

# landscaped

## TEACHER'S GUIDE TO OUTDOOR LEARNING: AUTUMN



little bluestem  
landscape architecture

*Little studio, deep roots.*

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Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture  
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# ABOUT landED

As landscape architects, we are responsible for the design of beautiful, livable outdoor spaces. At Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture (LBLA) this responsibility often translates to working with community groups in education, healthcare, and daycares. But we feel that there is potential beyond the construction of landscape designs for programming that establishes a key connection with nature. This belief led to the development of landED, a program through which we reveal the intricacies of landscape systems, and guide our communities to engage with outdoor space to its full potential. We have worked closely with the Manitoba Curriculum and local educators to ensure all our lesson plans and workshops can fit within the framework laid out by our province.

A source of inspiration for our team has come from the Landscape Architecture Foundation's *21<sup>st</sup> Century Call to Action*. This declaration critically examines the power of landscape architecture to respond to the global experience of climate change, urbanization, management of vital resources like water, and global inequities. Through our work, we join a passionate community working to answer the call to action at this critical time when the talents and services of landscape architects are so vitally needed.

We believe outdoor education is critical, especially in youth. So in 2019 we established landED: a landscape enrichment program by LBLA. landED is committed to helping communities engage with their environment. We offer land-based design and environmental learning through lesson packages, placemaking toolkits, and interactive outdoor workshops. Our focus on nature programming extends to all seasons of the year, adapting to the drastic landscape changes we experience in our northern climate.

landED programming takes into consideration the different scales of landscape availability, from hardtop schoolyards, to forest and field exploration. Our programming offers safe and inclusive lesson plans and activities that promote risky play through nature-based exploration. No matter the outdoor space, age, or skill level, landED offers programming that works to meet your needs. LBLA's design clients also have access to content specifically tailored towards activating the landscape spaces designed by our firm. With our knowledge and passion for landscape architecture and the design of ecological systems, our team is excited and ready to help you enliven and connect with your outdoor spaces.

**LANDSCAPE + EDUCATION = landED**

## INDIGENOUS ALLYSHIP AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at LBLA acknowledge that the Indigenous people of Manitoba and North America have been providing land-based education to their children for centuries. We recognize that due to the history of colonialism and residential schools, the tradition of land-based teaching has been systematically disrupted. As signatories of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord, we are committed to acknowledging the history and impacts of colonization, while consulting and engaging with Indigenous Peoples to address the need for ongoing land reconciliation. We believe in the importance of incorporating Indigenous pedagogy into educational practices, and cultivating places that are reflective of Indigenous worldviews. At landED we are dedicated to creating programming for individuals to engage in design-focused educational practices that reflect a spirit and intent of reconciliation, while advocating for landscapes that acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous teachings and practices.

We are a small business on Treaty One territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba, filled with passionate, professional nature-lovers who are very committed to improving the environment. In order to support our local business so we can keep doing the work we love, please pay and download content for your own classroom use only. Honour system in full effect!

We would love for you to share updates using the hashtag #landEDMB, so we can be a part of your journey to integrate landED in your classroom. Your reviews and feedback help us grow, so please reach out to us on any of our social media platforms:



@landED.MB



@landEDMB



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*Thank you for your support!*



# CHANGING SEASONS

## INTRODUCTION

As we shift into a new season, now is the time to assess your outdoor classroom practices, see what is working for you, and plan for the cold months ahead.

In this seasonal guide we will discuss establishing a daily routine, long-term planning, safety measures as the weather changes, and brainstorm activity ideas.

## CLIMATE AS A GUIDE

Manitoba's drastic seasonal changes provide a clear framework for students to conceptualize the passage of time.

Students can create a seasonal notebook, to use at school or home to record the changes of the season. It is particularly important to suggest investigations that can take place whether learning is at school, or remote.

### **SEASONAL CHANGES STUDENTS CAN ADDRESS MAY INCLUDE:**

- What are the visual changes in the landscape that we see every year?
- When do these changes begin, and what is the first one you notice?
- Does your family have traditions that occur at this time? What are you most looking forward to doing?
- How do you feel when you are outside in autumn, compared to how you felt outside in summer?

## SAFETY MEASURES

Now is the time to work with parents to establish an outdoor safety kit for each student. This may include items like fall gloves, thicker socks, a toque, rainboots, sunglasses, etc.



### **SEASONAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

Establish a game plan as a class for how to deal with any seasonal risk that may be present, such as wasps and drops in temperature.

The creation of this kit can be done in collaboration with the students, as a brainstorming exercise on how to stay safe as the weather gets cooler. If students feel well-prepared for outdoor adventures while the weather is still relatively mild, the shift from Autumn to Winter will go more smoothly as well.



# AUTUMN BRAINSTORMING

## EXPERIENCE THE CHANGE OF SEASON

Daily routines for students to perform either at school or at home can include an observation of colour changes, animal migrations, and temperature change. Encourage students to take daily photos from the same location; this practice can lend itself to an art collage project at the end of the season.

## ESTABLISH YOUR OUTDOOR PRACTICES & PROCESSES

Use the first few months of school while the weather is still nice to establish your class' outdoor agreements and procedures.

For more guidance on creating outdoor agreements, consult "A Brief Introduction to Outdoor Learning: Teacher's Guide" available for free download at [littlebluestemla.com/store](http://littlebluestemla.com/store)

## PLANNING FOR YEAR-LONG LEARNING

Autumn is the perfect time to gather natural materials for year-long learning. Take advantage of the natural materials available at this time of year, before they're covered in snow. Discuss with students how to bring the outside world inside to study!

## CREATE AN INDOOR GARDEN

Establish an indoor garden with your class in the fall. Choose to bring plants in from the outdoors, or grow new ones for seeds. Starting new plants in the fall provides the opportunity for your class to study and examine plant growth all winter. Then, come spring, you have already established plants to take outside and create a community garden.

Don't have windows in your classroom? Many cheap and easily accessible plant lamps can be purchased through Amazon, consider exploring getting one of these lamps to bring the outdoors into your classroom this winter.



### ACTIVITY IDEAS

With your class, gather leaves, press flowers, and any other materials you might wish to study or use over the winter. Gather these materials now to use them throughout the year. This gathering exercise can also be performed by students individually at home.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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