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## Schoolyard Restoration: Landscapes for Learning

Guide: Ruth Parnall,  
Learning by the Yard

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

11:15 AM – 2:00 PM Milton and Jamaica Plain, MA

\$20.00 ELA Member or \$25 Non-Member

Engagement with the natural world is the heart of Ruth Parnall's design work. "Children need "learningful" landscapes in which they can investigate, manage, and restore natural process. The schoolyard that is devoted to habitat and problem-solving becomes an engaging and language-rich environment for children and teachers alike. It serves all aspects of curriculum, conveys the message of caring for nature and children, restores attention, and allows for play, inquiry, and reflection."

Join Ruth for a tour of two schoolyards that have been transformed into rich habitat and learn about the unique design challenges that focus on children's investigations and learning in the outdoors.

The **Glover Elementary School** courtyard has been re-configured to function as a field laboratory for the School Community. It is both a beautiful garden and a reference work for learning and research. The structure illustrates the ecology of native plant communities and provides valuable wildlife habitat. Through a combination of formal lessons and informal learning (self guided exploration), students will develop incrementally an understanding of how the natural world works. Tour this site with Ruth to learn more about this comprehensive three-phase development plant.

The **Nazareth Child Care Center** in Jamaica Plain provides children (and their teachers) with experiences of natural materials, urban wildlife, seasonal change and natural process, within a safe, challenging, and learning-rich setting. The play garden embodies the growing realization that children need more humane habitats and richer experiences in their schoolyards. It models the future of design in these places and offers children and families daily experience in a lush natural setting. The trees, grasses, vines, and wildflowers contribute shade, habitat and natural beauty to the neighborhood.

**Registrations are limited - [Use This Link to Register Online Now.](#)**

**For more information: [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net) or (617) 436-5838**

**Ruth Parnall**, is a registered landscape architect, credentialed botanist, and co-founder of Learning by the Yard along with Ginny Sullivan, educator and landscape designer. She is a native landscape restoration specialist and a founding member of the MA Native Plants Committee and served since 1987 on conservation, open space, zoning, and master plan committees. A studio teacher and mentor to students at the Conway School of Landscape Design, Ruth also writes, lectures, and leads workshops on native plants and ecological design. She is currently the consulting landscape curator at Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center, a National Historic Landmark in Garrison, NY.

**CEUs are being sought for this presentation.**

