PLANNING THE DETAILS

CHOICES TO MAKE

Choose what PLANTS to grow

$ Site Analysis Human Resources

Choose the garden DESIGN

Choose what ACTIVITIES to do

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Plant some Wow! Here, Fast growing sunflowers and trellised vines create a natural skyscrapers in the summer garden.
KEEPING YOUR GARDEN PROJECT ON COURSE!

MANAGING INCOMING

“We have a Rototiller & 10 people to till the garden... You pick the date”

“My Girl Scout troop is ready to plant seeds for you, BUT ONLY, on May 18”

“I’ve got free seeds for you to plant”

“I’ve been dividing Perennials in my garden, I will bring a bunch for the garden”

“I like water fountains, I’ll buy one for the garden”

“I would like to introduce you to a friend of mine that makes ceramic vegetables”

“I will give you 10 hrs per of labor your choice & I’ll do whatever is needed”

“I have $500 to give you - no strings attached!”

“I’m an expert on feeding the birds, and will teach kids to make bird feeders”

“I will teach kids about Ladybugs”

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Choose what PLANTS to grow

Choose the garden

Design

Choose what ACTIVITIES to do

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Summer Garden Partnerships

- Partnerships should be Win/Win
- Are there some obvious partners for summer programming?
- Define Roles and Responsibilities
- Craft an agreement and get it down on paper.
- What should your agreement cover?
WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN?

WHY?

JOSEPH PRIESTLEY’S EXPERIMENT ~ 1772
Program Logistics

• Who are the partners?
  – Youth organization, programming space, garden facility…

• What is the program schedule?

• Who will bring participants to garden program?
Audience: Registration and Record Keeping

• Who will be responsible for registering the participants and ensuring their attendance?
• Behavior, allergies, photo releases, restrictions?
Physical Considerations

• Where will program take place, identify meeting spaces in or near the garden—what about shade—who is responsible?
• Is an indoor space required?
• Access to bathrooms, water, shelter in case of inclement weather?
Actual program

• Who is responsible for leading garden activities?
• What supporting roles are required?
• What curriculum will be used?
Garden Maintenance: Behind the scenes maintenance plan

• Who is responsible for maintaining the garden for program use?
• Consider what garden maintenance will be required throughout the summer program and id what adult/adults are responsible. (don’t expect the 2nd graders to do all of this)
Garden practices:

- Organic?
- Pesticide, herbicide, use in what situations?
- What plants are grown, how acquired?
- How will harvest be used?
- Who is responsible to make these decisions?
NOT WEEDED

GARDENERS TO THE RESCUE!

WEEDING
PLANTS USE UP SOIL TO MAKE WOOD.

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

WHAT HAPPENED?
Van Helmont's Tree Experiment

200 lbs.

5 years later!

200 lbs.
Special Considerations for Summer Garden Programs

• What to Plant for such a short season
  – Want Seed to harvest in 7 summer weeks? Radishes and Beans are your best bet.
  – Transplants already grown-speed up the days to harvest.
  – Start some things early if possible-A pea patch planted in early May means peas on the first week of summer garden program-yum. Carrots, potatoes, greens, cukes, zukes all can be planted ahead for summer harvest.
Special Considerations for Summer Garden Programs

• What to do after the Summer Program Concludes:
  – Plan for maintenance, fall harvest, and putting the garden to bed. Are there any fall school garden program connections to be made?
  – Recommend harvesting gently so that the garden can retain beauty and productivity into the fall.
Special Considerations for Summer Garden Programs

• Preparing for a successful summer program in the Spring
  – Spring planting can mean the garden is productive and growing by the time the garden program begins.
  – Early summer weeds must be controlled. Plan for their demise—or they may relegate your garden to a succession ecology study before you even start.
Special Considerations for Summer Garden Programs

• Dig in deeper:
  – Summer weather, schedules, may allow for more time to really utilize the garden space for hands-on inquiry. Life cycles, rapid growth and change over time, pollination, minibeast searches… The summer garden lends itself to deeper, hands-on engagement with plants, and the dynamic natural communities that are gardens.
This harvest made possible by a summer garden program.
Thanks Again Plants!

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Handouts Available:
• Sample partnership agreement
• Program planning model
• Summer Urban Garden Job Opps
• Curriculum permission form