

MPS School Garden Survey

MPS is conducting a school garden survey! Whether or not your school has a garden, we'd like EVERY MPS SCHOOL to complete the following survey. It should take 10-20 minutes to complete if your school has a school garden; less if your school does not. The information gathered from this survey will help MPS and Youth Farm better understand how school gardens operate and what garden needs are so that we can provide support.

This survey may take more than one person to fill out! Please work with teachers, partners, volunteers, or students involved in your school garden to answer the questions as completely as possible. If you have questions, please contact Callie Recknagel at school.gardens@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Sincerely,
MPS Nutrition Services & Youth Farm

BASIC INFORMATION

* Required question

*School name: _____

*Your name: _____

*Email address: _____

*Phone number: _____

*Your role:

- Teacher
- School Administrator
- Other School Staff
- Student
- Non-MPS support organization staff (not on school payroll, eg. non-profit, after school, or cooperative extension staff)
- Community Volunteer
- Parent/family member volunteer
- Other: _____

If anyone else helped fill out this survey, please list their name, role, and contact information.

Name: _____

Role: _____

Contact information: _____

Did you know that MPS Culinary and Nutrition Services has a Farm to School program that sources fresh, local food from small farms in the area for school meals?

- Yes
- No

*Does your school currently have a garden on your school property (for the purposes of this survey: an outdoor growing space that includes edible plants)?

- Yes (Fill out Survey A – Have a school garden)
- No (Fill out Survey B – Do not have a school garden)

SURVEY A – Have a School Garden

GARDEN INFORMATION

Please provide the name, role and contact information of the main school garden contact (if different than above).

Name: _____

Role: _____

Contact information: _____

When was your school garden started?

- Within the last year
- 1-2 years ago
- 2-4 years ago
- 5-7 years ago
- 7-10 years ago
- Other: _____

Describe where the garden is on your school site. (i.e. the west side of the building, 20 feet past the parking lot)

What is the estimated square footage of your school garden?

What types of plants exist/will be grown in your school garden this academic year?

Check all that apply.

- Vegetables
- Herbs
- Berries
- Fruit trees
- Other fruits (i.e. melons, grapes)
- Flowers
- Minnesota Native Plants
- Other: _____

What features does your school garden have?

Check all that apply.

- Raised beds
- In-the-ground beds in one or more areas
- Planters/pots
- Sink(s) or wash station
- Outdoor covered harvest prep area
- Outdoor uncovered harvest prep area
- Fencing
- Food prep/Kitchen area
- Weather station
- Compost area
- Worm bins
- Tool shed/storage area
- Outdoor teaching area (benches, tables, seated gathering area, etc)
- Theme gardens
- Rainwater harvesting
- Solar panels
- Pond or water feature
- Interpretive signage
- Automated irrigation system
- Greenhouse
- Hoophouse
- Domestic animals (chickens, ducks, rabbits, etc.)
- Hydro/Aquaponics
- Other: _____

Has your school garden soil been tested?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Has your school garden been approved by the MPS Facilities department?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Is your school garden on park property?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

GARDEN USE

Which of the following audiences use the school garden?

Check all that apply.

- Students
- School teachers/staff
- Parents/family members
- After-school program participants
- Summer program participants
- Community members
- Volunteers
- Community partner organization
- Other: _____

When is the school garden space used?

Check all that apply.

- During class instruction time
- During recess
- During lunchtime
- Before school
- After school
- Weekends
- Summer program/camp
- Other: _____

What month(s) of the year is the school garden used (in a typical year)?

Check all that apply.

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

Describe how often and how many students use the garden. (i.e. 3 classes use it weekly, individual students use it occasionally during class time, all classes visit once a year as a field trip experience)

Who manages the FUNDRAISING, PLANNING & COORDINATION for the school garden?

Check all that apply.

- School teacher(s)
- Student(s)
- Administrator(s)
- Custodian(s)
- Master gardener(s)
- Parent/family member volunteer(s)
- College interns/volunteer(s)
- Other volunteer(s)
- Paid garden coordinator (school staff, on school payroll)
- Paid non-MPS support organization staff (not on school payroll, eg. non-profit, after school, or cooperative extension staff)
- Other: _____

Who maintains the school garden DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?

Check all that apply.

- School teacher(s)
- Student(s)
- Administrator(s)
- Custodian(s)
- Master gardener(s)
- Parent/family member volunteer(s)
- College interns/volunteer(s)
- Other volunteer(s)
- Paid garden coordinator (school staff, on school payroll)
- Paid non-MPS support organization staff (not on school payroll, eg. non-profit, after school, or cooperative extension staff)
- Other: _____

Who maintains the school garden DURING THE SUMMER?

Check all that apply.

- School teacher(s)
- Student(s)
- Administrator(s)
- Custodian(s)
- Master gardener(s)
- Parent/family member volunteer(s)
- College interns/volunteer(s)
- Other volunteer(s)
- Paid garden coordinator (school staff, on school payroll)
- Paid non-MPS support organization staff (not on school payroll, eg. non-profit, after school, or cooperative extension staff)
- Other: _____

Outside of teaching time, how many hours per week are spent maintaining the garden (during the growing season)?

What grade level(s) participate in garden programming at your school DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K | <input type="checkbox"/> Seventh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> Eighth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First | <input type="checkbox"/> Ninth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Third | <input type="checkbox"/> Eleventh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth | <input type="checkbox"/> Twelfth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |

What grade level(s) visit the school garden DURING OUT OF SCHOOL TIME?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K | <input type="checkbox"/> Seventh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> Eighth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First | <input type="checkbox"/> Ninth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Third | <input type="checkbox"/> Eleventh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth | <input type="checkbox"/> Twelfth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |

GARDEN PRODUCE

HOW is produce from the garden used?

Check all that apply.

- Outdoor cooking or snacking
- Classroom activities (such as tastings)
- Incorporated in school meals
- Students or community members take it home
- Donated
- Sold
- Other: _____

WHEN is produce from the school garden used? (Use your best estimate.)

Check one box per row.

	Very little or none of the produce	Some of the produce	Most of the produce	All of the produce
During the school day				
During out of school time				
Not used				

How and where is the school garden produce WASHED and PREPARED, and who is involved?

GARDEN EDUCATION

Who leads garden education DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

Check all that apply.

- School teacher(s)
- Student(s)
- Administrator(s)
- Custodian(s)
- Master gardener(s)
- Parent/family member volunteer(s)
- College interns/volunteer(s)
- Other volunteer(s)
- Paid garden coordinator (school staff, on school payroll)
- Paid non-MPS support organization staff (not on school payroll, eg. non-profit, after school, or cooperative extension staff)
- Other: _____

Who leads garden education DURING OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMMING?

Check all that apply.

- School teacher(s)
- Student(s)
- Administrator(s)
- Custodian(s)
- Master gardener(s)
- Parent/family member volunteer(s)
- College interns/volunteer(s)
- Other volunteer(s)
- Paid garden coordinator (school staff, on school payroll)
- Paid non-MPS support organization staff (not on school payroll, eg. non-profit, after school, or cooperative extension staff)
- Other: _____

In what curricular areas is the school garden used?

Check all that apply.

- Science
- Nutrition/Health
- English/Language Arts
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- History/Social Science
- None
- Other: _____

Which of the following positive observations have you made in your school garden participants?

Choose your top three choices.

- Increased environmental attitude(s)
- Increased community engagement
- Increased social skills/behaviors
- Increased leadership skills
- Improved attitude towards school
- Sense of volunteerism
- Improvements in health and nutrition
- Improved motor skills
- Academic gains
- None
- Other: _____

If you checked "academic gains" above, please describe where you have noticed academic gains.

(i.e. math, reading, test scores, focus, academic improvement in underperforming students)

What challenges have you encountered in implementing a school garden?

Choose your top three choices

- Lack of staffing
- Little to no knowledge about gardening
- Lack of garden supplies
- Lack of funding
- Difficulty linking to core academic standards
- Lack of volunteers
- No interest in having a garden
- Inadequate space
- The risk of vandalism
- Time constraints
- Few or no instructional materials
- Lack of technical assistance with gardening
- Other: _____

Does your school do anything to promote healthy eating/fruits and vegetables in the cafeteria?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

FUNDING/PARTNERSHIPS

During a typical academic year what is your annual total school garden budget? (for materials and support staff salary/stipend)

- I don't know
- \$0
- \$1-500
- \$501-1000
- \$1001 -\$2500
- Other: _____

From whom has your school garden received funds during this and last academic year?

Check all that apply.

- School or district funds
- Individual donations
- Community/business donations
- Grants and/or foundations
- PTA/PTO funds
- Non-MPS support organization
- In kind materials
- None
- Other: _____

Which support organizations have collaborated with your school garden on fundraising, teaching, coordination, curriculum, etc.?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appetite for Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Gardeners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beez Kneez | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Blooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Midwest Food Connection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farms | <input type="checkbox"/> MPS Nutrition Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Matters | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Sweetie Pie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest Moon Edible Landscapes | <input type="checkbox"/> Spark-Y |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeffers Foundation | <input type="checkbox"/> Whole Kids Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Cook Classroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local restaurants | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

GARDEN SUPPORT

What support topic(s) would most benefit your school garden program?

Choose your top three choices.

- Basics of building a school garden: Fundraising, community building, budgeting, starting a garden, etc.
- Gardening skills
- Garden-based learning instruction
- Outdoor classroom management
- Connecting garden curriculum with academic standards and classroom activities
- Garden-enhanced nutrition education
- English language learning in the garden
- Youth empowerment
- Food justice
- Other: _____

What other kind(s) of support would most benefit your school garden program?

Choose your top three choices.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to garden-based curriculum/education materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Support from a community partner organization in teaching garden lessons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesson planning time | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden coordinator staff position |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative support | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical assistance for gardening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer support | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Time scheduled within the school day for garden instruction | |

What type(s) of support would be helpful?

Choose your top three choices.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site training | <input type="checkbox"/> E-newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Off-site workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Social networking site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conferences or seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Webinars | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online courses | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail list | |

What type(s) of program evaluation or assessment have you used for your school garden program, if any?

Would you be interested in participating in a follow-up conversation to help determine how MPS and Youth Farm can support school gardens in Minneapolis?

- Yes
- No

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your school garden?

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY!

Please return your completed survey via inter-district mail to the MPS Nutrition Center, Attn: School Gardens; fax to 612-668-2830; or scan and email to school.gardens@mpls.k12.mn.us.