SYSTEMS THINKING

COMMUNITIES GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THEIR PARTS — **ECOSYSTEMS**

When **learning** is approached as an **ecosystem**,
everything is **interconnected**;
mathematics is a **living organism**,
physics is art, and
poetry explains complex ideas.

ECONOMICS
CIVIC STUDIES
Urban Campus FOOD SYSTEMS

Pritchard Island SOCIAL STUDIES
PSYCHOLOGY
HISTORY

The land tells a rich cultural story of Native Americans, early settlers, and immigrants from around the world.

Of the 602 students enrolled in the local high school, over 400 of them are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

The Observatory EARTH SCIENCES
PHYSICS
ASTRONOMY
CHEMISTRY

GEOGRAPHY

COMMUNICATION

Hands on learning captures the minds of students left behind by traditional education

The Open Space Niche

Open space should support the community's need to **congregate, move, and learn.**

Open space is urban and natural, streets and traditional parks, passive and active.

Open space is an integral part of the urban tapestry which is made up of threads from information systems, transportation systems, park systems, and natural systems, bound together by all the people, dogs, birds and fish that use them.

The patterns that emerge when the threads weave together create a rich environment for community involvement and life long learning.

Core Ideas

Learning Zones
Open to everyone for structured and not structured activities
Encourage multi-generational collaboration
Connect core educational ideas to a tangible world

Interpretive Trail
Connecting the learning zones
An extension of the classroom
Reinforces the sense of place
Thematically influenced by learning zone curriculum
Shaped with art by students and community members
Encourage community stewardship
Promote life long learning

Curriculum Goals

Foster learning through curiosity
Learn from the source whenever possible
Promote community-based stewardship
Develop critical and creative thinking skills
Understand processes and functions
Develop process and decision-making skills
Understand core ideas within the context of 'Place'
Understand a sense of 'Place' within context:
local, regional, continental, universal

The Creek ECOLOGY
ART
ETHICS

Taylor Creek is one of four major streams with functional habitat within the city of Seattle

Encourage them to **question their world** and they will develop the skills to **learn for a lifetime.**

FURTHER RESOURCES:

Center for Ecoliteracy ecoliteracy.org
-Zenobia Barlow, David Orr, Fritjof Capra
Islandwood islandwood.org
Place Based Learning- David Sobel
New Schools Better Neighborhoods nsbn.org
Boston Schoolyard Initiative schoolyards.org
A Questioning Framework for Shaping Environmental Literacy Charles E. Roth, Earthlore Associates

URBAN TAPESTRY

WEAVING TOGETHER HUMAN AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

TAYLOR CREEK

NICOLE MIKESH