

FREY
F.R.O.G.S.
(FRiends Of Green Spaces)



Adopt-a-Spot
Handbook
&
Field Guide

Frey F.R.O.G.S. "Adopt a Spot" Handbook
**Adopt a Spot Handbook
 & Field Guide**

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OUR MISSION



Welcome! Thanks for adopting a spot in the nature area which Frey Elementary and Durham Middle School share. Our schoolyard is 80 big, beautiful acres, bounded by a County park on the west and Mars Hill Road on the east. It extends almost to Hill Street on the north, and almost to County Line Road on the south. Without your help, we could never manage such a large parcel of land as wildlife habitat and an outdoor learning lab for our students.

We are blessed with wetlands, meadows, and stands of loblolly pines, oak- hickory woodlands, beeches and maples. Our children are not the only wild things on the property. This land is home to deer, foxes, opossums, woodchucks, hawks, owls, frogs, turtles, salamanders, crawdads, darter fish, beetles, ants, mayflies, butterflies, and a host of other wildlife.

Two spring-fed creeks are located here in the headwaters of the Coosa watershed and generally flow west into Allatoona Creek; north into the Etowah River; then west and south with the Coosa River through Alabama to the Gulf.

Our schoolyard is steeped in a rich and fascinating history. Woodland Indians once lived on this land, as evidenced by grinding stones and mounds in the immediate vicinity. A visit to Etowah Mounds in Cartersville reveals much about the civilization which used to call this area 'home'. After the Georgia gold rush and subsequent land lottery, the property was owned by the Anderson family and several generations of the Durham family. It was farmed (wheat, corn, and cotton, at various times) and dairy cattle were raised here. During the Civil War, the (Union) Army of the Cumberland was encamped on school grounds and northward during a rainy four days, before continuing on to the Battle of Latimore's Farm, Battle of Mud Creek, and Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

We are so fortunate to have this magnificent piece of land for our schoolyard. As adopters of a spot in the nature area, you will be rewarded by the knowledge that you helped protect a little corner of Cobb County for wildlife habitat. Through your efforts, science and history will come alive for students engaged in hands-on learning. Light bulbs will flicker on over the heads of children who "get" math through real-life applications. Student writing will be prompted and inspired by the wonders of nature. The students, teachers, and parents of Frey and Durham are very grateful that you adopted a spot.



Volunteer Liability Waiver Form

**EXHIBIT B
FORM A
POLICY FEAE**

WAIVER

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this ____ day of _____, between _____
_____ and the COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

IT IS AGREED that for and in consideration of the right and permission to construct

a _____ at

_____ (school), I, the undersigned, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, hereby release, remise and forever discharge the COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, the COBB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, its successors and assigns, its agents and employees and all other persons, firms or corporations, who are or might be liable in any way, from and against any and all liability or responsibility whatsoever of any kind and nature, arising from, and by reason of said construction.

I, the undersigned, do further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT and the other above-named individuals from any such claims asserted.

I, the undersigned hereby declare that I understand fully the terms of this Waiver and that I rely wholly upon my own judgment in executing the same, and that I voluntarily accept said consideration for the purpose of making a full, final and complete compromise, satisfaction and release of all claims above mentioned.

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing Waiver and understand the same fully and sign the same as my voluntary act and deed.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this ____ day of _____,
199 __, and now I sign this Waiver.

_____(SEAL)

WITNESS

DATE

Pth/feae-1.ex

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For a project approval form, organizational liability waiver, or to read the policy on use of volunteers to improve school grounds, go to http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/F_Rules/indexf_1.htm



Child Volunteer Liability Waiver Form

EXHIBIT B
FORM B
POLICY FEAE

WAIVER

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this _____ day of _____, between _____

(parent/guardian) and _____ (son/daughter)
and the **COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**.

IT IS AGREED that for and in consideration of the right and permission to construct a _____
_____ at _____
_____ (school), we, the

undersigned, for ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, hereby release, remise and forever discharge the **COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT** the **COBB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**, its successors and assigns, its agents and employees and all other persons, firms, or corporations, who are or might be liable in any way, from and against any and all liability or responsibility whatsoever of any kind and nature, arising from, and by reason of said construction.

We, the undersigned, do further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the **COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT** and the other above-named individuals from any such claims asserted.

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that we understand fully the terms of this Waiver and that rely wholly upon our own judgment in executing the same, and that we voluntarily accept said consideration for the purpose of making a full, final and complete compromise, satisfaction and release of all claims above mentioned.

We, the undersigned, have read the foregoing Waiver and understand the same fully and sign the same as our voluntary act and deed.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this _____ day of _____, 199__, and now I sign this Waiver.

(parent/guardian) (SEAL)

WITNESS

DATE

Pth/feae-1.ex

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For a project approval form, organizational liability waiver, or to read the policy on use of volunteers to improve school grounds, go to http://www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/adminrules/F_Rules/indexf_1.htm



Adopt a Spot Agreement

It is agreed that our adoptive group will:

- Read the Adopt A Spot handbook
- Conduct at least two work days a year
- Exercise caution and stay safe
- Provide signed liability waivers from all volunteers
- Minimize our impact the nature area
- Pick up litter and remove trash from our spot, as needed
- Control weeds in trails and outdoor classrooms, as needed
- Get approval before planting or starting special projects
- Send in a report after each work day
- Report any safety hazards as soon as they are noticed

Frey FROGS Committee will:

- Communicate with adoptive groups about resources and opportunities which may be available from time to time
- Provide storage space and tools for loan, in trail shed
- Deal with safety hazards reported by adoptive groups
- Permit use of the nature area by adoptive groups after school and on weekends
- Consult with and assist adoptive groups, as needed

Signature of representative of adoptive group

Name of group

Frey FROGS Chairperson

Location of adopted spot





Safety Considerations While Caring for our Nature Area



Risks and Liability

- **Volunteers agree to work in the nature area at their own risk.** Please be careful. The school district requires that a liability waiver be signed by each volunteer (or parent/guardian, if volunteer is under age 18). Neither the school district nor Frey Elementary, Durham Middle School, Frey PTSA nor Durham PTSA accepts liability for injuries incurred or damage done by volunteers.
- **A first aid kit is available in the storage shed.** The combination to the lock is 8 – 30 – 36. Volunteers should be careful not to give or apply medicines to children other than their own, without permission from the parents and knowledge of the child's allergies and reactions.
- **Adoptive groups must immediately report safety hazards to the FROGS chairperson,** using the form included in this handbook. Please note that there may not be sufficient funds on hand to correct the hazard, in which case the area may be closed off to prevent injury.

Safety Hazards and Precautions

- **Tool Use**
 - **Volunteers must use all appropriate safety measures** when using power or hand tools. **Children (under 18) may never use power cutting equipment on school grounds,** such as brush cutters, weed whackers or saws. Adults may only use such equipment if they are experienced operators who are aware of safety hazards and willing to take precautions, such as reading the manual for safety tips, and wearing goggles and closed toed shoes.
 - **Maintain sufficient distance between volunteers using cutting or digging implements** or long-handled tools, such as mattocks or pulaskis. In general, the distance between volunteers should be no less than three times the length of the tool being used.
- **Critters**
 - **Fire Ants:** Please be on the look-out for fire ant mounds and avoid them. The most common injuries in the nature area are fire ant bites. Caution children not to kick or walk on them. The school district has a monthly contract for pest control which covers fire ant mound treatment. Please report active mounds on the form in this handbook, providing details about specific locations, and the FROGS Chairperson will request that these areas be treated on the next pest control visit.
 - **Ticks:** Ticks are most common in tall grassy areas, where they transfer to clothing and then to skin, when people brush against them. Warm, moist weather provides ideal conditions for ticks, which are not seen after the first hard frost. Avoid high grass. Wear a tick repellent and tuck long pants into socks or shoes. Check yourself and children for ticks after walking in the woods, by shaking clothing over a white towel or sheet, and feeling heads. Ticks do not usually attach in the first few hours after skin contact. They can easily be picked off (and flushed away) during this period. After a tick has attached, use tweezers to pull it off intact.
 - **Snakes:** To avoid contact with snakes, do not reach or step into rock crevices, hollow logs, brush or mulch piles. Snakes are not aggressive unless provoked, and prefer to be left alone. If you do encounter a snake, just walk away. Do not handle, tease, collect or molest snakes. If bitten~ even by a non-venomous snake~ seek professional medical treatment promptly. Ask others to write down a description of the snake to take with you to the doctor. Remember that staying calm slows the spread of any toxins. Virtually no snake bites are fatal when medical treatment is received immediately. It is interesting to note that the only student bitten by a snake on school grounds was not in the nature area, but next to the dumpsters by the kitchen. She touched the snake with a stick and picked it up before being bitten. The snake was non-venomous.
 - **Mammals:** Although a nearby school once had a problem with rabid foxes, **there has never been a rabid animal found in our nature area.** Signs that an animal may be dangerously sick include showing itself to humans during daylight. Avoid any such animal. No wildlife in the nature



area is tame. There has never been a bear reported in our nature area and there is unlikely to ever be one, as the rare roamer from the north Georgia mountains is more likely to be attracted to the trash cans in a subdivision. (There are no trash cans in the nature area).

- **Plants**
 - **Poisonous Plants:** See "Plants to Avoid" elsewhere in this handbook for information about how to **recognize and avoid poison ivy and poison oak.**
 - **Briars and Thorns:** **Avoid contact with blackberry or rose canes,** unless using gloves. Note that winterking hawthorne (esplanade) and honey locust have thorns on branches and trunks.
- **Hunting**
 - **No hunters are allowed on school property, nor are weapons of any kind allowed within 1000' of school property.** Bow hunting is allowed on the opposite side of County Line Road and opposite side of Hill Road, every morning until 10:00a.m.during deer season. No hunters are allowed to track deer across school property or the land to the west (a no-hunting buffer zone).
- **Old Farm Equipment**
 - **Barbed Wire:** **Please caution children and volunteers to avoid barbed wire and never run through the woods.** Much of the barbed wire fencing on school grounds has been removed. However, some fences remain, and some barbed wire has been rolled without being removed. Any Adopt a Spot group which chooses to help remove barbed wire should not let children assist in this activity. Bolt cutters work well to cut through barbed wire fences. Gloves, long sleeves, and long pants are essential. Wire should be removed in wagons or wheelbarrows, rather than wrangled or carried out.
 - **Old Vehicles, Plumbing Fixtures, Pipes, etc.:** **Care should be taken when handling rusty metal or lifting heavy objects.** Use gloves and seek assistance, when necessary. Some old farm equipment, such as a trailer through which privet has grown (located between Creekside Classroom and the second bridge) are sentimental favorites which we do not plan to remove. Other old equipment may be recycled (see notes below about where to recycle), reused (potty planter, anyone?), or disposed of as garbage if recycling is not possible.

Litter / Trash Removal and Recycling

- There are no trash cans nor garbage service in the nature area. Such facilities would attract wildlife.
- All visitors and volunteers should bring their own trash bags and carry out their own trash.
- Extra trash bags are provided in the mailbox on Whitetail Trail, near the trailhead.
- Dumpsters are located by the kitchen loading dock behind Frey. Garbage bags may be placed there.
- Volunteers should plan on making litter removal part of every work day. The less litter which people are accustomed to seeing, the less likely they will be to contribute more litter.
- Gloves are recommended for litter pick-up, to protect hands from germs and sharp objects.
- Bins for recycling aluminum (cans), paper and magazines are located beside the parking lot on the north side of the Frey, near the bus maintenance facility.
- For information on where to recycle other items, please consult the following Web site: [Earth 911](http://Earth911.com)

Restroom Facilities in the Nature Area

- Volunteers are welcome to use the restroom on Sweetgum Trail.
- Additional tissue and hand sanitizer are available in the storage shed.
- The restroom is currently serviced by Porta Potty Express once a month, during the school year.

Finding Your Way

- A large map of the nature area is posted on the back of the kiosk at Whitetail Trail (near trailhead).
- Small laminated maps are available in the mailbox on Whitetail Trail (near trailhead).
- Look for landmarks, such as arbors at the start of Whitetail Trail, Mars Hill Trail, and Creekside Trail.
- **When working in remote locations or when group is spread out, use walkie talkies or cell phones.**





Standards of Care for our Nature Area



How to Care for a Surfaced Trail

Installing Timbers

- Landscape timbers should be used to edge slate trails (except in the case of the big meadow, past the second bridge, where heavy equipment sometimes travels easements and could damage timbers).
- To install, pre-drill holes for timber spikes about 1' from each end of the 8' timbers, clear and level the ground where timber is to be positioned, put timber in place, adjust and level using a mattock to dig out under or to lift timber, then use a sledge hammer to pound spikes in. Note: drill bit, mattock and extra spikes available in storage shed on Whitetail Trail.
- Timbers which are adjacent to mowed areas should be dug into the ground and positioned so that the top surface is just 1.5" above grade, to avoid conflicts with mowing equipment and eliminate the need for weed whacking between grass and timber.
- If a timber is warped, turn it over and re-spike it. If the bow is too great, it may need to be replaced.
- If timbers are knocked out of place by mowers or trucks, they can simply be put back and re-spiked.
- Slate trails should be 60" wide (between inside edges of timbers). This allows for the passage of the occasional mowers or even a golf cart.

Installing Slate

- Stabilized slate is used for the surfaced trails, because it ensures wheelchair accessibility while still allowing water to percolate into the ground. (Please do not use bark mulch, crush run, or gravel, which are more difficult for wheeled equipment to roll over. Slate pieces are flat and pack down hard).
- The current vendor for stabilized slate is Rock and Earth Technologies. Please check with FROGS Chairperson, Jean McDonald, if additional slate is needed for repairs. When the budget allows, slate is purchased in quantities of 10 – 20 tons at a time.
- The path should be prepared for slate installation by tilling or leveling the ground and controlling or removing weeds. Earth moving equipment is not recommended for grading the trail bed, because of the piles of dirt which result and difficulty of avoiding a washboard surface effect or too wide a path.
- Slate for a new section of trail may be installed using a heavy duty spreader, towed behind a riding mower or tractor. Slate may also be manually installed by hauling it in a wheelbarrow, shoveling it on the trail, and spreading it with a rigid metal rake. Slate depth should be 1", for cost effectiveness and adequate erosion control. Shovel and rake are available in storage shed on Whitetail Trail.
- To prevent erosion on a slope, a 4" opening in the timber should be cut to allow a path for water to flow across and off the trail surface. Some slate will flow out with the run-off, but this technique will keep deep rivulets from being worn in the trail, if openings are positioned correctly. French drains and water bars are *not* typically used.
- In the case of wetlands, a drainage pipe may need to be installed under the trail and the surface elevated. For example, please see the trail structure after the second bridge, in the big meadow.

Weed Control

- A 12" cleared area on either side of slate trails keeps weeds from encroaching on the path. Please remove weeds from this area by pulling out the whole plant by the roots or cutting it off at ground level. In the case of blackberry canes, please be sure to remove the entire cane, even if it is rooted outside the 12" buffer zone and just extends into this space. Apply a 2" to 3" layer of bark mulch annually in the buffer zone (but not on the trail itself), to discourage weeds.
- For guidelines on use of herbicides, please see "Weed Control" on page 12 of this handbook.

Overhanging Branches

- Please prune overhanging branches back to the tree trunk, rather than lopping off midway along the branch. This will keep tall people from running into the cut end of a branch. Trails should be clear to 8' overhead, directly above the trail bed.



How to Care for Natural Tread Trails

Trail Surface

- No surface material is applied on natural-tread trails, which consist of compacted bare earth or trampled weeds. These trails are usually farthest from the schools, in wet areas or rugged terrain.
- The trail bed should be 36" to 48" wide, depending on the lay of the land (with the larger dimension preferred),
- The trail bed should be level, with switchbacks (long zig-zags across the face of a hill) provided so that no descent / ascent is too straight and steep for safety and erosion control. To level a trail bed which runs across a slope, the uphill side should be dug with mattocks or pulaskis, and soil borrowed from this area should be transferred to the downhill side.
- Trails in shaded, woodland areas typically do not need any herbicides.
- Trails through meadows and open areas are easiest to manage when glyphosate herbicides are applied twice a year (early spring and mid to late summer). After spraying and weed whacking or mowing, these trails will remain clear for several months just with the trampling of little feet.
- For guidelines on use of herbicides, please see the Weed Control section in this handbook.

Overhanging Branches

- Please prune overhanging branches back to the tree trunk, rather than lopping off midway along the branch. This will keep tall people from running into the cut end of a branch. Trails should be clear to 8' overhead, directly above the trail bed.

How to Care for an Outdoor Classroom

Appearance

- The object is *not* to affect a European park look, with all the understory shrubs cleared, snags (dead trees) dropped, rotting logs removed, and leaves blown. Minimal impact is the goal.

Weed Control and Pruning

- Weed control is important to the extent that students can freely access and use the outdoor classrooms. However, it is also important to identify and protect desirable native plants (some of which may be considered "weeds"). When in doubt, contact the FROGS chairperson for help.
- Pull weeds out by the roots or cut them back at ground level.
- Treat weeds with glyphosate herbicide, if necessary. See Weed Control section of handbook.
- Help eradicate non-native invasive species such as privet and kudzu by removing as much of these species as possible. Treat remaining stumps or roots with a glyphosate herbicide.

Maintenance and Repairs

- Repair benches, tables, and other structures or improvements, as needed, if in your ability to do so. (If not, report hazards so that the area can be closed or the damaged item removed). There is no maintenance crew to tend to things we cannot manage ourselves. It may be possible to get a project on the list for the next big volunteer work day, but we must be as self-reliant as possible.
- Remove litter and trash regularly, so continued littering is not encouraged by a shabby appearance.
- Clean moldy or mildewed wooden tables and benches by spraying on diluted bleach in a ratio of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Allow the bleach to remain on the furnishings for at least 15 minutes. Set in the sun, if possible. Then rinse with buckets of water from the nearest creek (or a rolling cooler).
- Protect the investment that your group and others have made in the nature area by refinishing wooden tables and benches with clear polyurethane, once a year.

Safety Hazards

- Report safety hazards, including active fire ant colonies, broken or un-repairable furnishings, etc. to the FROGS Chairperson, using the form in this handbook. Forms may be dropped in the FROGS folder in the PTSA Room or submitted by email to freycoutdoors@bellsouth.net



How to Care for a Garden

Planting

- It is always preferred that gardens be planted by children, so that they become stakeholders who have the feeling of "owning" the plants, as well as the desire to care for them. When possible, involve students in researching and choosing plants, and designing planting plans.
- Always protect existing perennials, especially those previously planted by other adoptive groups. If it is necessary to remove plants planted by others, please find a place to re-plant them and provide favorable conditions for their growth in the new location.
- Identify weeds before removing them. Many desirable plants in our nature area and in the woodland gardens are native plants which some consider weeds, and others consider treasures.
- Mulch garden or outdoor classroom areas to retain moisture or prevent weeds. Bark mulch is preferred. Please take care not to place mulch so close to plants that it touches them, as this may cause fungus when mulch is wet. Place layers of wet newspaper beneath mulch, for best results.
- Encourage blooming plants in gardens to produce more flowers by deadheading (removing spent flower-heads).
- If you have adopted a garden, feel free to create spaces which have curved or irregular edges, for interesting composition. Asymmetrical plantings, odd numbers of plants, and clumping or massing often results in gardens with a lot of visual impact.
- Choose perennial native species whenever possible. Extensive use of annuals in gardens and landscaping around the nature area is discouraged based on lack of cost- and time-effectiveness. Similarly, bulbs which come up every year (e.g. daffodils) are more worth the effort to plant than those which only produce flowers for one season (e.g. tulips).
- When designing planted areas, be mindful of the effort it will take to maintain these spaces. Avoid creating spaces which make it difficult for the County grounds crew to maintain adjacent turf.

Some Web Resources for Special Project Ideas

[How to Make Butterfly Gardens](#)

Instructions and pictures of correct plants, placement, preferred colors and **butterfly** anatomy.

<http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts/misc/ef006.htm>

[Hummingbird Gardens](#)

The Web's premier place to learn about hummingbirds.

<http://www.hummingbirds.net/humgard.html>

[Rain Gardens - Improving Water Quality in your Community](#)

How to build **rain gardens** in shallow depressions, to filter run-off and improve water quality.

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden/gardens.pdf> [\[More results from clean-water.uwex.edu\]](#)

[Salad days in your salad garden](#)

Red cabbage can add color to both garden and **salad**, along with the deeper greens of kale, spinach and New Zealand spinach.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mc/services/dep/greenman/salad.htm>



Weed Control in the Nature Area

Weeding

- Areas to weed include:
 - Slate-surfaced trails ~ in the trail bed and 12" outside the landscape timbers edging the trail,
 - Natural tread trails ~ in the trail bed
 - Outdoor classrooms ~ clear center and allow 3' clearance around outside of tables or benches,
 - Gardens in the nature area,
 - Signs ~ 12" to 24" around posts,
 - Kiosks ~ 36" around posts
- When weeding by hand, try to remove entire plants by the roots. In the case of blackberry canes, please cut them off at the ground, even when that may be outside the area being cleared.
- Many weeds have stickers or thorns. Wear gloves and long sleeves when weeding, to avoid injury.
- When operating a string trimmer or brush cutter, always wear safety goggles and hard toed shoes. Never weed whack when children are in the vicinity, nor allow a child to weed whack. Keep appropriate distance from others (approximately three times the length of the tool). Use power equipment only if you are experienced, familiar with the manual, wearing safety gear, and willing to accept responsibility for injuries.
- When weed-whacking, cut woody stems close to the ground, so "toe-stubbers" are not created.
- Be able to recognize desirable native plants and especially avoid weeding out beautyberry, jewelweed, milkweed, wild roses, and cardinal flower. (See field guide portion of this handbook). When such plants occur in the 12" cleared buffer zone beside a trail, just leave them in place. Also leave trees in the buffer zone if they are 2"+ in diameter. Just prune branches back to the trunk, from ground level up to 8' high.
- Dispose of weeded plants by tossing them into the woods in a variety of locations, so that dead brush is not visible from the trail or cleared area. Only poison ivy and non-native vegetation, such as privet or kudzu, should be disposed of in garbage bags and removed. Please do not take home weeds to burn. This contributes to air pollution and, if poison ivy is present, could cause skin and lung irritation.

Mulching

- After planting a garden area, water it and cover bare soil with newspaper three sheets thick. Wet the newspaper to keep it from blowing. Cover newspaper with 2" to 3" of bark mulch. Leave an inch around each plant, as wet mulch which comes in direct contact with the plant can cause fungus to grow.
- After weeding plants from a 12" border along slate-surfaced trails, apply mulch 2" to 3" thick to help prevent weeds from returning to the area.

Composting

- Do not put undesirable weeds with seed heads in a compost pile, so that they will not germinate and grow wherever the compost is applied.
- Grass clippings, garden foliage, and dead-headed flowers may be added to a compost pile.

Herbicides

- A systemic, glyphosate-based herbicide can be effective in controlling weeds, especially on natural tread trails in sunny areas. No other types of herbicides are permitted in the nature area. Glyphosates may be used by adults, at their own risk, but may not be sprayed by or in the presence of children, nor within 20' stream buffer areas, nor on every plant in an area. Wear safety gear when spraying (i.e. gloves, mask).
- When applying glyphosate-based herbicide, spray directly on leaves of plant or on a freshly cut stump.
- Do not spray when it is windy. Protect nearby desirable plants from drifting spray.
- Glyphosate-based herbicides are not effective once leaves start to turn colors in the fall.
- Plants sprayed with herbicides will brown within a few days. This foliage still needs to be removed, except in the case of a natural tread trail. Toss weeds in a variety of locations, so dead brush is not visible from the trail or cleared area. Note that plants with stickers can still hurt you when they are dead, and poison ivy can still cause a skin rash when brown. Protect hands and arms when handling weeds. Do not burn.
- Glyphosate-based herbicides Rodeo and Accord reportedly do not harm stream macroinvertebrates or fish, while Round-Up is moderately toxic. Therefore, Rodeo or Accord are preferred. 50' wide herbicide-free buffers should be maintained along each side of a creek.
- For more information on herbicides, see this Web site: <http://infoventures.com/e-hlth/pesticide/glyphos.html>



Resources Available to Adopt a Spot Volunteers

Tools and Storage Shed

- The shed is located just off Whitetail Trail, between the kiosk and Old Oaks Outdoor Classroom. The combination to the lock is 8 – 30 – 36. Check with the FROGS chairperson for periodic changes to the combination.
- Adoptive groups may use tools, gloves, coolers, water bottles, first aid kit, grill, umbrellas or timber spikes found in the storage shed. Children (under 18) may never use power equipment on school grounds, such as brush cutters or weed whackers, and adults may only use such equipment if they are experienced users who are aware of safety hazards and willing to take precautions, such as wearing goggles and closed toed shoes. Liability waivers must be signed and on file with FROGS chair.
- Some materials in the shed may be reserved for specific projects. Check before using any lumber.

Bulk Materials

- From time to time, there are bulk deliveries of stabilized slate (used for trail extension or repairs), soil enriched with organic matter, or bark mulch. When such materials are available, the FROGS chairperson will notify adoptive groups. Such a delivery may be intended for a new project, so please ask before using.
- Please allow the FROGS chairperson to ask for donations or arrange purchases of bulk materials (when the budget allows) from Woodtech (soil, mulch), Stewart Tree Service or Cobb EMC (mulch), or Rock and Earth Technologies (slate). It would be appreciated if adoptive groups did not approach these vendors individually.
- Bird seed is sometimes provided by FROGS Committee, when the budget allows. When available, it can be found in the PTSA Room or in the storage shed. The County grounds crew has asked that we use sterilized bird seed near any landscaped or mowed areas, so that stray corn, millet and sunflowers do not sprout in nearby grass.

Plants

- There is no budget to provide plants for Adopt a Spot groups.
- Occasionally, landscape companies donate leftover plants or bulbs. Whenever they are available, the FROGS chairperson will notify all the Adopt a Spot groups.
- Elizabeth Feed and Seed Store (on Church Street Extension across from Cobb EMC) offers free seeds to teachers who show their credentials, or to volunteers who carry a letter on school letterhead authorizing them to pick up seeds for a teacher.
- There is generally no objection to cultivating native plants in the nature area, but please run your specific ideas past the FROGS chairperson before starting a project. Any area which is cultivated must be maintained by the adoptive group. Exotic, invasive species such as privet, kudzu, or English ivy should not be planted. The group would be responsible for obtaining the plants.
- Occasionally, free plants are available from plant rescue groups or native plant societies. Volunteers sometimes divide or transplant favorite plants from their yards. Children in a class which has adopted a spot sometimes each bring in a plant. Again, just check with the FROGS chair person to get approval before planting.
- The Georgia Forestry Commission sells seedlings very cheaply. They must be ordered in late summer or fall for delivery on any date during planting season (December through February). It would be nice to see adoptive groups planting redbud seedlings along the edges of woodlands and meadows in the nature area, dogwood seedlings under the oaks and hickories on the hill, and wildlife forage such as persimmon seedlings. (No pine seedlings are needed). For more information about species available, prices, and planting techniques, go to this Web site: [Seedling order \(http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/Seedlings/orderinginfo.cfm\)](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/Seedlings/orderinginfo.cfm)

Technical Assistance and Information

- [Joe Burgess, local forester](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/CountyUnitsShow.cfm?iCounty=Cobb) (<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/CountyUnitsShow.cfm?iCounty=Cobb>)
- [Master Gardeners](http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/ga/cobb/Horticulture/MasterGardener/mastgard.htm) at the Cobb County Extension Svc.
(www.griffin.peachnet.edu/ga/cobb/Horticulture/MasterGardener/mastgard.htm)
- [Georgia Native Plant Society](http://www.gnps.org/index.html) (<http://www.gnps.org/index.html>)



Frey F.R.O.G.S. "Adopt a Spot" Handbook
Plants to Avoid: Poison Ivy and Poison Oak



Photo credit: www.beachcomberswimclub.org

Identification: Poison Ivy and Poison Oak can be found as shrubs, ground cover, or vines. Leaflets may appear differently from plant to plant~ some smooth-edged and some with lobes~ but they are always in sets of three. The vines look like hairy ropes. Small white flowers appear in May, and clusters of berries are noticeable in August or September. Teach children the familiar refrain: "Leaves of three~ Let them be." To be on the safe side, assume all plants with sets of three leaflets should not be touched. However, to be sure whether a plant is poison ivy, oak or sumac, consult this Web site or send a picture to them to be evaluated: [Is This Poison Ivy?](http://littlerock.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://poisonivy.aesir.com/) (<http://littlerock.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://poisonivy.aesir.com/>)

Prevention and Effects of Exposure: Fortunately, there is not much poison ivy in our nature area! Please wear gloves and protective clothing which exposes no skin, when weeding. If highly allergic, you may also want to use a product such as Ivy Block *before* going out. If exposed, wash up as quickly as possible with detergent (rather than an oil-based soap) and change clothes. Be sure to launder what you were wearing, separately. Remember that tools, animals, and clothing touched by poison ivy or oak are contaminated and can spread the toxin. If a rash develops, there are effective over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Control and Disposal: While poison ivy may be removed from student-use areas such as trails and outdoor classrooms, it is not our intention to eliminate it from the nature area. Its berries are actually prime wildlife food for many critters, including woodpeckers. Poison ivy is said to be less toxic and easier to pull out in fall. If you pull the plants and vines by hand, please dispose of dead poison ivy in garbage bags, in the dumpster. Do not toss these dead plants in the woods. Do not take poison ivy cuttings or plants home to burn, as the smoke and particles can cause allergic reactions on skin and in the lungs.

A systemic, glyphosate-based herbicide such as Round-Up, Rodeo, or Accord can be effective in controlling poison ivy, but the dead plants can still cause allergic reactions, if handled. No other types of herbicides are permitted in the nature area. Glyphosate-based herbicides may be used by adults, at their own risk, but may not be sprayed by or in the presence of children, within 20' buffer areas on either side of a stream, nor indiscriminately on all the plants in an area. This type of herbicide is not very effective once leaves start to turn colors, in the fall. For more information on herbicide use and effects, see this Web site:

<http://infoventures.com/e-hlth/pesticide/glyphos.html>



Photo credit: www.naturenorth.com



Photo credit: www.wildmanstevebrill.com



Photo credit: parks.state.co.us

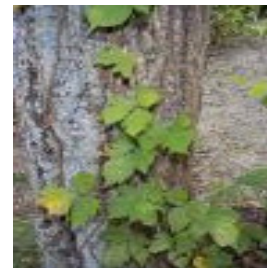


Photo credit: www.scienceu.com



Plants to Treasure: Colorful Gems in Late Summer and Fall



Photo credit: www.heartofnh.com



Photo: www.cas.vanderbilt.edu

Jewelweed

This beautiful plant blooms from mid-July through early fall. Look for it at **Red Maple Outdoor Classroom**, near the creek. The shrubs are massed, about 4' tall, and resemble common impatiens. Note that when it is not in bloom this plant can be easily overlooked. Take care not to weed it out. Hummingbirds love it! After the flowers fade, look for seed pods which pop and zing their contents several feet away, when touched.

For information about Jewelweed's folk and medicinal uses (especially as a poison ivy antidote) go to this Web site: www.wildmanstevebrill.com; click on Wild Plants and then on Jewelweed.



Photo credit: www.nature.nps.gov



Photo credit: www.cobleskill.edu



<http://plants.usda.gov/>



www.sfw.s.auburn.edu

Beautyberry

This plant is a wetland indicator, though it can also be found on the edge of **Old Oaks Outdoor Classroom**, just past the steps to **Nutty Nature Trail**. It has white flowers in early summer, clusters of purple berries on stalks, in late summer and early fall, and opposite leaves. When no berries are present, it can easily be overlooked. Please take care not to weed this plant out! For more photos and information, go to this Web site:

http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=plant_profile.cgi&symbol=CAAM2

Cardinal Flower (Lobelia)

A wetland indicator, this plant can be found in meadows with moist soil and open areas along creeks. Its bright red flowers can be seen in August and September. Look for Cardinal Flowers on **Whitetail Trail** south of **Creekside Outdoor Classroom** near the bridge.



Photo: www.usi.edu



Photo: biology.clc.uc.edu



Frey F.R.O.G.S. "Adopt a Spot" Handbook
Plants to Treasure:
Tall Flowering Meadow Plants



Photo: www.illinoiswildflowers.info

Ironweed

Butterflies love this 3' to 6' tall plant with purple flowers. You can find it growing in the big meadow (between the bridge and **Anderson Gazebo**) and near **Red Maple Outdoor Classroom**. The main plant stalk does not branch, but the flower-head does. Flowers bloom in late summer and early fall.

Joe Pye Weed

Look for clusters of pinkish-purple flowers atop 4' to 7' stalks of Joe Pye Weed from late July through October. The flowers attract Swallowtail butterflies. This plant is supposedly named after an Indian man who promoted its medicinal uses. You can find Joe Pye Weed in meadows and edges in the nature area, where the soil is a little moist.



Photo credit: www.marcy-holmes.org

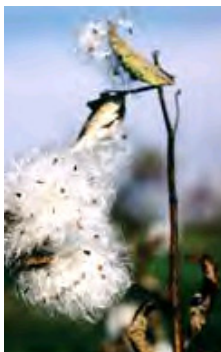


Photo: www.all-creatures.org Courtesy of [Thomas Baker](#)

Milkweed

The only food of the monarch caterpillar, milkweed grows 2' to 6' tall and comes in a variety of colors. After flowering in late summer and early fall, milkweed seeds mature inside bumpy pods. When the pods burst, seeds float away on white tufts. You can find milkweed in all the meadows, around the **Windmill Plains Weather Station**, across from **Creekside Outdoor Classroom**, and planted in the **trailhead Butterfly Gardens**.

Goldenrod

All the meadows in the nature area are yellow with Goldenrod in September and October. This maligned plant is often blamed for causing hay fever, but it has a great alibi: its pollen grains are too heavy to be wind-borne. Instead, goldenrod is pollinated by butterflies and bees, who carry the grains from plant to plant. It is interesting to note that the brightest colored flowers are usually those pollinated by insects.



Both photos: biology.clc.uc.edu



Plants to Remove Non-Native (Exotic) Invasive Plants



All privet photos by Mike Hogan and Todd Langston
www.sfw.s.auburn.edu

Privet

This invasive, non-native species colonizes open, sunny areas very quickly and crowds out native plants. Left unchecked, it will take over meadows and woodland edges in the nature area.

Become a privet i.d. expert! Look for multi-stemmed shrubs or small trees with white flowers, blue-black fruit, and grayish bark. Twigs are hairy and leaves are opposite. Note that it is can be mistaken for alder, but alder (along creek banks) has tiny cones.

Please help eradicate all privet from your adopted spot.

Pull small seedlings out by the roots. Cut shrubs back to the ground and brush a glyphosate-based herbicide on the stumps. Dispose of clippings and dead plants in garbage bags.



Note conical clusters of white flowers



Blue-black drupes (fruit with one seed)



Grayish bark with blisters, scars



Photo: www.ibiblio.org



Photo: www.fosc.org

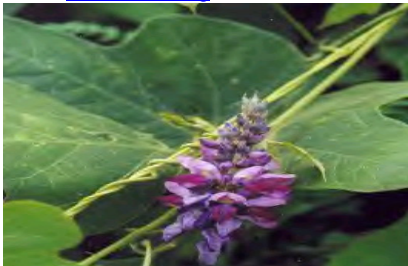
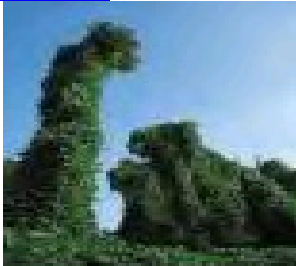


Photo: nature.org



www.smithsonianmag.si.edu

Kudzu

Undeniably beautiful, kudzu is an exotic, imported killer. It aggressively grows over native plants and blocks out the sun, breaks off branches and even uproots trees with its sheer weight.

To recognize kudzu vines, become familiar with its distinctive three leaflets and clusters of purple flowers.

Rarely can kudzu be pulled out by the roots, because the root system is so matted and extensive. Glyphosate-based herbicides can be effective, if applied when leaves are still green.



The Outdoor Classrooms

Old Oaks Outdoor Classroom

- Improvements: 10' x 10' deck / platform
Four benches - designed by Kevin Goreham, BSA Troop 741
Six tilt-top bench tables - 2x4 Basics Converting Table and Bench
- Seating: Capacity~ 60 (two classes)
- Source of Materials: Bench-tables: Lowes / Finley Products, Inc. Lancaster, PA. 17801
Model # 06110; Lowe's sku # 205703 (special order)
- Costs: 4 flat benches (unavailable- estimated \$100)
Converting bench tables (6) @ \$30 for legs + \$20 for lumber (\$300)
Deck (approx. \$200)
Total cost: \$600 Replacement value: approx. same as cost
- Notable Plants: Canopy of mature 100+ yr old white oaks
Persimmon trees (two) ~ on east side of clearing
Beautyberry ~ south side of classroom near steps to Nutty Nature Trail
Russian olive ~ predominant shrub
Honey locust ~ small, thorny tree near Nutty Nature Trail steps
Black willows ~ visible from this classroom, at creekside
- Source of Funds: Frey PTSA
Built by: Target Stores volunteers (deck, part of trail)
Kevin Goreham, BSA Troop 741 (four flat benches)
5th grade class of 2001 (constructed six bench tables)
Jason Fletcher, BSA Troop 204 (braced and repaired benches, re-routed trail)
- Regular Maintenance: Weed control
Special Needs, fall 05: Rip one overhanging piece of decking
Install tree faces on the five oldest oaks in vicinity

Creekside Outdoor Classroom

- Improvements: Four cedar tables, each with eight built-in seats
Four tilting umbrellas, with storage bags and shoulder straps
stored in shed on Whitetail Trail
- Seating: Capacity~ 32 (one class)
- Sources of Materials: Lowe's ~ cedar tables
Costco~ table umbrellas
- Costs: Tables: \$229 retail ea (value: \$914) / purchased at discount, for \$29 ea (cost \$116)
Umbrellas: \$12 ea. (value: \$48)
Total cost: \$164 Replacement value: \$962
- Source of Funds: Georgia Outdoor Classroom Grant
Built by: Brandon Sartain, BSA Troop 540
- Notable Plants: Milkweed ~ in open areas near this outdoor classroom
Privet~ surrounding tables (this non-native needs to be removed, except for plant growing up through rusty trailer, south of classroom, near creek)
Wild rose bower ~ blooms in April; mixed with privet south of classroom (near creek)
Try to protect roses, even if clearing privet
- Regular Maintenance: Weed control
Special Needs, fall 05: Refinishing of tables



Windmill Plains Weather Station

- Improvements: Six tilt-top bench tables
Six tilting umbrellas, with storage bags and shoulder straps
(stored in shed on Whitetail Trail)
Fence (24' long; 4' tall) for weather instruments
Windmill, 8 ft. (facing due north)
Weather instruments (barometer, thermometers, rain gauge, wind socks)
- Source of Materials: 2x4 Basics Converting Tables and Benches
Lowes / Finley Products, Inc. Lancaster, PA. 17801
www.2X4basics.com
Model # 06100; Lowe's sku # 205703 (special order)
Windmill, 8 ft:
K&C Trailers
Hwy 278, Dallas
- Costs: Converting bench tables (6) @ \$30 for leg kit + \$20 for lumber (\$300)
Fence @ \$15 for each of (3) 8' sections + quickrete (\$50)
Windmill ~ donated Replacement value: (\$80)
Total cost: \$350 Replacement value: \$425
- Source of Funds: Georgia Outdoor Classroom Grant, Frey PTSA
Built by: Brandon Sartain, BSA Troop 540 (fence, windmill assembly); 1999-2000
Jason Fletcher, BSA Troop 204 (six bench-tables, reconstructed from those taken out
of service due to warping, and braced); 2003
- Seating: Capacity~ 36 (one class)
- Notable Plants: Milkweed ~ in open areas within and around this outdoor classroom
Oak sp. ~ on north side of benches
- Regular Maintenance: Weed control
Occasional refinishing of benches
- Special Needs, fall 05: Replacement of broken and missing weather instruments
Painting or finishing of fence
Installation of replacement weather instruments, cloud chart, etc.

Anderson Gazebo

- Improvements: 20' long Amish-built gazebo with bench seating
- Source: Recreation Station (Anthony)
Bells Ferry Rd.
Woodstock, GA
- Costs: \$2500 including delivery, with huge discount Replacement value: \$4000+
- Source of Funds: Urban and Community Forestry Grant
Built by: prefabricated; benches added and delivery by Recreation Station
- Seating: Capacity~ 32 (one class)
- Notable plants: Black walnut trees (2) on fence line near trail, just below gazebo
- Special Needs, fall 05: Wheelchair ramp into gazebo



Shagbark Hickory Outdoor Classroom

Improvements: Six tilt-top bench tables - 2x4 Basics Converting Table and Bench

Source of Materials: Lowe's / Finley Products, Inc. Lancaster, PA. 17801
www.2X4basics.com
Model # 06100; Lowe's sku # 205703 (special order)

Costs: Converting bench tables (6) @ \$30 for leg kit + \$20 for lumber (\$300)

Source of Funds: Urban and Community Forestry Grant
Built by: Benches by Hunter Johnson and company; 2000?
Platforms by Home Depot, Acworth

Seating: Capacity~ 36 (one class)

Notable Plants: Shagbark hickories
White oaks
Beech
Loblolly pines

Regular Maintenance: Minimal weed control
Occasional refinishing of benches

Special Needs, fall 05: Replace boards on bench-tables, as needed
Brace benches and table tops to prevent warping
Remove mildew from tables with bleach-water, and rinse
Fill hole near benches

Mars Hill Outdoor Classroom

Improvements: Six tilt-top bench tables - 2x4 Basics Converting Table and Bench

Source of Materials: Lowe's / Finley Products, Inc. Lancaster, PA. 17801
www.2X4basics.com
Model # 06100; Lowe's sku # 205703 (special order)

Costs: Converting bench tables (6) @ \$30 for leg kit + \$20 for lumber (\$300)

Source of Funds: Urban and Community Forestry Grant
Built by: Benches by Hunter Johnson and company; 2000?
Platforms by Home Depot, Acworth

Seating: Capacity~ 36 (one class)

Notable Plants: Shagbark hickories
White oaks
Beech
Loblolly pines

Regular Maintenance: Minimal weed control
Occasional refinishing of benches

Special Needs, fall 05: Brace benches and table tops to prevent warping
Remove mildew from tables with bleach-water, and rinse



Fern Gully Outdoor Classroom

- Improvements: Six tilt-top bench tables - 2x4 Basics Converting Table and Bench
- Source of Materials: Lowe's / Finley Products, Inc. Lancaster, PA. 17801
www.2X4basics.com
Model # 06100; Lowe's sku # 205703 (special order)
- Costs: Converting bench tables (6) @ \$30 for leg kit + \$20 for lumber (\$300)
- Source of Funds: Georgia Outdoor Classroom Grant
- Built by: David Shupe, BSA Troop 187; 2001
- Seating: Capacity~ 36 (one class)
- Notable Plants: Shagbark hickories
White oaks
Beech
Loblolly pines
- Regular Maintenance: Occasional refinishing of benches
- Special Needs, fall 05: Brace benches and table tops to prevent warping
Remove mildew from tables with bleach-water, and rinse
Install additional concrete block stepping stones in creek

Red Maple Outdoor Classroom

- Improvements: Eight cable spools
- Source of Materials: Cobb Electric Membership Co-Op ~ cable spools (free)
Home Depot ~ "oops" exterior paint and waterproofing finish (0 -\$15 for 5 gal)
5 gal. buckets for seats – contractor trash
- Costs: \$0 (all donated) in 2001; \$30 in 2005 for 5 gal exterior paint and 5 gal waterproofer
- Source of Funds: none
- Built by: Cris Cortes, BSA Troop 350; 2001
Replaced by Jean McDonald, Barbara Ketcham, and Kelly Jordan's 5th gr class, 2005
- Seating: Capacity~ 36+ (one class)
- Notable Plants: Red maples
Beech trees
Red alder (along creek)
Jewelweed
Ironweed
- Regular Maintenance: Occasional refinishing or replacement of spools
- Special Needs, fall 05: Dispose of and replace rotting cable spools
Dispose of broken bucket seats
Add 4 x 4 block feet to bottoms of new spools, to reduce contact with ground and forestall rotting, termites, etc.
Sand and paint tops and polyurethane bottoms of cable spools
Consider replacing bucket seats with soccer chairs or storing buckets indoors



Amphitheater

- Improvements: Benches, mounted
Arbor and slate access trail
- Seating: Capacity: 250 (one Frey grade level or one Durham pod)
- Built by: Tommy Kolencik, BSA Troop 350; 2003 (Amphitheater Seating)
Brian Rendini, BSA Troop 350; 2003 (Trail and Arbor)
- Costs: (unknown)
Source of Funds: Durham PTSA
- Notable Plants: Loblolly pines
Black willows
- Regular Maintenance: Weed whacking around and under benches (no herbicides please- grass is needed to prevent erosion on hillside)
Weed control along path to creek
Occasional resurfacing of slate entrance trail and adjustments for erosion control
Note: Field is mowed by Cobb County Schools grounds crew
- Special Needs, fall 05: Re-spike dislodged timbers along trail
Move amphitheater sign (Chris Kallas will do this fall, as part of signs project)
Correct erosion problems by cutting an opening at appropriate place in timber, along sloping amphitheater entrance trail
Resurface bare spots in trail with stabilized slate, 1" thick

Cattail Outdoor Classroom

- Improvements: Three cedar tables, each with eight built-in seats
One redwood table, with eight built in seats
Four tilting umbrellas, with storage bags and shoulder straps; stored in school
- Seating: Capacity~ 32 (one class)
- Sources of Materials: Lowe's ~ cedar tables
O'Neill family~ redwood table
- Costs: Tables: \$229 retail ea (value: \$914) / 3 purchased at discount (3 @ \$29 ea = \$97
1 table donated by family
Umbrellas: \$12 ea. (value: \$48)
Total cost: \$145 Replacement value: \$962
- Source of Funds: Urban and Community Forestry Grant
Built by: Frey families; 2000
- Notable Plants: Cattails
Sycamores
Sweet Gums
Various Red Oaks
Loblolly Pines
- Regular Maintenance: Refinishing of tables; repairs as needed
- Special Needs, fall 05: Remove and dispose of any damaged and unsalvageable tables
Install new tables (temporary or permanent)



Locust Grove Outdoor Classroom

- Improvements: Six tilt-top bench tables - 2x4 Basics Converting Table and Bench
- Source of Materials: Lowe's / Finley Products, Inc. Lancaster, PA. 17801
www.2X4basics.com
Model # 06100; Lowe's sku # 205703 (special order)
- Costs: Converting bench tables (6) @ \$30 for leg kit + \$20 for lumber (\$300)
- Source of Funds: Frey PTSA
Built by: James Wiseman, BSA Troop 350; 2003
- Seating: Capacity~ 36 (one class)
- Notable Plants: Honey locusts (with large thorns on branches and trunk)
- Regular Maintenance: Occasional refinishing of benches
Occasional removal of mildew from benches with bleach water
Weed control along entrance trails
Note: the Cobb County Schools grounds crew mows this area
- Special Needs, fall 05: Removal of honeysuckle from rocks
Replacement of two bench-tables (moved to Boulders) with 2 from playgrounds
Hummingbird garden to be planted between Boulders and Locust Grove
Bench arbor to be installed in garden (donated by Kroger, Dallas Hwy)

The Boulders Outdoor Classroom

- Improvements: Two bench-tables liberated from Locust Grove (not originally located here)
- Source of Materials: Lowe's / Finley Products, Inc. Lancaster, PA. 17801
www.2X4basics.com
Model # 06100; Lowe's sku # 205703 (special order)
- Costs: Originally no furnishings; 2 bench tables were drug here and stay by popular demand
Converting bench tables (2) @ \$30 for leg kit + \$20 for lumber (\$100)
- Source of Funds: Frey PTSA
Built by: James Wiseman, BSA Troop 350; 2003
- Seating: Boulders + two bench-tables
Capacity~ 36 (one class)
- Notable Plants: enormous Water Oak
- Regular Maintenance: Occasional refinishing of benches
Occasional removal of mildew from benches with bleach water
Weed control along entrance trails
Weed control on and around boulders
- Special Needs, fall 05: Removal of encroaching honeysuckle from the rocks
Hummingbird garden to be planted between Boulders and Locust Grove
Bench arbor to be installed in garden (donated by Kroger, Dallas Hwy)



The Pines Outdoor Classroom

Improvements: (6) 10 ft benches with attached tables, mounted in 3 rows, with a podium

Costs: (unknown)

Source of Funds: Durham PTSA
Built by: Kirk Cheney, BSA Troop 4; 1999

Notable Plants: Loblolly pines

Regular Maintenance: Weed control

Special Needs, fall 05: Weed control
Table refinishing

Trail Storage Shed

Improvements: 10' x 10' storage shed, elevated, with floor

Source of Materials: Home Depot / Rubbermaid

Costs: \$450 (discounted from full retail price of \$500)

Source of Funds: Frey PTSA
Built by: Matthew Heiges, BSA Troop 116; 2003

Combination Lock: 8 – 30 -36

Notable Plants: Shed is nestled among the Russian olives, south of Whitetail Trail

Regular Maintenance: Weed control along entrance path

Special Needs, fall 05: Return of items from indoors to shed (grill, 4-8 umbrellas, etc.)

Restroom

Improvements: portable restroom building

Source of Materials: Porta Potty Express

Costs: \$15/mo for 9 mo school year (no service in summer)

Source of Funds: Frey PTSA
Installed by: Matthew Heiges, BSA Troop 116; 2003

Additional supplies: Extra tissue and hand sanitizer in Trail Storage Shed

Notable Plants: Potty is nestled among the loblolly pines, on Sweetgum Trail near entrance drive
Various native species planted and labeled along Sweetgum Trail

Regular Maintenance: Service provided by Porta Potty Express, access by entrance road near hickory tree
(please do not block the dirt road)

Special Needs, fall 05:



The Nature Area

Trails, Bridges and Kiosks

Slate-Surfaced Trails

- Wildcat Walk
Built by Home Depot volunteers, 2000
- Whitetail Trail
Built by Home Depot volunteers and Target stores volunteers, 2000
- Sweet Gum Trail
Built by Matthew Heiges, BSA Troop 116; 2003
- White Tail connectors and Extension
Built by Jason Fletcher, BSA Troop 204; 2003
- Allatoona Path Access Trail
Built by Matt Wolff, BSA Troop 4; 2003

Natural Tread Trails

- Nutty Nature Trail
Built by Cris Cortes, BSA Troop 30; 2001
- Creekside Trail
Built by David Shupe, BSA Troop 187; 2001
- Mars Hill Trail
Built by volunteers, 1999
- Fern Gully Trail
Built by volunteers, 2000
- Whitetail Trail from mid-meadow to Mars Hill Trail
Built by volunteers, 1999

Kiosks, Arbors and Signs

- Whitetail Trail Kiosk, Trail Signs, Eco-Info Signs
Built by Tim Caldwell
- Allatoona Path Kiosk
Built by Matt Wolff
- Location and Acknowledgement Signs
Built by Chris Kallas
- Whitetail Trailhead Arbor with benches
Ken Wiseman

Bridges

- Big Bridge
Built by Shannon Fishback and Glen Kallas
- Long Bridge
Center span built by Webelos Pack 2096
Ramp extensions by Brandon Sartain
Long bridge: one deck board adjacent to center span needs to be braced
- Little Bridges near Trailhead, north o Old Oaks
Jason Page, BSA Troop 700; 1997
Little bridges: rails need to be replaced (screwed in)

Trails on Adjacent Land (Corps of Engineers property managed as Cobb Co. park)

- Backmeadow Trail
- Allatoona Path



The Gardens

Allatoona Path Garden; planted 2001

Improvements:	See planting diagram for species and locations
Source of Materials:	\$200 credit from Pike Family Nurseries through Cobb Water Authority
Cost:	\$200 + transplants
Source of Funds:	WaterSmart Garden Contest
Built by:	5 th Grade Class of 2001
Notable Plants:	Drought tolerant perennials including Columbine, Verbena, Blanket Flower, Mouse-Eared Coreopsis, Echinacea, Sage, Yarrow, Rudbekia, Guara, Trumpet Creeper, and Plumbago
Regular Maintenance:	Weed control, pruning
Special Needs, fall 05:	Mark perennials and cut back; overplant with winter annuals

Drought Garden (south side of Whitetail trailhead; planted 2005)

Improvements:	See planting diagram for specific placement of plants
Source of Materials:	\$200 credit from Home Depot through Cobb Water Authority
Cost:	\$200 + transplants
Source of Funds:	WaterSmart Garden Contest
Built by:	Jean McDonald and various children
Notable Plants:	Drought tolerant perennials and re-seeding annuals, including; Milkweed, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Rosemary, Guara, Sedum, Scabiosa, Zinnia, Veronica, Lamb's Ear, Isolepis, Ice Plant, Creeping Phlox, and Verbena
Regular Maintenance:	Weed control, pruning
Special Needs, fall 05:	Weed control; winter color

Butterfly Garden Refurbishment (north side of trailhead); planted 2004

Improvements:	See planting diagram for specific placement of plants
Source of Materials:	HomeDepot, home garden transplants
Cost:	donated
Source of Funds:	Frey PTSA, Home Depot, Ms. Shipp's class
Built by:	Jean McDonald and Mrs. Shipp's class 2003-04
Notable Plants:	Homestead Verbena, Bee Balm, Stella D'Oro Day Lillies, Trumpet Creeper, Butterfly Bush
Regular Maintenance:	Weed control, pruning
Special Needs, fall 05:	Weed control; winter color plantings

Hummingbird Garden (near Boulders / south side of parking lot); planted fall, 2005

Source of Materials:	Plants from Pike Nursery and HomeDepot, donated by a parent Arbor with bench donated and delivered by Kroger at the Crossroads on Dallas-Acworth Hwy
Value:	\$100 for plants and \$70 for arbor
Built by:	4th grade classes in fall, 2005, coordinated by Darniele Scarpinato
Notable plants:	Foxglove, Bee Balm, Toad's Head, Obedient Plant,

Window Gardens

Notable plants

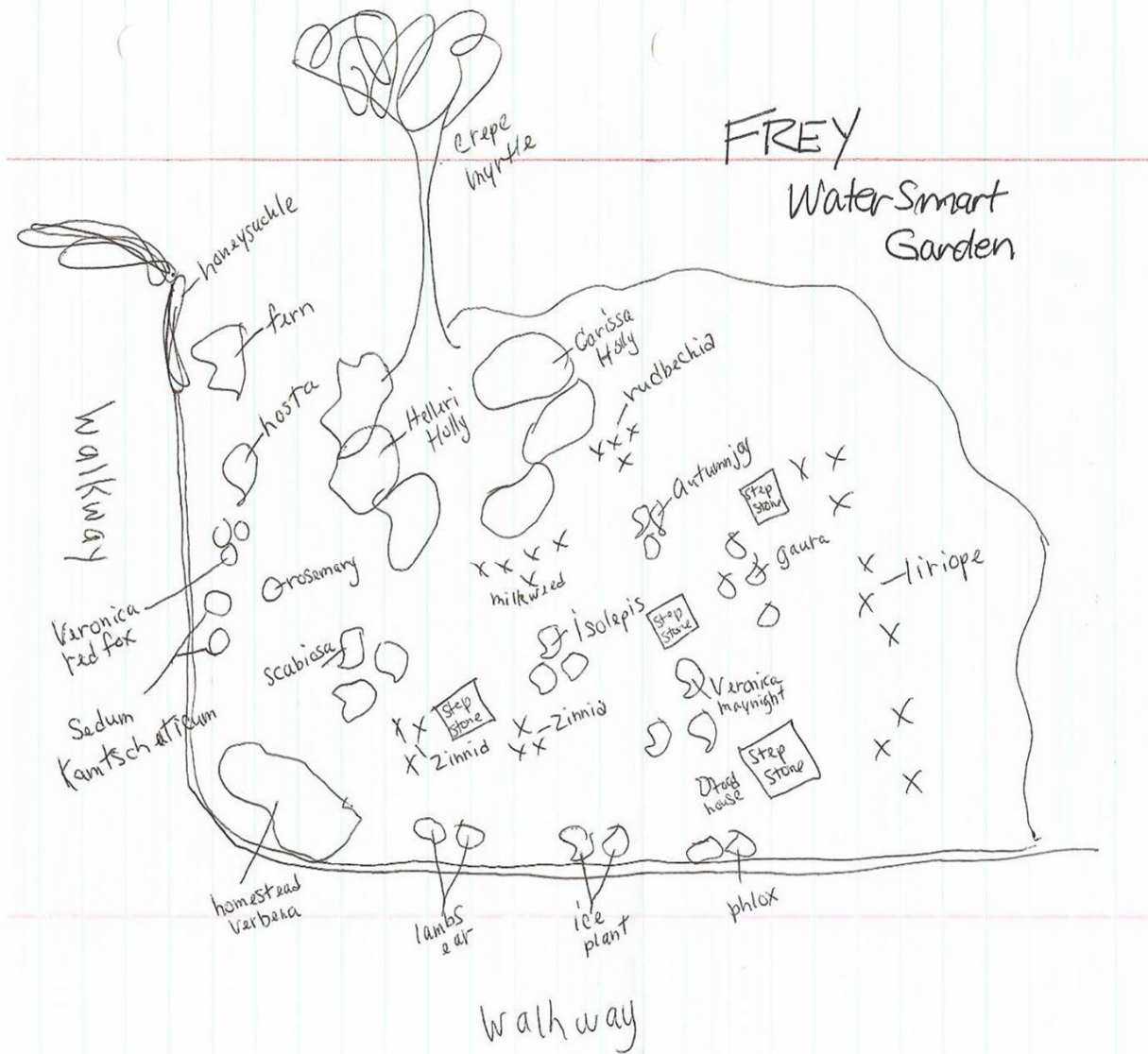
More than twenty-five 48" round gardens, outside classroom windows, have been tilled and amended for teachers to plant with students



Diagram of Frey WaterSmart Garden



Notes: Crape myrtle, monkey grass, and hollies were existing.
 There is one sprinkler head across the walkway (north / left) of the verberna
 Drawing not to scale; dimensions of garden are approximately 12' x 15'
 There are woods at top of diagram (east) and entrance drive/parking lot at bottom (west).
 Wildcat Walk (western boundary) & Whitetail Trail (northern boundary) are stabilized slate.
 The garden gets morning shade and afternoon sun



Other Improvements

Old Classroom Village

Nic Lovelace, BSA Venture Troop 4; 2000
Cottage Courtyards & Awnings

Sean Zearfoss, BSA Troop ; 2001
Cottage Courtyards & Awnings

Raised Bed Gardens and Landscaping

Richard Cotti, BSA Troop 4; 2001
Raised Bed Gardens for students & Benches

Michael Sampson, BSA Troop ; 2002
Pond, Courtyard Landscaping, Welcome Sign Landscaping

John Shupe, BSA Troop 187; 2002
Durham Garden Planters

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Plantings

Students have planted more than 1200 dogwood, redbud, crabapple, persimmon, and lespedeza seedlings for wildlife forage.



Adopt A Spot Report

Name: _____ Date: _____

Location: _____

Adoptive group: _____

Recent work and accomplishments at this spot:



If there is a safety hazard at this location, please describe:

If there is a major repair need at this location, which is beyond your group's ability to handle, please describe:

Any recommendations, comments, or other information:

Please send a photo of group for your sign, and photos of work days!

Place completed form in FROGS folder in PTSA Room at Frey (across from office) OR email to freyoutdoors@bellsouth.net



NUTS & BOLTS

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of this Adopt a Spot Handbook, please sign up below:

Name

Email Address

