

2009-2012 Lincoln Options School Garden Strategic Plan

June 13, 2009

Our Vision

Enriching lives, cultivating connections, and deepening reverence for the natural world.

Our Mission

The mission of the Lincoln Options School Garden is to connect children, their families, and teachers to the natural world, to foster ecological literacy and environmental ethics, and to build the skills and values of stewardship, sustainability, and public service while growing organic food.

Our Objectives, Goals and Actions

Objective A: Establish sustainable operations

Goals:

1. Develop 2010 budget, including funding for garden manager and irrigation system.
 - A. Obtain up to \$26,000 to fund a half-time garden manager (20 hours per week x 52 weeks x \$25 per hour) by November 30, 2009.
 - B. Obtain funding and install year-around irrigation system by January 1, 2010.
2. Identify opportunities to reorganize our physical space (indoors and out) to allow for processing and use of harvest as a part of operations and curriculum by March 1, 2010, and Implement changes.
3. Secure Americorps employee to support garden strategic plan, to begin September, 2010.
4. Develop a plan to ensure increasingly sustainable operations of physical systems by April 1, 2011.

2009-2010 Actions:

1. Develop 2010 budget, include garden manager and water system.
2. Draft fundraising plan to implement budget.
3. Identify potential funders.
4. Apply to likely funders.
5. Assess physical space and make proposal to improve to appropriate body by March 1, 2010

Objective B: Optimize internal communications

Goals:

1. Include garden strategic plan in the Options Design for Learning (ODL 3) by January, 2010.
2. Revise the Options Community Council Handbook to recognize the garden as an integral school program, including council representation, committee structure, and chairperson, by March 1 2010.
3. Maximize participation in the program and optimize communication between teachers, garden manager, and volunteers, by identifying a teacher liaison, a volunteer coordinator, and a garden committee composed of class representatives, by September 30, 2009.

2009-2010 Actions:

1. Finalize strategic plan and present to OCC for inclusion in ODL3 by October 31, 2009.
2. Draft proposal to revise OCC handbook to include the garden and present to OCC by November 30, 2009.
3. Actively recruit volunteer coordinator and class representatives by appeals at all class meetings in September, 2009, and at the Harvest Festival.

Objective C: Enhance external connections

Goals:

1. Research and document operations and funding of other school gardens by September 1, 2009.
2. Nurture and grow connections with existing partners, like TESC (grant assistance, interns from sustainability, Ecological Agriculture, PSA, Educating on the Wild Side) and other relevant partners (GRuB, Great Western, Olympia Supply, Lew Rents).
3. Build strong partnership with the Food Bank by growing food for their clients.
4. Use the garden as a gardening education resource for Lincoln families, the neighborhood, and the surrounding community.

2009-2010 Actions:

1. Distribute research results to garden committee and staff.
2. Identify liaisons to groups including TESC, Food Bank, etc. as garden committee forms in order to facilitate relationships.
3. Harvest and deliver produce from designated beds to Food Bank.
4. Encourage families to sign up a summer saviors, and to use garden as location for children's play dates
5. Partner with SSS Urban Agriculture on workshops for Lincoln families in spring of 2010.

Objective D: Implement an integrated, place-based ecological curriculum:

Goals:

1. Audit in house, local, state, regional and national curriculum resources by June, 2010.
2. Assess current curriculum practices and identify opportunities for improvement by June, 2010.
3. Designate and utilize staff development process to support delivery of ecological curriculum by June, 2010.
4. Prioritize potential concepts and skills and identify timeline for phased implementation of all elements by June, 2012.
5. Develop timeline and strategy to align skills and concepts with state and national science standards by June 2012.

2009-2010 Actions:

1. Identify committee of staff and garden manager to perform curriculum audit by October 1, 2009.
2. Develop survey of current classroom practices, compile information, discuss in staff meeting by March 2010.
3. Identify four priority concepts to focus on for 2009-2010 school year.
4. Identify topics and dates for staff 3 development sessions of 2 hours each.

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Key Dates and Milestones

June 13, 2009

- 9/1/09** - Research and documentation of operations and funding of other school gardens complete.
- 9/30/09** - Recruitment completed and garden committee established.
- 10/1/09** - Committee of staff and garden manager established to perform curriculum audit.
- 10/31/09** - Strategic plan finalized and presented to OCC for inclusion in ODL3.
- 11/30/09** - Proposal to include the garden in revised OCC handbook drafted and presented to OCC.
- 11/30/09** - Funding obtained for half-time garden manager.
- 1/1/10** - Funding obtained and year-around irrigation system installed.
- 1/30/10** - Garden strategic plan included in the ODL 3.
- 3/1/10** - Survey of current classroom practices developed, information compiled and discussed in staff meeting.
- 3/1/10** - OCC Handbook revised to recognize the garden as an integral school program, including council representation, committee structure, and chairperson.
- 3/1/10** - Assessment of physical space completed and proposal to reorganize to allow for processing and use of harvest as a part of operations and curriculum made to appropriate body.
- 5/31/10** - Garden workshops for Lincoln families completed.
- 6/1/10** - Audit of house, local, state, regional and national curriculum resources completed.
- 6/1/10** - Assessment of current curriculum practices and opportunities for improvement completed.
- 9/1/10** - Americorps employee secured to support garden strategic plan.
- 4/1/10** - Plan to ensure increasingly sustainable operations of physical systems completed.
- 6/1/12** - Potential concepts and skills identified and prioritized and timeline for phased implementation of all elements completed.
- 6/1/12** - Timeline and strategy to align skills and concepts with state and national science standards completed.