



Incorporating Nature-Based Learning Experiences into the Curriculum: A Pilot Study at Guttman Community College



Nature-Based Experiences in Higher Education

Campus and building design

Domestic/international travel offerings

Freshman orientation programs

Field trips

Elective courses

Science/environmental education programs

Mental health (eco-therapy)

Residential programs (nights/weekends)

Nature-Based Learning

“Nature-based learning, or learning through exposure to nature and nature-based activities, occurs in natural settings and where elements of nature have been brought into built environments, such as plants, animals, and water” (Jordan & Chawla, 2019, p.2).

- increased well-being
- academic achievement
- pro-environmental behaviors and attitudes
- improved cognitive functioning
- increased attention and motivation
- improved social relationships
- decreased stress

NBL Faculty Group

Spring/Summer (Year 1)	Fall (Year 1)	Spring (Year 1)	Summer/Fall (Year 2)
Stakeholder support Faculty group member recruitment Define the purpose of the group. Development of nature-based learning experiences Development of an evaluation plan IRB approval (if needed)	Development of nature-based learning experiences Implementation of nature-based learning experiences	Implementation of nature-based learning experiences Data analysis	Data analysis Disseminate findings.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Participating in a nature-based learning experience increased my engagement in the lesson		3%	16%	34%	46%
Participating in a nature-based learning experience increased my understanding of the lesson being taught		2%	12%	39%	47%
Participating in a nature-based learning experience was enjoyable for me		2%	12%	32%	54%

Oftentimes, learning the material inside the classroom walls can feel boring and inapplicable to our lives. So having to investigate our parks was exciting and something to look forward to. I think that many students, like myself, did not acknowledge the biological elements in the greenspaces around our neighborhoods. Our reflections became an opportunity for us to express our creativity and the trip itself felt liberating.

Undoubtedly yes! It keeps students on their toes and encourages them to participate in the lesson in new and exciting ways, using senses that they don't get to access in the classroom (holding a crab vs. seeing one on a board)

As a visual learner, it was really helpful to participate in nature-based learning to retain information about the coursework, and it feels a lot more enriching.

It helped me visualize concepts that we had previously discussed in the classroom in a way that lectures, slideshows, etc. couldn't.

Before engaging with the park, I hit the refresh button on my senses and discovered many new elements that I was not aware of before. I was encouraged to explore the curiosity I did not know I had in me about this greenspace. Overall, this experience was really fun and I hope to encounter similar projects in the future.

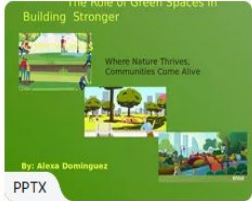
Introduction to Urban Community Health

Urban Green Space Project

- Role of urban green/blue spaces
- Naturalistic observation
- Presentation



alexandominguez44 13h



Where Nature Thrives, Communities Come Alive

By: Alexa Dominguez

PPTX


Green Spaces

1

Anonymous 16h

Dariel Dominguez

Urban Green Space



Urban Green Space

PDF

1

nicolekras 1m

Dariel-Thank you for sharing your observations and providing insight into how the park supports community health!

Add comment

Anonymous 2d

Central Park



Joshua Weir

PDF

Urban Greenspace Project

1

nicolekras 2d


Joshua-Thank you for sharing so many ways that Central Park supports community health!

Add comment

Anonymous 2d

Nayelis Lopez

Urban green space



PDF

Green Space Project

2

nicolekras 2d

Nayelis-Nice job identifying multiple ways that green spaces can support community health!

Add comment

Anonymous 2d

Urban Green Space Project

By: Jasmin Cabrera

PDF

Presentation1

2

nicolekras 2d

Jasmin-I like how you included information (and photos) on how green spaces are not just important for community health, but also for animals!

Paula Sigcho 2d

Hello Jasmine! Nice job as Professor Kras mentioned green and blue spaces also impact the lives of the animals because these types of spaces provide the habitat of various species as well as samples in your presentation, squirrels, turtles, and birds 🐿️🐢🐦.

Add comment

Anonymous 2d

Urban Green Space

By: Marlo Carr

PDF

Untitled presentation

1

nicolekras 2d

Marlo-Great photos! I like your slide on all of the activities to do at the park!

Add comment

Elizabeth 3d

Urban Green Space Project

YC Parks & Communities

Urban Green Space Study

By: Elizabeth Reyes



PDF

Urban Green Spaces

1

nicolekras 2d

Elizabeth-I like your comparison of the two parks! Well-organized presentation!

Add comment

Anonymous 3d

Ashelyn Hernandez

Urban green Space

Ashelyn Hernandez

PPTX

Urban Green Space

1


nicolekras 3d

Ashelyn-Good job identifying many benefits that Mill Pond provides! Good use of visuals!

Add comment

nicolekras 12d

Maira's Urban Green Space Project



Urban Green Spaces

Maira Rojas

PDF

Copy of Parts & Types of Trees for Education Infographics by Slidesgo

2

nicolekras 12d

Great job Maira! It looks like you were also able to have some fun in the park while you were there.

Paula Sigcho 2d

nicolekras 3d

Bryant Park

Miguel Cruz

PDF

Nature-Based Learning Experience, Urban Green Space Project

1


nicolekras 3d

Miguel-I love how you added your own experiences and voice to the presentation!

Add comment

Salvatore Oddo 3d

Frank M. Charles Park - Salvatore Oddo



Salvatore Oddo

Frank M. Charles Memorial Park

PDF

Urban Green Space Project- Salvatore Oddo

2


nicolekras 3d

Sal-Great overview of the park and the benefits it provides for community health. Great images!

Paula Sigcho 2d

ANTON MARTINEZ 13d

Cunningham Park



ANTON MARTINEZ

Cunningham Park

Urban Green Space Project


PPTX

Urban Green Space Project

2

Anonymous 3d

Urban Green Spaces



Urban Green Spaces

PPTX

Urban Green Spaces copy

1

nicolekras 3d

Great presentation-but no name included

Add comment

audry18 14d

Audry Abreu

Anonymous 4d

Oriana Calderon

Urban green spaces.

Bryant Park

Oriana Calderon

PDF

Urban green space project.06_0

1

nicolekras 3d

Oriana-Very creative presentation that provides a wonderful overview of the impact green spaces can have on community health!

Add comment

Introduction to Urban Community Health (Professor Jones)

Assessing the resources available and the needs of community members is critical in designing public health strategies about Pollution in New York City. Walk through your neighborhood or near school, create a visual project with photos where the city is trying to curb pollution (rooftop gardens, public green spaces, recycling spots). Along with the photos reflect on where the city is trying to curb pollution/generate solutions/suggestions for the city. Post your pictures along with your reflection.

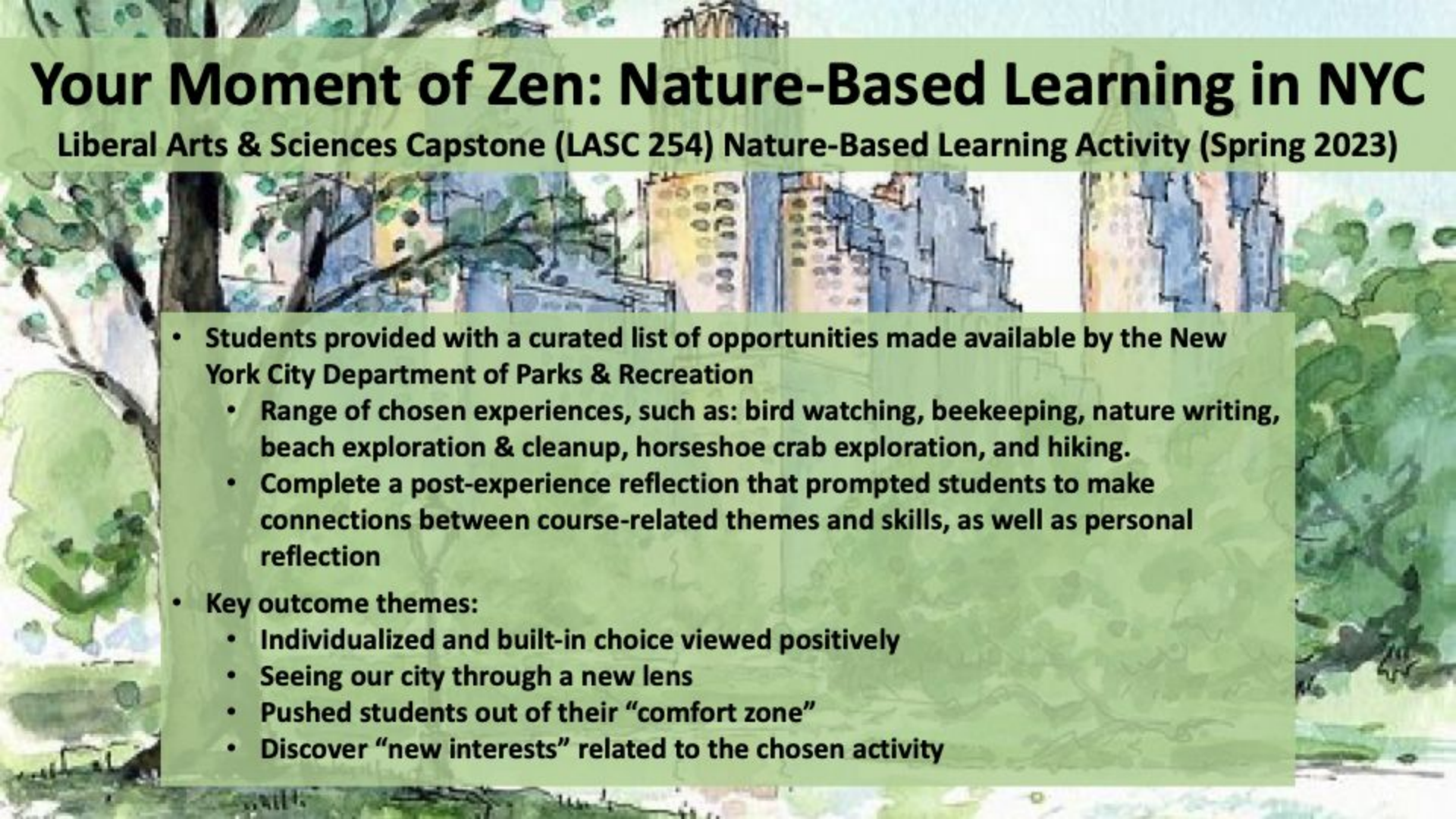
Requirements:

Nature-Based Learning Experience: Environmental Concerns.

With all of pollution in New York City they are trying to curb pollution by using rooftop gardens, public green spaces, and recycling spots just to name a few. The rooftop gardens, public green spaces have several benefits such as reduce urban island heat effect, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create a habitat for wildlife.

For this nature-based assignment on environmental concerns you will complete the following steps.

1. **Walk through your neighborhood or near school, create a visual project with photos where the city is trying to curb pollution (rooftop gardens, public green spaces, recycling spots).** Some examples are Bryant Park (across from Guttman), Central Park, Prospect Park, or Pelham Bay Park.
2. Take a minimum of four photographs of these areas where the city is trying to curb pollution. Photographs must be taken by you. No internet photos will be accepted. Submit reflection on where the city is trying to curb pollution/generate solutions/suggestions for the city. Reflection notes are due by (25 points)
3. Create a slide presentation following the guidelines below.
 - Slide 1: A title slide on Environmental Concerns (Pollution) and your name
 - Slide 2: List some of the benefits of trying to curb the pollution within New York City from your readings, videos, class discussion, and/or your own research *Be sure to cite on your reference slide
 - Slide 3: A brief introduction to the information you found within your neighborhood or new school (Guttman) you selected
 - Slide 4: Your image and explanation on how it supports curbing pollution
 - Slide 5: Your image and explanation on how it does not support curbing pollution
 - Slide 6: Your image and explanation on a rooftop garden, public green space or recycling spot that helps curb pollution.
 - Slide 7: Look up your air quality in your neighborhood by going to the "housing and neighborhood conditions" tab and provide an explanation on why you think it is either high or low.
 - Slide 8: Reference slide
4. Upload your presentation to Blackboard by 10/20 (75 points)
5. Submit your grading rubric to Blackboard
6. Complete the nature-based learning survey: [Nature-Based Learning Survey](#)

A watercolor illustration of a city street scene. In the foreground, there are green trees and foliage. In the background, several tall buildings are visible, rendered in shades of blue, yellow, and orange. The overall style is soft and artistic.

Your Moment of Zen: Nature-Based Learning in NYC

Liberal Arts & Sciences Capstone (LASC 254) Nature-Based Learning Activity (Spring 2023)

- **Students provided with a curated list of opportunities made available by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation**
 - Range of chosen experiences, such as: bird watching, beekeeping, nature writing, beach exploration & cleanup, horseshoe crab exploration, and hiking.
 - Complete a post-experience reflection that prompted students to make connections between course-related themes and skills, as well as personal reflection
- **Key outcome themes:**
 - Individualized and built-in choice viewed positively
 - Seeing our city through a new lens
 - Pushed students out of their “comfort zone”
 - Discover “new interests” related to the chosen activity

Nature-Based Learning Academic Commons

Nature-Based Learning Academic Commons



Nature-based Learning

Questions

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