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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three new partnerships with CitySprouts ensure more Boston children learn science outdoors
CitySprouts “Early Start in Science” outdoor programs aim to engage 1000 more students in 2022

[CitySprouts](#), a 21-year old outdoor science education program for elementary students in Cambridge and Boston Public Schools, welcomes three new BPS partners. Adding the Rafael Hernández (K-8), Samuel Mason (K0-5), and Pauline Shaw (K0-3) schools to CitySprouts’ portfolio brings the organization’s engagement in Boston to 12 school partners.

Over the summer, learning gardens will be planted and established at the new schools. Starting in the fall, BPS teachers and CitySprouts garden educators will collaborate to bring engaging, grade- and standards-based science lessons to students, with opportunities for studying seeds and insects, working in soil, and using their senses to smell, touch and even eat what they grow. CitySprouts approach is to complement and reinforce the teaching that happens in the classroom with experiential projects that advance students’ science knowledge and social emotional learning. The garden offers a sense of place and community, fostering children’s affinity for the natural world and inspiring them to learn about it.

CitySprouts Executive Director Jane Hirschi said that CitySprouts’ goal is to ensure more schools are able to offer an early start to science and a beautiful garden space that students feel is part of their school and community.

“These three new partnerships not only grow our reach, particularly in Dorchester and Roxbury, they also significantly increase our impact. We are thrilled that Boston Public Schools continue to recognize the CitySprouts program as an exemplary STEM literacy program that makes science more accessible to students.”

CitySprouts was founded in 2001 with a mission to cultivate wonder and curiosity for all children with hands-on science learning through urban gardening. With the new BPS partnerships the organization maintains a total of 24 school garden classrooms in Cambridge and Boston public schools, with a focus on equitable access to natural spaces and early science engagement. CitySprouts also leads tuition-free summer and after school programming for 11-14 year olds, creating a community for young people to learn about their natural environment, engage in science and engineering through ecosystems and food systems, and explore their emerging identity as young adults.

For more information, visit www.citysprouts.org.

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