

Learning Ecosystems: An Introduction with Examples

A CENTERING YOUTH THRIVING WEBINAR



12PM EST / 9AM PST
2 July 2024

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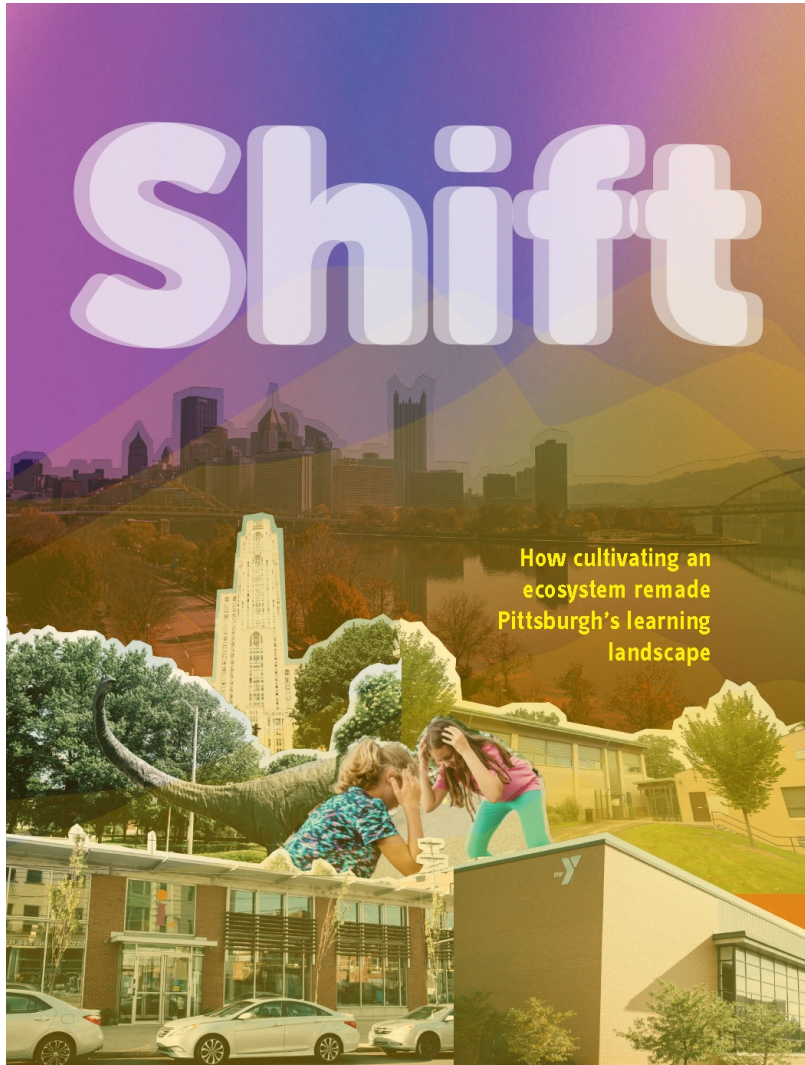


“Using ecological thinking changes the way we see the ecosystem itself: it is no longer a collection of participants and learning places with separate essences that need to be connected for individual children. Instead, the learning ecosystem emerges as a constellation of intertwined and entangled elements, where learning happens through dynamic relational processes among the people, places, and stuff we find across/within/ between school and out-of- school places.”

- Hecht & Crowley (2019)

Learning ecosystems may be found anywhere, but it takes careful stewardship to help them thrive. In cities and suburbs, small towns and rural villages, communities are beginning to recognize the people, places, resources, and experiences that help young people learn as part of a complex and dynamic web of relationships. These communities are taking steps to cultivate their learning ecosystems to serve children and youth better.

Shifting our thinking can shift our reality. By broadening our view of education to include the entire learning ecosystem, we can unlock the limitless potential for learning inherent in our communities.



We can shift how the adults that power the learning ecosystem interact

We can shift how organizations and institutions tackle problems

We can shift how systems are structured

We can shift how families engage in education

We can shift how children and youth experience learning