking

Taking a Wondering Walk



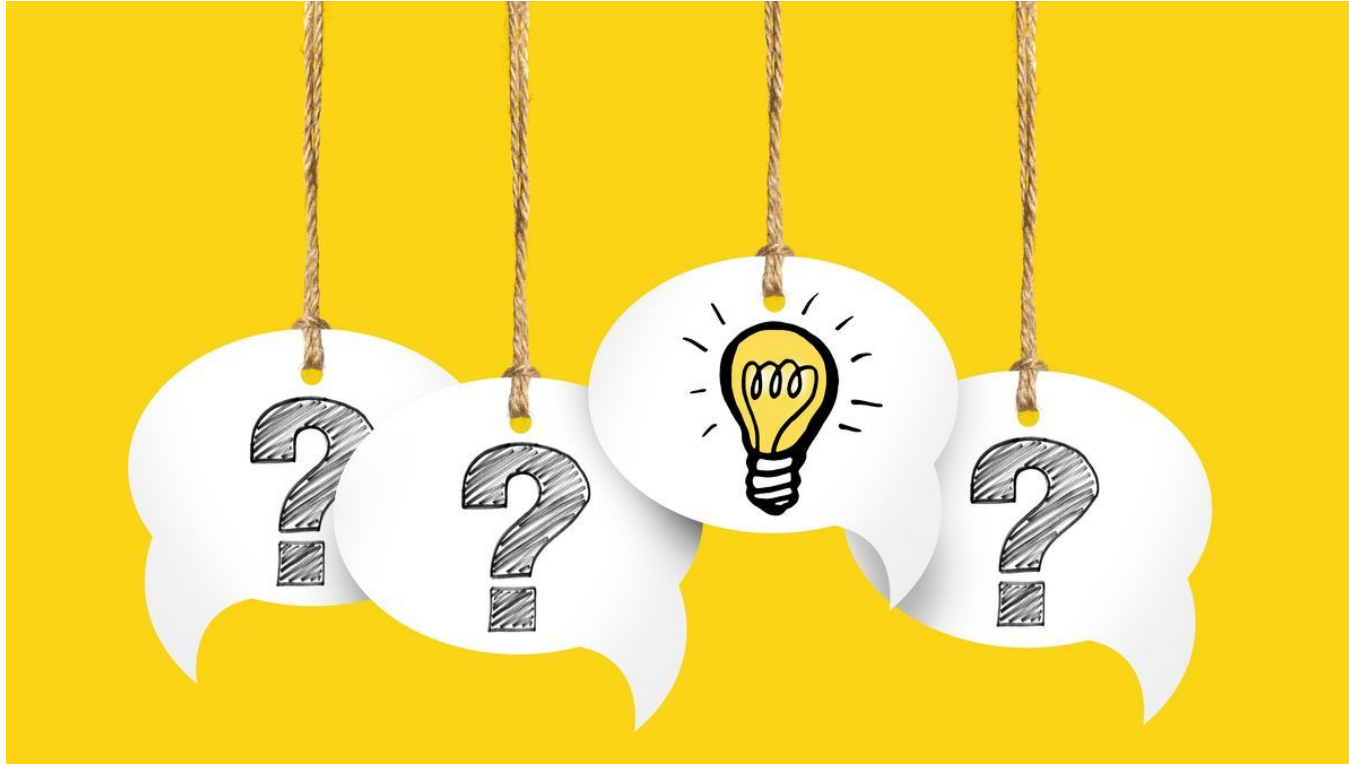
What opportunities for learning do we notice outside?

Engage with one of the gardens AND somewhere other than a garden

1. What wonder, awe, and joy do you experience in this place? What do you want your kids to experience in this place?
2. What do know and wonder about the histories and futures of this place?
3. What phenomena do you notice in this place that you want students to learn about? What do you wonder?
4. What evidence do you notice of decision-making? What do you wonder?

When we come back inside: Write one noticing and one wondering on post it notes so we can share and think together about opportunities for learning outside.

Questions? Wonderings?



Next Steps



- ★ Sign-up if you're interested in joining our **Community Co-Design for Outdoor Learning Gardens**.
 - Monthly meetings
 - Starts this Fall (date TBD)
- ★ Announcing the **Foster School Transition Committee** at the October 7 Board Meeting. Applications available on October 7 and due on October 17.