

Kate Lacouture

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Education

Master of Landscape Architecture, **University of Virginia**, *Charlottesville, VA* 1994

Bachelor of Arts, **Yale University**, *New Haven, CT* 1989

Organic Land Care Professional, NOFA/Northeast Organic Farming Association, 2006-present

Professional Experience

Registered Landscape Architect (RI LICENSE #390) & Garden Activist

Owner/Principal, Green Circle Design *Providence, RI* (2004-present) Green Circle Design (GCD) practices sustainable landscape architecture, promoting alternatives to the typical American front lawn, using native plants to preserve habitat and encouraging organic methods of gardening. GCD strives to inspire and empower kids by teaching them the impact of their decisions as citizens on the environment. Student gardeners come to understand their connection to the natural world and its other inhabitants; they develop an appreciation for the health and environmental benefits of locally-grown organic food (and are more likely to eat it!); and they get the valuable hands-on experience of caring for a growing garden. Because school gardens can be difficult to maintain, given the school year calendar and the curricula and standardized testing demands placed on teachers, we promote a hybrid model of community garden-school garden with curriculum integration.

Project Designer/Project Manager, Marta Fry Landscape Architects *San Francisco, CA* (1996-2003)

Project Designer/Project Manager, The Office of Cheryl Barton *San Francisco, CA* (1997-1998)

Landscape Designer, Mai Arbegast Landscape Architects & Horticultural Associates *Berkeley, CA* (1995)

Landscape Designer, Ken Kay Associates *San Francisco, CA* (1994-1995)

Design Intern, Child Associates *Boston, MA* (1993)

Draftsperson, Quennell Rothschild Associates *New York, NY* (1989-1992)

Portfolio of Relevant Projects

Pleasant View Elementary School, Providence, RI

GCD is working with teachers and therapists from the PVE school community to design accessible playground and garden spaces to accommodate the school's large special-needs population. (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)

Mount Hope From-Food-Relief-to-Food-Sovereignty Project, Providence, RI

GCD is working with the Mount Hope Empowerment Dialogues for Community Action Collaborative to increase the food production in the Mount Hope Neighborhood and to provide children and adult residents with the knowledge of where their food comes from and the skills needed to grow their own food. (Fall 2015-Fall 2016)

Native Perennial Garden/Curriculum Integration at Reservoir Ave. Elementary School, Providence, RI

GCD is collaborating with UPP Arts to develop and teach a 10-week program for 2nd graders in spring 2016 related to the design and planting of a native perennial garden. (Fall 2015 - Spring 2016)

Montessori Community School of Rhode Island, Providence, RI

GCD designed a nature-inspired play yard and garden for the Montessori school's new building on the south side of Providence. (2015)

General Street Park Educational Pollinator Garden, Providence, RI

GCD was hired by Partnership for Providence Parks to design a pollinator garden at the Providence Parks & Recreation headquarters to be used for teacher trainings and summer youth programs. (2015)

Father Lennon Park Community Garden, Providence, RI

GCD was hired by Partnership for Providence Parks to help a group of Southeast Asian youth realize their vision for revitalizing their neighborhood park. Phase 1 was a community garden designed by the group in a series of collaborative meetings and community presentations. We built raised beds and a dragon entry

pergola for the garden. Phase 2 will include a public orchard, parkour structures and more planting in the park. (2014-present)

PPSD School Garden/Science Curriculum Integration Pilot Project, Providence, RI

As part of Providence Healthy Communities Office's Lots of Hope Greenhouse project, GCD worked with the Science Curriculum Specialist at the Providence Public School District as well as teachers from each grade at Fortes Elementary School and Alfred Lima Sr. Elementary School to connect their garden to curriculum based on Next Generation Science Standards and to develop garden-based lesson plans to be shared district-wide. (2014-2015)

Sessions Street Community Garden, Providence, RI

Garden Manager (2007-present). At the Sessions Street Community Garden, I also run the Providence COMPOSTS! pilot project (Spring 2015-present) and the East Side Hub for Southside Community Land Trust (2013-present).

Lots of Hope's Manton Bend Community Farm, Providence, RI

GCD designed the Manton Bend Community Farm, the first project of the City of Providence's Lots of Hope Program, an urban agriculture initiative that allows unused city lots to be turned into productive urban farms. Manton Bend has community garden growing space for the neighborhood as well as market growing space for the African Alliance of Rhode Island. GCD participated in a team design and public review process with Southside Community Land Trust, Providence's Healthy Communities Office, the African Alliance of RI and a neighborhood group assembled by the local City Councilman. (2013)

Science Garden at Nathan Bishop Middle School, Providence, RI

GCD designed a pollinator garden for this Providence Public Middle School to be used as an outdoor learning lab for 6th, 7th and 8th grade science classes. We planted garden with students and continue to work with teachers to integrate the garden into their curriculum based on Next Generation Science Standards. (2012-present)

School-Community Garden at the Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School, Providence, RI

GCD worked with Family Service of RI to design and set up a school-community garden hybrid at this elementary school on the south side of Providence. We collaborated with DownCity Design to build raised beds at a community build day. (2012-2013)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School-Community Garden, Providence, RI

GCD designed and built a school-community garden hybrid at this Providence Public Elementary School. We manage the Community garden and run the school garden program. Students plant their gardens at Field Day in the spring and hold harvest celebrations when they return in the fall. Fifth graders plant the "Garden of Plenty" which provides fresh produce to food-insecure families in the school community throughout the growing season. Community garden members care for the school garden during the summer. (2011-present)

Children's Garden at the International Charter School, Pawtucket, RI

GCD designed and built a school garden for this bilingual elementary school in 2007. We manage the school garden program and work with teachers on curriculum integration. Kindergarten students plant lettuce in April and eat salad in June before they leave. Other grades plant gardens in the spring (salsa garden, potato patch, pizza garden) and harvest when they return in the fall. Students helped design the garden and their artwork was the inspiration for metal garden sculptures built by the Steel Yard. (2007-present)

Garden Time Prison Gardens at the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI), Cranston, RI

Garden Time Prison Garden Project is an ongoing gardening program at three facilities at the RI ACI: Men's Maximum Security, Men's Medium Security and Women's Minimum Security. Through the process of gardening, we foster education, inspiration and empowerment; teach inmates to grow their own food for economic and personal self-reliance; and identify and connect with existing opportunities to allow for permanent re-entry into society. We designed the program, wrote the Garden Time Curriculum Guide and work in the gardens weekly with the inmates. See www.gardentime.us for more information. (2010-present)

See www.greencircledesign.net for photos & additional projects. References available upon request.