Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning
Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning
Using the Outdoors as an Instructional Tool, K–8

Herbert W. Broda
To my wife, Janet, and our children, Emily, Matthew, and Michael.
Sharing nature with you is my idea of a perfect day.
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I thought that writing the acknowledgments would be easy! Easy it was not. This book builds upon decades of experiences, as well as a philosophy that has been shaped and rethought through school visits, readings, and countless conversations with students, teachers, and colleagues. It’s impossible to identify all of the influences that are reflected in these pages, but I want to highlight a few.

I am greatly indebted to several people whom I interviewed during my research. Their candid and enthusiastic responses reaffirmed my commitment to outdoor learning and provided practical, teacher-tested advice and activities. A special thank you to these folks:

Kristin Metz and Kirk Meyer of the Boston Schoolyard Initiative (BSI) provided practical suggestions and wonderful photos. I was delighted to discover this organization that is dedicated to promoting the enhancement and use of the schoolyard for instruction. The good that BSI is doing in the Boston area is both amazing and inspiring.

Teacher Linda Lang, an avid birder, shared her enthusiasm and insights for integrating the outdoors into instruction. Her experience enhancing the school grounds for outdoor instruction at two elementary schools provided many practical tips. I enjoyed an interview in a camp dining hall with longtime camp director Jerry Dunlap and his son, Trevor. They shared their philosophy and approach to initiative tasks and spoke eloquently of the power of a camp experience. Their enthusiasm is infectious.
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