Summer Only
Schoolyard Garden Programs

Recipe for success

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Thanks Plants!

Recipe for Life
What do you know? What do you want to know?

• Who is involved with a schoolyard garden that has some kind of summer program component.
• Who is involved with a schoolyard garden that does not have a summer component?
• Who is looking to start or get involved with a new schoolyard garden program?
Here’s a problem for us to consider with Schoolyard gardens:

The growing season coincides with summer vacation.
Solutions

1. Plant a spring garden with quick growing cool season crops. Harvest and done by Graduation Day.

2. Plant a fall garden with quick growing cool season crops. Harvest and done by Halloween.

3. Plant seeds in June and return in September to harvest.

4. Design a summer garden program.
Problem with solution #1:

Plant a spring garden

• Empty Garden all summer long…

…could become a study in succession ecology
Problem with solution #2

Plant a fall garden

• An empty garden all spring and summer…

...could become a study in succession ecology
Problem with solution #3

Plant a donut garden

• No program all summer and the garden…

…could become a study in succession ecology
“...And This is our Schoolyard Garden...”

...it’s our ongoing study in succession ecology.
If studying succession ecology is not a primary goal of your garden...

...consider adding a summer program component.
PLANTS USE UP SOIL TO MAKE WOOD.

I THINK YOU'RE WRONG AND I WILL TRY TO PROVE IT.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Hmmm...
Why:
Summer Garden Program

• Maximize the learning potential from a schoolyard garden.
• Summer offers opportunity for deeper utilization of the garden.
• More regular activity in the summer garden may lead to better maintenance.
• Opportunity to grow school partnerships.
Summer Garden Program: First Steps

• Goals and Outcomes: What does success look like?
• Define your Audience: Who will participate?
Summer Garden Program: First Steps

• Goals and Outcomes: What does success look like?
• Define your Audience: Who will participate?

PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL GARDEN PROJECT

Define Garden Program Goals

Define Outcomes For Success

Choose what PLANTS to grow

Choose the garden DESIGN

Choose what ACTIVITIES to do

Site Analysis Human Resources

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Possible Goals

Place to teach science **beautify the community** teach nutrition

**build a sense of community** demonstrate public service

Get outside **healthy 15 minute break** train future farm workers

Create a longterm, sustainable garden **Promote exercise**

Grow fresh food for the food shelf Grow fresh food for food service

Raise Awareness of local food systems **Beautify the grounds**

Promote healthy nutrition Get people outside **Raise**

awareness about where food comes from HAVE FUN

Provide a summer job for Teens **Beautify the landscape**

Create a place for Children to play Get people involved in a community building project

Get people involved in a community building project Opportunity to design something together Space to grow what you want

PERK FOR EMPLOYEES team building

Grow enough for the annual rhubarb pie party
PLANNING THE DETAILS
CHOICES TO MAKE

Choose what PLANTS to grow

$ Site Analysis
Human Resources

Choose the garden DESIGN

Choose what ACTIVITIES to do
PLANNING THE DETAILS

CHOICES TO MAKE

Choose what PLANTS to grow

Choose what ACTIVITIES to do

Choose the garden DESIGN

Site Analysis Human Resources

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PLANNING THE DETAILS

CHOICES TO MAKE

Choose what PLANTS to grow

Site Analysis Human Resources

Choose the garden DESIGN

Choose what ACTIVITIES to do
And make discoveries.

“Look what I found in the garden!”