

CEDAR NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHING GARDEN

Introduction

School gardens programs not only promote healthy lifestyles in children, but have also been shown to improve children's behavior and performance at school and improve their attitudes about and appreciation for the environment. Gardens serve as great outdoor classrooms for any number of subjects, including science and ecology, math, creative writing and art. School gardens are wonderful spaces for kids with different learning styles and abilities to work in groups and engage in hands-on, cross-disciplinary education.

Timeline

Cultivating strong relationships with stakeholders will ensure that the garden project receives consistent attention and support to help it thrive. Stakeholders are people or organizations that are invested in and necessary to the success of the garden project. Stakeholders in school garden projects include the school and school administration, teachers, facilities staff, parents, and members of the community.

- To ensure the success of the teaching garden at Cedar North Elementary, we have enlisted stakeholder support from Cedar North Elementary principal and teachers, students from Southern Utah University, staff members from the Utah State Extension, and staff members from the Dixie National Forest - which we will call the "Garden Team". The Team had its' first meeting to discuss the vision, mission and goals for the garden and the role the Garden Team will play. To solidify this stakeholder partnership we have created and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the roles for North Elementary, USU Extension and the Dixie National Forest (currently the students with Southern Utah University are working in cooperation with the Dixie National Forest). This Garden Team will play a central role in establishing the garden, and planning for the garden's future.

Vision

The Cedar North Elementary school teaching garden supports student **STEAM concept** understanding across academic curriculum, gives students access to a healthy food source, and **provides** connections between the school and the community.

Mission

The Cedar North Elementary school teaching garden's mission is to improve the education, health and well-being of students, families, and the larger community.

Goals

- Cultivate student curiosity and exploration.
- Support student nutrition at school and at home, and encourage every child's ownership over his and her own health.
- Cultivate children's joy in learning by providing opportunities for hands-on learning in school curriculum subjects.

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- Provide opportunities for students to take on leadership roles. Support students in sharing their own ideas and having their voices heard.
- Make your school a healthier and greener environment by practicing sustainable gardening techniques that restore natural resources and by teaching students that small steps can go a long way towards creating a healthier environment.
- Teach students and community members about the joys of hard work and physical activity.

Garden Design



1. Possibilities for the garden:
 - Indoor & Outdoor classroom use
 1. Indoor seed starting;
 2. Indoor growing labs to start plants;
 3. Theme gardens;
 4. Pollinator garden;
 5. Vegetable garden;
 6. Native plant garden;
 7. Food for improving children's diet and nutrition

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8. Healthy influences – physical activity, ingredients for school meals
 9. An area of learning – about nature, agriculture, nutrition, math, and other subjects
 10. A place of pleasure and recreation – flowers and shrubs, play areas, shade, eating areas
 11. A continuing lesson in respecting the environment and taking pride in one's school
- Community use
 1. A gathering spot for community to socialize
 2. Other?
 - Clubs in the summer
 1. 4H
 2. Eagle Scouts
 3. Boy Scout/Girl Scout Troops
 4. Boys & Girls Club
 5. Civic Clubs
 6. Other?
 - Volunteers Resources
 1. Students, teachers, staff
 2. Look for local volunteers with gardening experience and ties to horticulture;
 3. Contact local farmers along with public and private organizations related to the agriculture industry;
 4. Garden club members;
 5. College students enrolled in plant sciences or education programs;
 6. Plant nursery staff,
 7. Landscape designers or architects;
 8. USU Extension Master Gardeners;
 9. 4H Clubs
 10. Local neighbors;
 11. Government agencies (SOP)
 12. Non-government organizations (NGOs)
 13. Parents and Families
 14. PTA/PTO
 15. Eagle Scouts
 16. Boy Scout/Girl Scout Troops
 17. Boys & Girls Club
 18. High School FFA Students
 19. SWATC
 20. Community
 21. County Health Departments
 22. Civic Clubs
 23. University Service Clubs
 24. [FoodCorps](#)

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25. [AmeriCorps VISTA](#)

26. [SlowFood Utah](#)

- Produce goes to whom?
 1. Cafeteria
 2. Students
 3. Farmers Market
 4. Care and Share
 5. Under privileged
 6. Community
 7. Other?
- Possible grant options
 1. Funding Opportunities listed on Utah Agriculture in the Classroom web page: http://www.agclassroom.org/utah/utah_garden/funding.cfm
 2. USDA Funding Opportunities <https://peoplesgarden.usda.gov/funding-resources>
 3. Food Corps Grant Opportunity:

<https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/schools/programs/school-garden-grant-program>

2. Possible timeline for implementation:

- April 2016 – Forest Service met with Cedar North Principal Whittier to discuss concepts for Teaching Garden as part of new campus to support STEAM program.
- September 2016 – Presentation on Garden Concept to PTA board
- October 2016 – Met again with Mr. Whittier
- November 2016 – Created Garden Team
- November 2016 – Memorandum of Understanding
- December 2016 – Garden team meets with Iron County School board to gain approval on Teaching Garden MOU and plan.
- December 2016-June 2017 – Grant writing and donation seeking to fund raised beds and other materials.
- May 2017 – June 2017 – Finalize garden location and layout
- June/July 2017 – Cedar North Elementary new campus completion.
- August 2017-January 2018 – Donated materials and 6 beds built including Installation of raised beds, and irrigation system on new campus

Recommendation from Wasatch Gardens School Garden Coordinator

- February 2018 – Plant Salad (lesson: Planting a Rainbow)
- May 2018 - Plant Pumpkins, Harvest Salad, (Lesson, Salad Party)
- August 2108 – Plant Beets
- Sept – Oct – Harvest Pumpkins (Lesson, Eating Pumpkins)

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- Nov – Dec 2018 – Harvest Beets (Lesson, Sugar Beets)
- Consider adding in other crops slowly over time.

3. Possible budget - TBD