FAYETTEVILLE — Fayetteville Elementary School in rural Lawrence County is the winner of the 2010 Indiana State Tree Farm Association's Outdoor Laboratory Award.

Sycamore Land Trust’s environmental educators assisted in designing and implementing a project that improved a 20-year-old trail near the school. The plan included a nature complex integrating a native prairie, a successional plot and an amphitheater.

All 200 kindergarten through fifth-grade students worked on it.

The tree farm association encourages the development of outdoor classrooms and deemed Fayetteville Elementary’s prairie-and-woods classroom “a well-balanced program that goes beyond simple awareness and identification.”

The school received a $500 check, a plaque and a letter of appreciation from U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.