



**GARDEN CITY
HARVEST**

BUILDING STRONG SCHOOL GARDEN COMMITTEES

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School Garden Managers
Garden City Harvest (Missoula, MT)
MT F2S Summit, August 2021

Welcome!

Introductions

Name, School/Organization, & What
interested you in this workshop?



**GARDEN CITY
HARVEST**

Garden City Harvest

Farm to School Program Overview

- F2S is one of four programs (Community Gardens, Youth Harvest, Neighborhood Farms)
- Gardens at 7 elementary schools
- Garden lessons in spring & fall; summer programs in the gardens
- Farmer in the Classroom
- PEAS Farm educational field trips



Learning Objectives

Following this session, we hope that you will be able to:

- Better understand strategies for harnessing school, parent, and community resources to power and sustain school gardens
- More effectively plan and facilitate a garden committee meeting
- Feel more comfortable developing garden committee goals



*Why are garden
committees
important to the
success of
farm-to-school?*



The 5 “P’s” of Effective Garden Committees

- Purpose
- People
- Place
- Preparation
- Process



PURPOSE

- What are different purposes a committee may have?
- Why is a purpose important?
- What should committees consider when setting goals?



PEOPLE

- Who are potential garden committee stakeholders?
- What strategies and tools can be used to recruit members?
- What are examples of volunteer roles on a garden committee?



PLACE

- What environments are most inviting to committee members for a meeting?
- What environments are least inviting to committee members?
- When and where can garden committee meetings take place?



PREPARATION

- What can be done in advance to make a committee meeting effective and efficient?
- What supplies and materials may be needed for a garden committee meeting?



PROCESS

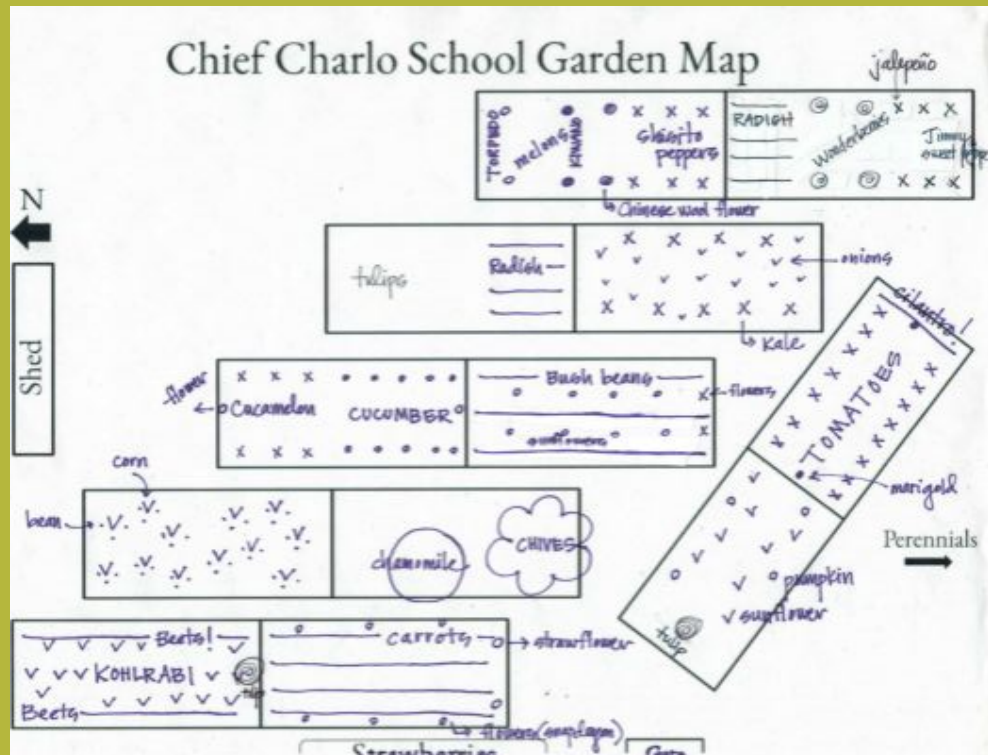
- During a meeting, what is important to keep in mind in order for it to be effective?
- What strategies can be used to make meetings go smoothly?



BEST PRACTICES FOR STAYING POWER

The map shows a garden layout with the following features:

- Top Left:** A box labeled "SHED".
- Below Shed:** A curved area labeled "Pumpkin patch!".
- Top Right:** A cloud-like shape labeled "Perennial & Native Plants" with "Rimbaro" written above it.
- Center:** Several rectangular garden beds:
 - RADISHES:** Labeled "Radish", "Lettuce", and "Pumpkin".
 - CUCUMBER:** Labeled "Cucumbers" and "Pumpkin".
 - TOMATOES:** Labeled "Tomatoes" and "Pumpkin".
 - PUMPKIN:** Labeled "Pumpkin" and "Pumpkin".
 - CARROTS:** Labeled "Carrots" and "Pumpkin".
 - Zucchini:** Labeled "Zucchini" and "Pumpkin".
 - Corn:** Labeled "Corn".
 - Beans:** Labeled "Beans".
 - Kale:** Labeled "Kale".
 - Spinach:** Labeled "Spinach".
- Bottom Left:** A small structure labeled "Hops" and "Pumpkin".
- Bottom Right:** A curved area labeled "X. Elders" and "Pumpkin".
- Right Side:** A vertical line labeled "Johnson Ave".



Hawthorne Outdoor Learning Center Staff Guide



Gate Access: There is a key available at the main office for the district lock and the combo lock code is **2835**. Please relock the gate so that both locks are usable.

Map: A laminated copy of the map is attached to the fence and in the shed.

**Please weigh and record produce harvested by using scale and harvest log in the shed.*

General Garden Expectations:

1. Respect all living things.
2. Ask permission before picking.
3. Keep a calm body and watch where you step.
4. Have fun!

In-school Garden Contact: Brian Christianson, Garden Committee Chair

Email: bchristianson@mcps.k12.mt.us

For garden scheduling, calendar, and access issues, Contact Brian.

Garden City Harvest Contact: Amy Harvey, School Gardens Manager

Phone: (406) 369-8198, Email: amy@gardencityharvest.org

For garden resources, harvesting inquiries, and general questions, Contact Amy.

Looking for easy ways to use the Outdoor Classroom? Here are a few ideas:

- Read, write, or do a reflection activity.
- Make scientific observations and journal throughout the year.

Promotional Materials



Open Hours Garden



**RATTLESNAKE
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**
THURSDAYS | 9AM-12PM
JUNE 24 - AUGUST 19
Come visit GCH staff in the outdoor
classroom for a fun, garden-based activity
and to harvest some free, fresh fruits and
vegetables!



Adopt-the-Garden



**DO YOU LIKE VEGGIES?
LOVE YOUR SCHOOL GARDEN?**
You can sign up to Adopt-the-Garden this summer!
You'll help by opening the garden for a couple of hours
during the week, whenever it fits into your schedule.
We encourage you to do some light weeding,
harvesting, and welcoming the community into the
space.

PERKS OF THE JOB:
Take home free fresh produce! Enjoy the outdoors!
Meet friends and neighbors!

INTERESTED?
Great! Contact Erin Austin to sign up.
erin@gardencityharvest.org
(512) 538-4585

Cultivating Curiosity McKinley year round school garden calendar

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
<i>Garden Maintenance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold fall meeting, determine committee roles (Committee coordinator, garden coordinator, parent-teacher liaisons, fundraiser, event planner, etc.) Set year long meeting dates & goals Harvest with students Turn over Beds and plant for fall Remove most of the Calendula Set up Cold Frames Plan Cover Crops Sheet mulch one or two beds Plant Garlic and Onion Plant Bulbs Prune back Herb bed Pull Mint Cut back Dahlias (leave a few inches and cover with leafy mulch compost) Plan for winter pruning of orchard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan year maintenance projects Dig in the garden Take bi-weekly temperature soil and air Start seeds indoors Start planning for Spring plantings Restraining square foot gardening bed Weed bed extensively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan fall programming (after school, in school, events, etc.) Coordinate outreach for parent volunteers Check Irrigation Prune and clean out herb bed Weed and mulch orchard Plant peas Plant potatoes on St. Patrick's Day Plant Greens, Salad Mix, Radishes, Turnips, Brassicas Weed Strawberry Beds, Plant Beans and other summer/fall crops Watch Rain levels, develop summer irrigation and harvest plan Observe bulbs as they grow and fade
<i>Classroom Activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Garden Observe Plants under, on or above ground Plant parts Johnny Appleseed Root Crops Cover Crops Harvesting Seeds Storing Food Squash Math Edible Flowers and Flower Dissection Potatoes-Harvest and History Trees that traveled along the Oregon Trail Corn-Harvest, History Ect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Garden-Observe Living and non-living items in the garden Soil exploration Natural vs. built environment on school campus Ecosystem studies Photosynthesis Solar Energy Tracking Weather-impact on garden Create a book about specific fruit or vegetable Get to know a local farmer Measuring/Mapping a garden to plan for spring Designing Spring Garden Companion Plants Finding Local in your lunch Gathering opinions about cafeteria food Advertising and helping with Harvest of the month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant seeds from starts Insects in the garden Pollination Bees Leaves, edible parts of plants Community or neighborhood gardens Seeds, what do they need Planting the garden Visiting the Farmers Market Market Day-have students play role of farmers Soil and Compost

Event & Progress Photos





Garden Celebrations!

- Garden Work Days
- Harvest Parties
- Potlucks
- Volunteer Appreciation Events
- Family-friendly Cooking Classes
- Thank You Notes
- FOOD!



Closing

- Closing Activity
 - From what was covered in this presentation, what was most relevant to your work?
 - What is one thing you learned today and are excited about putting into action?
- Questions?



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THANK YOU!

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