

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 through invited experts and hands-on learning that connect to existing curriculum of science, math, language arts, social studies, physical education, art and music..

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.

Timeline

*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. 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 an 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 opportunities for teachers who choose to incorporate the Garden. We also plan 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 — \$1500

Classroom Resources for Garden — \$500

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

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

TOTAL — \$3,350

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 will also seek funding support through Annie's Organics and Lowe's Corporation, both of which have dedicated funds/donations for school gardens. In addition, we plan to seek out sponsors and host other low dollar fundraising, including having students purchase seedlings to plant in the spring.

Our Questions/Comments:

We are planning to use the existing fence on the playground area boundary, but will need to add fencing on the inside to designate the area in order to protect against soccer balls and animals. It also ensures a safer/more controlled space for teachers to bring students to the garden. Is there a BOE Approved Fencing type you prefer, and/or a vendor you want us to use?

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 take students without risk of oncoming traffic, etc. The space we've designated also doesn't limit use of the playground and soccer field.

Regarding our map, we'll likely want to add two picnic tables (a total of four) due to current safe distancing recommendations, as well as two gates/entry points, one from outside the fenced area (parking lot) and one from inside the playground area.

We have support of Howard Hornreich, our principal, and interest from the Spring Glen educators and parent community.

