

2008 Growing Greener School Grounds Conference ~featuring keynote speaker: author Richard Louv~ Friday October 10th & Saturday October 11th

This fall, the San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance will host the third Growing Greener School Grounds Conference, a workshop-style event that will bring together approximately 250 teachers and community members from all over the San Francisco Bay Area to learn more about creating, using, and sustaining ecological schoolyards. Building on our two previous successful conferences, held in October 2002 and 2004, the October 2008 conference will give participants the opportunity to learn ecology-related curricula, construction, and gardening techniques while simultaneously improving the grounds of the schools hosting the workshops. The conference will take place Friday, October 10th (evening) and Saturday, October 11th (all day). Friday evening's portion of the conference (Oct. 10th) will be at St. Mary's on Gough and Geary, and Saturday's workshops (Oct 11th) will take place at 3 SFUSD school sites: Alvarado, Sanchez and Sherman Elementary schools.

Conference Format

Day 1: The events on Friday evening will introduce conference participants to the multiple benefits of ecological schoolyards through a networking and resource fair as well and an inspirational keynote speaker. The networking and resource fair will provide information, contacts, and materials that conference attendees can use in the classroom, in their communities, and on school grounds. The evening will feature a keynote address by [Richard Louv](#), acclaimed author of *Last Child in the Woods*.

Day 2: On Saturday, three San Francisco public schools will host a wide variety of half-day or whole-day workshops that offer information, resources, and the hands-on experience in horticulture and garden-oriented green building techniques. Participants will learn skills they can apply later at their own schools. Curriculum-oriented workshops will teach participants how to connect their existing lessons to their green schoolyard. Each conference participant will have the opportunity to attend one whole-day or two half-day workshops.

Workshop topics will include such things as:

- Building outdoor seating in the schoolyard using natural and recycled materials
- Fostering community participation in ecological schoolyard design, construction, and stewardship
- Schoolyard water systems and their curriculum connections
- A variety of composting methods
- Native habitat gardening
- Teaching science and math in the schoolyard
- Mosaic tile work with reused/recycled materials
- School

gardening: beginner, intermediate, advanced• Building and using bird and butterfly gardens• Pond ecology and solar-powered pump systems• Cooking with garden produce• Animal husbandry: bees and chickens

Please check the SFGSA website

(http://www.sfgreenschools.org/conference_08.html) for more information on how to register in late-August. In the meantime please direct inquiries regarding the conference to Rachel Pringle at rachel@sfgreenschools.org, or at 415-355-6979 ex.3224

The 2008 Growing Greener School Grounds Conference is sponsored by the San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance, SFUSD, the David B. Gold Foundation, The Foundation for Ecology and Culture, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center, and the Studio for Urban Projects.