

Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus – Spring 2026

CLASS TITLE: GVNCP – Landscape Architecture Zoom

GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: ages 7 to 18

FORMAT: online

START DATE: January 23, 2026 **END DATE:** March 13, 2026

WEEKS TOTAL: 8 weeks **DAY/TIME:** 3:00 to 5:00 PM (2 hours per day)

DAY OF WEEK: Friday, the class is 8 Fridays in a row **# HOURS (REQUIRED):** 16 hours total (16 total lessons)

LOCATION/ADDRESS: DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION :

At your home on Zoom software

MAIN INSTRUCTOR: Zoe Elrick

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 269-612-8172

Email: galienvalley@gmail.com

Website: www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html

Please email the instructor to let her know that you signed up for her class.

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS: Zoe Elrick

Zoe Elrick has a background in education, culture, science, art, history, as well as landscape architecture and ecology. In 2011, she started the Galien Valley Nature and Culture Program (GV-NCP), in Three Oaks, Michigan. Also, she is a registered landscape architect in Michigan and has worked for Pizzo and Associates, an ecological restoration firm of prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. Her landscape architecture degree is from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Plus, she has taken nature classes in New Jersey at the Tracker School of nature awareness, wilderness living, and wilderness survival.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (websites):

www.z-hub.org/galienvalleyncp.html

www.z-hub.org/nature.html

<https://www.facebook.com/GalienValleyNCP/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Nature-Environmental-Advocacy-45111822807/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Class is mostly indoors, with 10 minutes outdoors in your backyard each day of class. This class is both informative and fun! Explore landscape architecture and yard design. It's a discussion class and drawing class. Kids can talk with other kids and a teacher about art, sculptures, plants, design, backyards, and swing sets with other kids. We'll be looking at photos of backyards, gardens, swing sets, and more. We'll be drawing backyards and gardens too. Recommended: during class, at least for the first few days of class, parents to assist students, that are under age 12.

Backyard Nature Zoom Topics include:

Landscape architecture, yard design, trees, flowers, patios, sculptures, swing sets, gardens, art, drawings, plans, design journal, and more.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Teacher provides web page with sheets for student to print out at home.

(Required) Required to bring to class (provided by student/family):

1. Smart phone, iPad, and or computer (laptop or desktop) with Zoom software.
2. Printer to print out sheets about landscape architecture. Every week, print 3 new sheets, before the class period starts on Friday.
3. Dress for outdoor weather in your backyard. (This class is mostly indoors, but there'll be about 10 minutes during each class to go outdoors to notice things in the landscape.)
4. 3-ring binder for landscape drawings and journal and a hole puncher
5. hole puncher
6. unlined paper 8.5 x 11" (printer paper)
7. tracing paper 8.5 x 11" (25 sheets)
8. pencils
9. colored pencils
10. crayons

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING ACTIVITY, 2 lessons per week (within 2 hours)

Week 1 - Jan 23 – Intro, and Winter Plants

Week 2 - Jan 30 – Backyard Plans, and Elevations

Week 3 - Feb 6 – Hardscapes, Patios, and Sculptures

Week 4 - Feb 13 – Topography, and Water

Week 5 - Feb 20 – Native and Exotic Plants

Week 6 - Feb 27 – Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers

Week 7 - March 6 – Swing Sets, and Tree Houses

Week 8 - March 13 – Review, and Organize Design Journal

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Each day of class, a student will draw / sketch and write in his Nature Journal.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status? All classes abide by the following:

1. Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
2. The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned into Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, etc., may result in program discontinuation.

Student Assessment: Students to: 1. Be prepared / bring materials. 2. Listen to teacher. 3. Ask questions, if don't understand. 4. Be on time to class. 5. Do class activities. 6. Do activities to the best of ability of age. 7. Respects classmates. 8. Be open to suggestions. 9. Stay on task of class activities. 10. Brings required materials (see list below).

CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

Attendance: Students need to attend 80% of class hours.

Behavior: Students are expected to be on time, bring required materials (see list below), listen to teacher, follow directions, participate in class activities, and respect classmates.

Weather: Class will be postponed until next week, if there is severe weather.

(Bring) Bring Required Materials:

See above, Course Materials.