

## Sheridan Elementary School Sheridan's Outdoor Classroom

3100 Plymouth Avenue  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502  
402-436-1167; Fax: 402-458-3267

### Program Overview:

Ages served: Pre-K—5th

Number of children enrolled: 445

8% minority students

22% gifted students

12% Special Education

Serve low income children: 14% eligible for Free/reduced lunches

Number of staff: 33 teachers, 52 total staff



Staff members at Sheridan are committed to providing opportunities for all students to reach their highest potential. Sheridan staff set high standards for each student and design instruction to enable individual students to reach their goals. Teachers teach connections between school and the outside world. They enable students to learn and work effectively with a diversity of people. They also encourage students to accept responsibilities, to take risks and learn from mistakes, to become effective problem solvers, and to develop expertise in self-expression. Staff and parents help students discover that learning can be fun.

Sheridan's staff includes 21 teachers in kindergarten through grade 5, a coordinator, three resource teachers, a reading recovery teacher, and five specialists in art, computer, media, physical education, and vocal music. Sixteen of Sheridan's teachers have ten or more years of teaching experience and 14 have master's degrees. Itinerant staff at Sheridan include an instrumental music teacher, a strings teacher, orthopedic specialists, a psychologist, a speech pathologist, mentors, and a school nurse.

### Sheridan's Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom

Research shows that when children have regular contact with nature, they learn and grow better— physically, developmentally, and in relationship to the natural world. Across the country, elementary schools are transforming their outdoor spaces into nature-rich environments that bring numerous benefits to children....and now Sheridan will be doing the same

**INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY NEBRASKA AEYC**  
**[www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)**



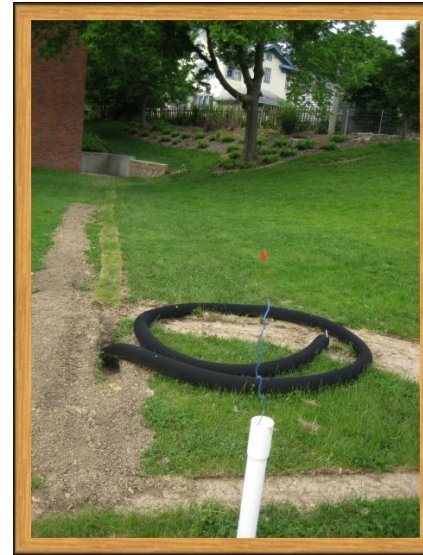
# Sheridan's Outdoor Classroom



After a long, hard winter work on the Outdoor Classroom begins again



The rain garden is first on the to-do list.



Melody works on the rain barrel



Students are already enjoying the outdoor learning space.



**ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL SITES**



## Sheridan's Outdoor Classroom



Students decorate the pots with the help of Mrs Shaw.



Ironically, the rain garden couldn't be installed until the rain finally ceased.



Once the ground was dry enough, the team from Campbell's got right to work.

**ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL SITES**



## Sheridan's Outdoor Classroom



In October, Melody explained about the new classroom



Erika demonstrated the butterfly dance.



Our master gardener answers questions



A class sets out to write in the outdoor space



Sheridan Elementary School

**ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL SITES**



Students examine natural objects



Nature Center Snake



The Owl



The Turtle



Lots of Questions

### PATHS THROUGH PLANTINGS

- VARIETED PLANT ASSOCIATIONS / HABITATS
- ATTRACTORS / POLLINATORS
- VARIETED WIDTHS / PRINCIPALLY ACCESSIBLE PATHS
- WOOD CHIPS + VARIETED FLOWERS / STEPPING STONES

### OPEN

- LAWN
- UNDOULATING

### MUSIC/MOVEMENT

- STAGE - APPROX 8' x 10'
- MAXIMUM
- STORAGE
- EWF FLOOR

### NATURE ART AREAS

- SMALLER + LARGER SCALE
- LOCAL / REGIONAL STONE FLOOR (SMALL)
- EWF FLOOR (LARGE)
- NATURE ART TABLES - VARY HEIGHT + SIZE
- STORAGE
- ART PANEL(S) ON BUDS WALL
- EASEL(S)

### BUILDING 'A'

- TREE COOKIE FLOOR
- SMALL DISCOVERY TABLE
- STORAGE

### GATHERING

- NATURAL BENCHES
- EWF FLOOR
- STORAGE

### ENTRY

- CONTEXTUAL AIRBORNE
- SPECIAL PAVING

### CLIMBING PLATFORMS

- 3' SQ PLATFORMS
- VARIETED HT - 17" ABOVE GROUND MAX
- ACCESSIBLE + STEPPED ACCESS
- EXTEND VERT. POSTS + ADD HORIZ RAILS
- FABRIC
- STORAGE

### LEGEND

- PICTABLE
- D.I. DRAIN INLET
- BENCH
- RAISED BED
- EXISTING TREE
- PROPOSED TREE

### GARDENS

- VARIETED PLANTINGS

### PUBLIC ENTRY

- PAVING @ BOTTOM OF STAIRS

### DIRT DIGGING

- GROUND LEVEL + RAISED BEDS
- FRIABLE SOIL

### MAINT. ACCESS

### SAND

- GROUND LEVEL +/- BEST BORDER
- POSSIBLE FUTURE 'KIWI HUT'

### BUILDING 'B'

- GROUND LEVEL SURDY DECK
- STORAGE



## NATURE EXPLORE CLASSROOM CONCEPT PLAN

SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY 9.17.09 JKW

INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY NEBRASKA AEYC  
[www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)