



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Rockland County

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School Garden Assessment

School _____ Phone Number _____
Principal _____ Fax _____
Address _____
Grades serviced _____ Total Number of Students _____
Number of teachers who have demonstrated a real interested or involved in being part of the
School Garden Team _____

Thank you for completing this survey.
Please return to Donna Cooke at CCE Rockland.

1. Do you have funding for your garden? If so, make note of your donors, and amounts:
____ national grant (please specify where from _____)
____ local civic organization
____ local grant
____ other – please explain _____
____ No funding
2. Is there any open space available to you around your school for a garden?
Open Space Available: Space is: Access and Security
__ Yes __ currently used __ fenced, locked
__ No __ currently not used __ fenced, unlocked
__ completely open
3. If you do have available open space, check which of the following you have:
__ landscaped garden __ unused parking lot/black top
__ patch of dirt __ other (please explain)
__ accessible roof __ concrete area around school
__ grass (adjacent to school, between two buildings) __ courtyard
4. What kind of light do these spaces receive?
__ Full Sun (6 or more hours of direct sun a day)
__ Partial Sun (2-6 hours of direct sun per day)
__ Shady (2 or less hours of direct sun per day)
5. Do any of these spaces have nearby water sources? If not, what is the closest water source available (*you may need to check with your engineer*)?
__ Yes __ No (how close) ____ feet
6. Do you know how safe your garden is? Check if:
____ You have you had your soil tested for lead
____ There are any raised beds that are using treated lumber to grow food

7. Do you have a convenient and secure storage space for tools, hoses and carts?
___ Yes ___ No (how close) ___ feet

8. How does or will the school use the garden?
___ Integrated into the curriculum ___ Individual lessons
___ After-school group ___ Community gatherings
___ Used by various teachers as an outdoor classroom, but not related to gardening

9. How could or will the garden be used in the summer or by after-hours staff programming? Please explain, giving times, days, details.

Some other things to consider when starting a school garden:

Does your school garden have a history? Ask around and look for clues: are there tools or structures (like raised beds) that you could use for your school garden? Sometimes gardens exist at schools that all of the staff does not know about. Also consider asking neighbors, older residents, retired teachers or older students' families.

There are many people to cultivate relationships with for a successful garden.

- Administrator. Support from your principal is key. With it, you can make your garden incredible!
- Custodial Engineer. This person may be your greatest ally in the school for maintenance and enthusiasm (and it affects his/her job!). Talk to them and involve them in planning!
- At least 2 other school staff. This will keep you from being overwhelmed, ensure that the garden is used by more than one person, and will be your safety net if some of the original coordinators leave the school.

Suggested

- Parents. Can help work with you and your students in the garden.
- Surrounding community. By knocking on some doors, this group may offer the protection from vandalism and summer maintenance help that you will need.
- Local organizations, businesses, schools, and garden clubs for assistance in funding, installation, and maintenance.

The School Garden Network is CCE Rockland and the Master Gardener Volunteers.
For more information or to join, please call 845-429-7085.

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