

SPRING GLEN COMMUNITY GARDEN VISION AND PLAN

Goals of the Community Garden:

Provide an interdisciplinary, outdoor space where kids can investigate, learn about, and value the natural world.

Build community between students, teachers, parents, and the broader community by working together to maintain the space.

Provide teachers with cross-curricular resources and connections through invited experts and hands-on learning that connect to classroom learning *through science, math, language arts, social studies, and physical education.*

Ensure that students are learning about some of our world's biggest challenges: individual health, food sustainability, and climate change — through environmental, agricultural, and nutritional education.

* We believe providing another outdoor space for educators to take students is more important than ever amidst these pandemic restrictions, which is why we'd like to get approval for construction as soon as is reasonable to the board.

Timeline

Before the academic year we will communicate with our school community — students, teachers, and parents — to inform them of the garden, and to solicit participation in design and construction.

During the academic year we plan to sponsor an on-site field trip with outdoor educator from Common Ground, who will lead each grade in a thirty to forty-five minute demonstration and hands-on activity. Our aim of the 'field trip' is to support professional development opportunities for teachers who choose to incorporate the Garden.

We also aim to organize parent and community volunteers who will maintain the garden over the academic year and during the summer months.

Budget:

Materials for Building the Garden — \$2,000

Classroom Resources for Garden — \$500

Frankson Fence - \$2500

Storage Bin for Classroom Resources and Gardening Tools — \$350

On-Site Field Trip for Entire School — \$1,000

TOTAL — \$6,350

Fundraising:

The new Garden will be entirely funded through PTA funds and donated supplies; parents will build the Garden, hopefully with the help of students (and teachers, if they're interested!)

\$1,500 has been allocated in this year's PTA budget to support the physical building of the Garden. We also plan to seek funding support through Annie's Organics and Lowe's Corporation, both of which have dedicated funds for school gardens. In addition, we will seek out sponsors and host other low dollar fundraising, including having students purchase seedlings to plant in the spring.

Our Questions:

Water - We're budgeting for a 500' hose that will draw from a spigot on the backside of the building, and hang in a coil against the back side of the fence. If there are other water sources available (we're not sure how/if they water the soccer field, etc.) please advise us accordingly.

We've identified this garden site as the sunniest and safest place for a teacher to most easily take students, without risk of oncoming traffic, etc. The space we've designated also doesn't limit use of the playground and soccer field.

We have support of Howard Hornreich, our principal, interest from the Spring Glen Educators, and the garden will be entirely funded by the PTA.