



# Co-designing Places for Outdoor Learning Facilitation Guide

## Design Engagement 7: Designing for Installation

### Activity Purpose

Now that the group has imagined and designed future possibilities for the selected site and received feedback from community members, it is time to finalize the plan and prepare for installation. It is important to consider sustainability and longevity when finalizing the design. The group can prioritize phases by considering funding, and ongoing care and engagement of the site. The installation plans and requirements will vary based on your location and situation. This activity provides an overview of some broad considerations for installing equitable and transformative outdoor learning places.



### Activity Overview

This is a four-part activity:

- » **Part 1:** Finalize the design and how the learning space will be supported/maintained
- » **Part 2:** Identify the necessary materials for installation
- » **Part 3:** Arrange site meetings and fill out necessary applications
- » **Part 4:** Finalize installation plan and invite the community to join!

#### **Part 1: Finalize the design and how the learning space will be supported/maintained**

Now that your group has gathered feedback from the wider community, incorporate the feedback into the design. There may be significant suggestions that require the group to rethink the design. If necessary, return to activity 6 and host additional design sessions.

As a group, finalize the design and identify how the learning space will be supported and maintained. Identify the various components of the design and decide which aspects are feasible at this time. The design may need to be installed in phases, over many years. Breaking the design into phases helps move the project forward in manageable steps, use Activity Sheet 7.A to record notes.

## Considerations for prioritizing design phases:

### » **Funding:**

- What do you need funding for? What are available funding resources for the outdoor learning place? What are ongoing expenses for the site?
- Does your design require a coordinator or a system of coordinating land management and education?
- Does your design require ongoing organized community support ie: volunteers, Community-Based Organizations, etc?
- If the cost of the design exceeds the budget and resources that are available, consider what parts of the design are priorities to implement now. If you are committed to the entire design, perhaps the implementation could be done over time. This may require decisions about which components are central to field-based learning at this time.
- Get creative about identifying free, affordable, or donated resources in the community.

### » **Ongoing Care:**

- What are the maintenance requirements of your design? How will the site be cared for? By whom?
- What are the year-round learning opportunities that the design enhances? How is this connected to the ongoing maintenance that needs to be done?

### » **Ongoing Engagement:**

- Outdoor learning places that are not connected to ongoing learning opportunities are often underutilized and end up in disrepair. Spaces that are used frequently and by many different groups are often cared for.
- Which aspects of your design promote ongoing engagement in the outdoor learning place?
- Which aspects of the design promote multiple ways to interact with the place? (classroom setting, family gatherings, after school clubs, stewardship opportunities, citizen science and Learning in Places storylines.)

## **Part 2: Identify the necessary materials for installation**

Once a final design has been identified, use Activity Sheet 7.B to identify the necessary materials, tools and expertise that are needed for installation. If there are questions that the design team cannot answer, identify people from the community who may be able to help. This includes family and teacher expertise, Community-Based Organizations, and principal or administration support.

## **Part 3: Arrange site meetings and fill out necessary applications**

Depending on your situation you may need to arrange site meetings with school grounds staff, district staff and/or school staff. Fill out necessary applications for school yard improvements (as required by the school, school district, neighborhood association, etc.)

## **Part 4: Finalize installation plan and invite the community to join!**

Review any changes to the installation plan and finalize any remaining components. If your group plans to host an installation event be sure to invite families, Community-Based Organizations, and school staff to participate. Use a variety of communication methods such as posters, take-home flyers, email, school newsletter, robo-call announcement, meet-and-greet sessions at beginning and end of school day, etc. Not every family uses email. Make sure communication methods are translated.

## Design Engagement 7: Designing for Installation

### Activity Sheet 7.A:

## Finalizing the Design and Prioritizing Design Phases

1. Identify the various elements of the design and decide which aspects are feasible at this time.
2. Use the table below to capture notes and decisions around the prompts on page two.

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Design Elements			
Funding			
Ongoing Care			
Ongoing Engagement			

# Design Engagment 7: Designing for Installation

## Activity Sheet 7.B:

# Planning for Installation

### Guiding Questions:

- What are the elements that make up the design? i.e stump circle, woodchip area, etc.
- How will you install your design? Write out all the steps for installation.
- What tools and materials will you need? Where will you get them?
- What are the costs for the materials? Do they fit into the project budget?
- Who needs to be involved?
- What is the timeline?
- What questions do you have? Who in your community could help answer these?

Design (List out the components)	Installation Steps	Tools and Materials (include quantity)	Cost	Sources	Who needs to be involved and next steps	Purchase & Delivery Timeline
<i>EXAMPLE (your plan will likely require very different installation components and steps)</i>						
Log Seating Area  • Circle of stumps  • Woodchip area  • Gravel to prevent stumps from rotting	• Measure square footage and calculate amount of woodchips and logs needed  • Purchase logs, woodchips and gravel  • Layout log round  • Dig holes to stabilize logs  • Fill holes with gravel  • Install logs and pack around with gravel/drik  • Surface with 2" woodchips	Woodchips (2 yards)	\$150 + \$50 delivery	Local arborist	Juan will ask Lisa about woodchip donation	October 25
		Stumps (11 2' stumps)	free, donation	Neighborhood group	The Zhao family can donate stumps from fallen tree. Lucia will follow up to confirm pick up date	October 25
		Gravel (4 bags)	\$25/bag (10 bags = \$250)	Landscaping Supply Store	Oliver will pick up gravel.	October 25
		Shovels and Hard Rakes (2-3 each)	free?	school district has tool lending library	Tamar will call the tool lending library	Need for installation day (Oct 27)
Available budget: _____ Total costs: _____						