



# The Outdoor Classroom

Livingston Education Foundation

"Gardens, scholars say, are the first sign of commitment to a community. When people plant corn they are saying, let's stay here. And by their connection to the land, they are connected to one another."  
- Anne Raver

**Benefits of garden-based learning...**

- Increased Nutrition Awareness
- Increased Environmental Awareness
- Higher Learning Achievements
- Increased Life Skills

**Core Uses for Garden-Based Learning in Basic Education...**

- Academic Skills
- Personal Development (Mental & Physical)
- Social & Moral Development
- Vocational and/or Subsistence Skills
- Life Skills

**Core uses for garden-based learning beyond basic education...**

- Community Development
- Sustainable Development
- Vocational Education, and
- Preserve Local Township History



Pictured above:  
**Betsy and Frank Bottone Family Garden**  
*"A remnant of Livingston's rich farming history."*



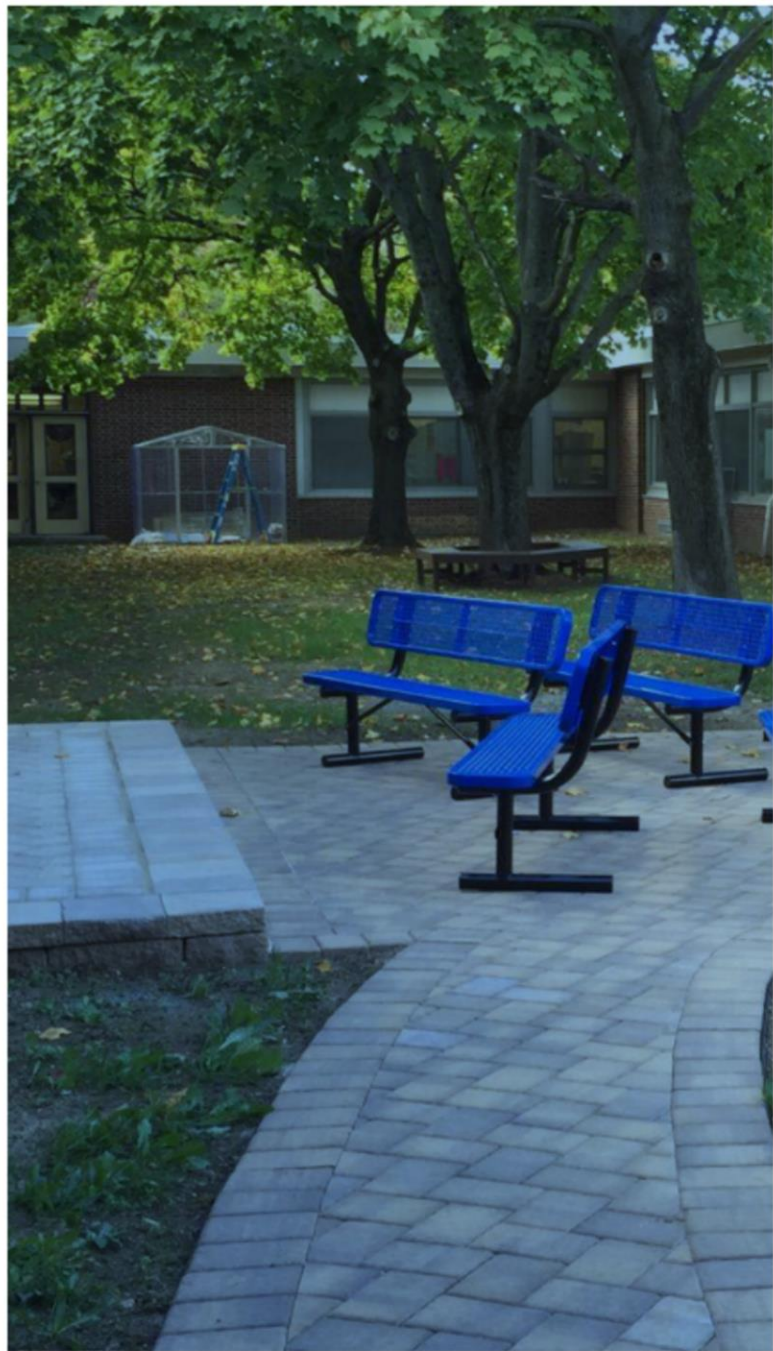
*"Everything is mended by the soil." – Andrew Crofts*



Since November 2014, LEF has been working on The Outdoor Classroom project which includes, but is not limited to Garden-based learning.

The Outdoor Classroom will serve as a PreK-12 initiative that provides a sustainable, innovative and organic learning environment designed to meet the individual needs of the current school community.

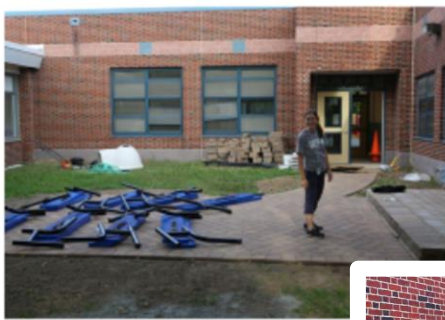
The short term goal is to build Outdoor Classroom and Garden-based Learning models that can eventually be transplanted across the public school district and to create partnerships with Livingston Township, local organizations and businesses.



*Board of Education Member, Pam Chirls shares stories with students about how her family volunteers as 'puppy raisers' for The Seeing Eye. Esma, pictured above in the MPE Garden with Pam, learns basic manners and commands, and will be socialized to a variety of situations and experiences that range from shopping and car rides, to visiting airports and schools until she is about 13- to 16-months-old and ready for Seeing Eye training.*

# MPE Outdoor Classroom

Summer/Fall 2015



*PreK-6 Social Studies Supervisor, Chris Bickel uses the Outdoor Classroom to teach students how to build a fire as part of the Native American Unit.*



In addition to a donation toward the MPE Garden, Courtyard 1...

...funding for the paving, stage, seating area, benches and blackboard in the MPE Outdoor Classroom, Courtyard 2 was provided by Livingston Education Foundation (LEF) with a significant part of the donation made by Charles Bendit, LHS Class of 1971; Hall of Fame 2014.

The tree surround seating was funded through a partnership with Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Outdoor Classroom was built by KMF360, which generously donated all labor.

*Pictured above:  
Teachers participate in a professional development workshop in the Outdoor Classroom taught by Adam Baranker, Assistant Director for Jeff Lake Camp.*