

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Cornell Garden-Based Learning



School Garden Sustainability Plan

Getting Organized:

1. Who is taking the lead/overseeing the garden: volunteers, teachers, parents, staff, and maintenance?

2. Garden Committee Chairperson or co-chairs

3. Sub committees
 - a) Fundraising

 - b) Volunteer coordinator

 - c) Documentation/ handbook (to update to hand down to future volunteers/staff)

 - d) In-service & Education

 - e) other

4. Do you have funding? If yes, where is the funding from?

- National Grant
- Local Grant
- School Budget

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

PTA

Local Civic Organization

other

Keeping the Garden Growing Year after Year

Volunteer Retention

1. Volunteer Plan- who will coordinate this?
2. How will you recruit more people, teachers, volunteers, etc. for each school year?
3. Who will oversee this?

Participation

4. Garden Clubs / community service (before, during, after school? summer?)
5. Scouts- Gold/Eagle Awards
6. How could or will the garden be used in the summer or by after-hours staff programming?
7. Others?

Maintenance (use the more detailed Timeline for maintenance)

8. Yearly Maintenance plan- who will create and implement this?

9. Summer Maintenance Plan- who will care for the garden?
10. What kind of documentation or handbook will be written, who will create it? If it's an ongoing process, who will oversee it?

Funding & the Future

11. Future funding sources
12. Future projects- expansion of the garden

Some other things to consider...

13. Does your school garden have a history? Ask around and look for clues: are there tools or structures (like raised beds) that you could use for your garden? Sometimes gardens exist at schools that all of the staff does not know about. Also consider asking neighbors, older residents, retired teachers, or older students' families.
14. There are many people to cultivate relationships with for a successful garden...who might you recruit beyond those you listed above, that you could consider?

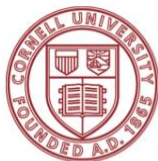
Some suggestions:

- Administrator/local officials. Support from your key administration is essential; with it, you can make your garden incredible!
- Custodial Engineer/local grounds crew. This person may be your greatest ally in the school for maintenance and enthusiasm (and it affects his/her job!). Talk to them and involve them in planning!

- At least 2 other school staff. This will keep you from being overwhelmed, ensure that the garden is used by more than one person, and will be your safety net if some of the original coordinators leave the school or community.
- Parents. Can help work with you and your students in the school garden.
- Surrounding community. By knocking on some doors, this group may offer the protection from vandalism and summer maintenance help that you will need.
- Local organizations, businesses, schools, and garden clubs for assistance in funding, installation, and maintenance.

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