

OUTDOOR EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

Niki Paganelli



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5th Grade Teacher

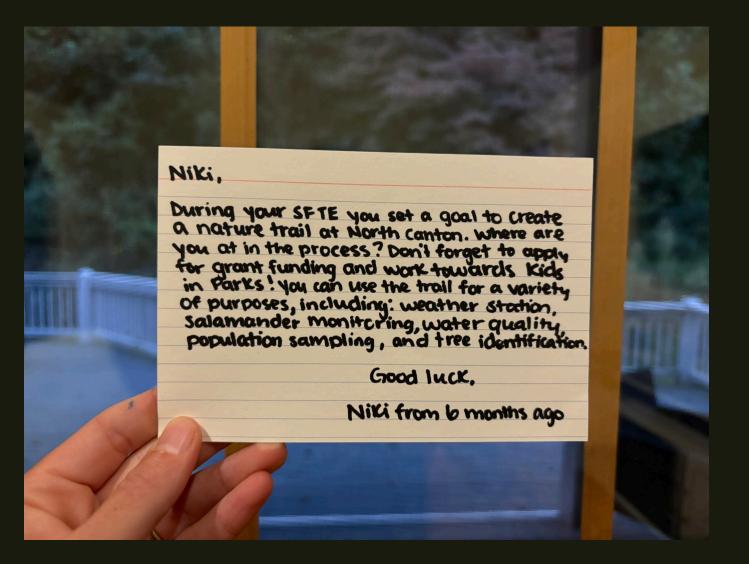
North Canton Elementary

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Goal Setting

- What land is available?
- Is the land usable?
- Who will build it?
- How will we pay for it?
- Will administration support it?







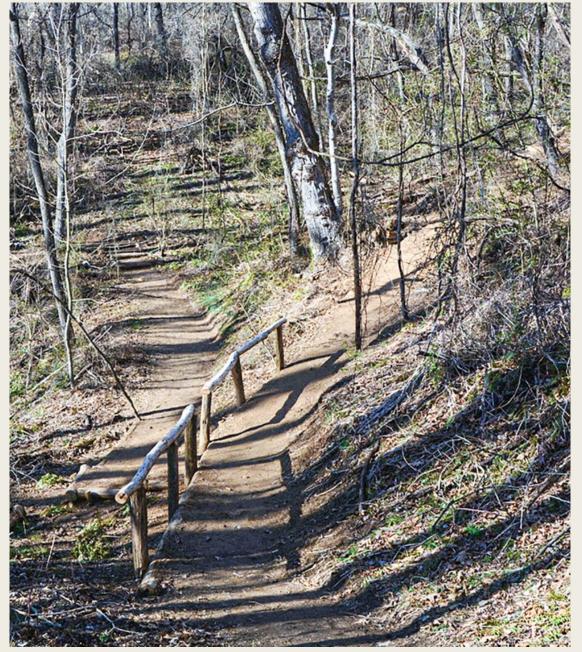
CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB















Project Learning Tree

- Hands on activities
- Interdisciplinary
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Local relevance
- Collaboration and communication
- Connection to nature
- Flexibility and adaptability

Impact of Screen Time on Learning

- Difficulty with focus
- Sleep disruption
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Limited face-to-face interactions





The Research

 Around 80% of children under the age of 8 have access to a tablet or smartphone.

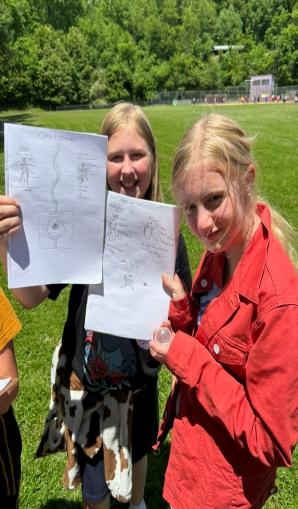
Nearly half of all children 8 and under have their *own* tablet device and spend an average of about 2.25 hours a day on digital screens.

 Children who spent more than two hours a day on screen-time activities scored lower on language and thinking tests.



Embracing Outdoor Adventures





PLT Activities

- Examine life stages of a tree
- Identify methods of seed dispersal
- Compare plant growth under different environmental conditions
- Investigate plant and wildlife diversity in an area
- Consider water usage
- Explore renewable energy sources
- Discover new jobs



QUESTIONS & COMMENTS