

Sample School Garden Proposal

Purpose

School gardens provide numerous opportunities to engage students outdoors, hands-on learning as well as provide a source of nutrition, wildlife habitat, a space for scientific observation and experiments. There are multiple variations and purposes associated with school gardens. These can range from a simple multi-unit first grade unit to a year-round, high tech project that results in youth providing food for their schools and communities. This is a space to explain how you want to tailor your garden to your students and the educational opportunities you wish to provide.

Some variations of a school garden may be: a fruits and vegetables garden to grow ingredients to afterschool snacks such as salsa, a variety of salads, herbs, berries, etc.; a native flora garden to provide habitat for local pollinators and unique Nebraska species; an experimental garden where students can compare different gardening practices and inputs in including new STEM-rich technologies such as, sensors, grow towers, drip irrigation, etc. ; a sensory garden for students to explore the textures, smells, colors and even sounds of nature; student-inspired ideas... There are many possible approaches / combinations – each garden should be unique!

Budget Justification

- Direct Personnel
 - Wages
 - 3 H.S. / College staff x \$10/10hr/week x 16 weeks = \$4,800
 - Guide student involvement in gardens
 - Maintain garden(s)
 - Assist instructors to guide student lessons / activities in gardens
- Equipment - Non-expendable
 - \$6,000 for garden materials (see sample excel file per Cozad Afterschool Program)
 - Multiple planter beds
 - Tools
 - Shed
 - Plants and seeds
 - Indoor seed-starters (may need to reallocate funds depending on size)
- Supplies
 - \$3,000 for educational project materials
 - Bird house kits or materials
 - Plant ID markers / materials
 - Science kits for soil testing
 - Jars and tools for canning
 - Table, canopy, and materials for farmers markets
- Training and Outreach
 - Consult Extension Master Gardeners and Educators
- Contract / Consulting
 - \$1,200 for garden design consulting
 - Potentially free or reduced fees from local landscapers

- UNL Extension: Master Gardener, Educators
- Administrative
- Summary:
 - \$4,800 for 3 student leaders for 16 weeks
 - \$6,000 for garden materials and tools
 - \$3,000 for garden projects and activities
 - \$1,200 for landscape consultation / planning
- Total = \$15,000

Sample Budget adapted from Cozad After School Program

Garden Materials	Price for each	Sample total	Notes
Garden Soil	\$8.00/2 cu bag	\$92	Soil for 4'x8' raised bed (x3)
Student Trowels	\$4.00	\$40.00	One for every 2-3 students
Student Shovels	\$9.00	\$27.00	2-3 total
Student Rakes	\$9.00	\$27.00	2-3 total
Hoses	50 foot/\$20.00	40	depending on you garden size – enough to water the whole garden
Nozzles	\$7.00	\$14.00	2-3 adjustable from mist to stream
Seeds	\$100.00- \$200.00	\$100	depends on what you choose to plant
Plants	Varies	\$450	depends on what you choose to plant
Raised bed Lumber – 3x3 foot boxes	\$40/premade	\$120	You can make them with treated lumber also
Landscaping fabric	3x50 feet/\$20	\$40	helps with weed control
Lanscaping staples	box of 50/\$6.00	\$12	use to keep landscaping fabric in place
Seed starting flats	72 cell/\$5.00	\$30	WAY cheaper to start your own seeds but you'll need grow lights
Seed starting soil	8 qt \$5.00	\$30	different than potting soil
Potting soil	2 cu bag/ \$14.00	\$42	Use this to transplant seedlings before putting them in the garden
Student Gardening gloves	\$3.00	\$60.00	nice if they have them to protect their hands
Weed chemicals	\$100.00	\$100.00	weed control is important but there are natural ways also
Watering drip system	varies	\$500	buy by the part – will depend on the garden size
Garden cart/wheelbarrow	\$90.00	\$90.00	necessary to move things around in the garden
Adult Shovel	\$25.00	\$25.00	One will usually do it unless you have lots of adults
Adult Spade fork	\$28.00	\$28.00	One will usually do it unless you have lots of adults
Sprayer	\$25.00	\$25.00	Necessary for chemicals

Sprinklers	\$20.00	\$20.00	There is a huge variety so garden shape will determine your choice
Mulch	\$4.00/2 cu	\$40	This goes on top of your landscaping fabric to extend the life
Compost	\$4.00/.75 cu	\$60	This will go in your raised beds each year
Storage shed 8-10'	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	Garden materials are bulky and need protection from weather
Indoor Seed Starting kit	\$700.00	\$700	Absolutely necessary for Nebraska seed starting
Library of Gardening books and curriculum	\$500.00	\$500.00	You can also access info online but kids like looking and learning
Outdoor sink that connects to a hose	\$140.00	\$140	Great to wash produce off a bit before bringing it inside or tasting
Rain Barrel (where applicable)	\$300.00	\$300	Applicable if near an approved structure
Total		\$4,652	

Sample Variation Ideas			
Garden Variations			
Native			
Plants			
	Super Bloom Box / 100ft2	\$144	Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
	Native Trees	varies	Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
	Zip-code specific	varies	Audubon Plant Finder
		varies	Wildflower Recommendations
General			
Plants			
	Education specific	varies	Sensory Recommendations
		varies	More Sensory Recommendations
	Fruit & Vegetable	varies	Seasonal Guides (at bottom)

Community Connections

- Garden Construction
 - Reach out to local landscaping companies for assistance in construction, excess resources (soil, mulch, old tools), and design assistance - can display logos on structures and promote their work in the community.
 - Reach out to Extension Educators and (if available) any local Master Gardeners for garden design assistance.

- Reach out to student families & local volunteer groups (churches, Scouts, local businesses, etc.) for help constructing physical gardens.
 - Ask volunteers and families to bring their tools (shovels, drills, wheelbarrows, etc.). Be sure to label or identify which tools belong to whom.
- Gardening Assistance
 - Consider local nursery or gardeners to assist in lessons and activities during planting, tending, and harvesting.
 - Reach out to local farmers markets and food banks for options in using excess produce.
 - Consult school administration and school board to incorporate produce into school lunches.
 - Consider inviting a local farmer to assist with lessons and activities.
 - Highlight local food processes and importance of shopping local.
 - Invite a local Arborist to assist in lessons on surrounding trees and any trees planted by students.
 - Invite a local Biologist to assist with species identification in a BioBlitz.

Sample Management Plan

School gardens are ideal outdoor and environmental education spaces because they continually foster and attract life while also providing fresh food for students, families, and members of the community. However, a garden may not grow the way it is intended or foster the desired life if it is not cared for on a regular basis. The following items are key to identify in order to create a flourishing garden.

- Administrative approval
 - Be sure to build the school garden in partnership with school administration for approval and streamlined future garden modifications, additions or actions
- Garden Contacts (at least two)
 - Name at least two individuals who will have the greatest knowledge of the garden (one primary, one secondary)
- Designate Responsibility (can be revolving or permanent)
 - Define responsibilities and delegate day to day needs of gardening (watering, weeding, etc.)
 - Keep a schedule and contact list to ensure communication and accountability
- Define Garden Purpose, Goals, Objectives, and track success
 - This can be student or teacher-led but should define what the garden is being built for (ex. showcase native plants, foster pollinators, aesthetic appeal, sensory garden, etc.)
 - What is the specific afterschool purpose?
 - Define objectives within each goal of the garden (educational objectives, production objectives, etc.)
 - How will the success and evaluations of the garden be measured?
- Create a timeline
 - Understanding variation in weather, create a schedule for garden construction, planting and afterschool / summer activities. This can be created with assistance from a contracted or volunteering expert.
- Create and maintain a resource plan
 - This grant money can go a long way, but it is important to understand ongoing costs and spending to ensure the longevity of the garden
 - Include a list of potential and realized community partners, tracking interactions including donated resources, materials, time and expertise

Resources

- **Beyond School Bells Curriculum**
 - <https://beyondschoolbells.org/curriculum/>
- **Community Gardening Toolkit**
 - <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/community-donation-gardening-toolkit/>
- **Native Plant Database**
 - <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
- **Native Trees and Shrubs**
 - https://www.gardeners.com/kitchen-garden-planner/preplanned-gardens?id=Salsa_Garden_Sm&SC=XNET0349&gclid=Cj0KCQiAO-6ABhDMARiAFVdQv9M3Bo2d5sBx2ApKhc7OvyqN6ojWLN2nsDP_pyKsFZE6o_xGgRg_fsaApj9EALw_wcB
- **Pre-planned Gardens**
 - https://www.gardeners.com/kitchen-garden-planner/preplanned-gardens?id=Salsa_Garden_Sm&SC=XNET0349&gclid=Cj0KCQiAO-6ABhDMARiAFVdQv9M3Bo2d5sBx2ApKhc7OvyqN6ojWLN2nsDP_pyKsFZE6o_xGgRg_fsaApj9EALw_wcB
- **Seed Starting Kit**
 - <https://www.gardeners.com/buy/3-tier-garden-starter-grow-lights-kit/8592343.html#q=grow%2Blights&simplesearch=submit&start=9>
- **Sensory Recommendations**
 - https://plantnebraska.org/file_download/bb3c3494-11a1-46b0-8a42-4354f9800cc2
 - <https://kidsgardening.org/growing-guide-sensory-garden-plants/>
- **“Summer in the School Garden”**
 - <http://www.growing-gardens.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Summer-in-the-School-Garden-A-Resource-for-Working-with-Volunteers-to-Maintain-your-School-Garden.pdf>
- **Supplies**
 - Gardener Supply Co.
 - https://www.gardeners.com/home?SC=XNET0348&gclid=Cj0KCQiAO-6ABhDMARiAFVdQv82E5tKGUMupKXrT61-jvSqw4qmRtqo69REgVnJsMYyT_h0eJvix-YaAiuCEALw_wcB
 - Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
 - <https://plantnebraska.org/plants/bloom-box/at-school/school-garden-options.html>
- **UNL Extension: Master Gardener Program**
 - <https://mastergardener.unl.edu/> (Potential consulting advice)
 - Email: Terri.James@unl.edu
 - Phone: (402) 472-8973
 - Junior Master Gardener Curriculum
 - <https://imgkids.us/lgeg/>
- **Vine Tent**
 - <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/131097039123782016/>
- **Wildflower Recommendations by region**
 - https://plantnebraska.org/file_download/inline/c9385c9d-c453-4e9e-ad39-f0d766ed4810