

# Nature Based Education: Summer Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

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**Session Title:** Learning By Nature: How Can Your School's Outdoor Environment Better Support Nature-Based Play and Learning?

**Session F** 12:30 - 1:45

**Location:** The Landing

## Presenters

- Laura Newman ([laura@trails.org](mailto:laura@trails.org))

## Who will benefit most from this session?

- Early educators (B-5 students)

## Who else may benefit:

- Early education administrators
- Home-schooling parents
- Out of school educators (4-H, museum, camp settings)

**Session Goal:** This workshop is designed for teachers, staff, administrators & involved parents who are in the early stages of planning a natural outdoor play environment to support effective learning and play. We will discuss how to manage logistics, from design, maintenance, sustainability and getting approvals, to making effective classroom and school community connections.

**Session Description:** What are the developmental needs and design ideas that shape effective outdoor learning and play spaces, and how can your school make great use of them to benefit children's physical, emotional, social, and creative growth? We will share compelling current research findings along with recent examples of nature-based play environments both local and international. We will also discuss challenges and how to reach your goals without getting overwhelmed by the process.

## Presenter Biography

- Laura Newman of the School Ground Greening Coalition has worked with preK-12 teachers, students, families, community members and municipal staff in greater Portland to support green school ground projects of all kinds. Currently she is collaborating with KVCAP, KVCC, UMF, Maine DOE and Maine Roads to Quality on the development of guidelines and other resources for Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments in Maine.