



ROLE OF THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

THE GARDEN COMMITTEE IS A GROUP OF DEDICATED PARTICIPANTS FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY WHOSE ROLE IS TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A GARDEN PROGRAM THAT WILL *LAST FOR YEARS*. THE SCHOOL GARDEN COMMITTEE SHOULD DEVELOP A WORK PLAN AND OUTLINE THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR AND BEYOND.

THE GARDEN COMMITTEE WILL...

- **Set regular meetings (monthly, quarterly).**
- **Outline tasks and time commitments; maintain a calendar/timeline for the activities.**
- **Plan garden design and installation with input from school community members, including principal, teachers, staff, community members, parents and students.**
- **Establish a plan for on-going garden maintenance (including summer garden care).**
- **Advocate for ongoing funding of the garden (through PTA or other appropriate body).**
- **Build strong accountability among current members and recruit new members (particularly with an eye to passing responsibilities of parents of graduating students to parents of incoming students).**
- Create an open forum for input and discussion by participants and new members.
- Seek grants and/or organize fundraisers to help cover garden expenses.
- Identify and leverage community resources and volunteers in supporting the garden.
- Create events, programs and activities in the garden (eg: Garden Openings, Harvest Festivals, after-school clubs, open houses, etc.) to invite school families, neighbors and other members of the community to celebrate the garden and become more involved in efforts to sustain it.
- Community Outreach and PR, including garden updates and events via school newsletters, school bulletin boards, school website or blog, neighborhood newsletters, etc.
- Develop a way to evaluate the success of the project in order to identify strengths and weaknesses that will affect sustainability.
- Report to the PTA or other school/community bodies as appropriate.

COMMON CHALLENGES TO EXPECT:

- Finding a consistent meeting time that works for all committee members.
- Making time to do assessments of the garden program.
- Utilizing the garden for programs/events/celebrations accessible to the community.
- Making use of the garden over the winter months.
- Maintaining the garden over the summer months.
- Planning, caring for and maintaining the garden with student participation.
- Keeping the school community interested and continuing to have active sustained participation in the garden.

ADAPTED FROM: **SCHOOL GARDEN COORDINATOR CERTIFICATE TRAINING MANUAL** (GROWING GARDENS, 2011)