



Cultivating Community in School Gardens

Mass Hort's Second Annual School Gardens Conference

February 19, 2016 · 8 am - 4 pm · The Gardens at Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA
900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482

- 8:00-8:30 Registration, networking and morning refreshments provided by Starbucks
- 8:30-9:00 Introductory Comments: Mass Hort President, Katherine Macdonald and Director of Education, John Forti
- 9:00-9:45 Keynote Address: **Cultivating Communities**, Liz Wills- O'Gilvie, Board Chair of Springfield Food Policy Council & Board Chair Gardening the Community
- 9:45-10:00 Break, morning refreshments
- 10:00-11:00 Breakout Sessions:

Place Based Education and the Garden

Susan Erickson of Weston Public Schools and John Forti of Massachusetts Horticultural Society

In this workshop, participants will learn how to integrate the place around your school and garden into your curriculum. We'll discuss heirloom and native plants, and how to connect gardens to history, diet and place.

Seedlings, Soil, and Trowels: Building a Toolkit for Integrating Gardening into the Classroom

Laura Olivier of Groundwork Lawrence and Hanh Lam and Grace Sliwoski of Regional Environmental Council Inc.

Join staff from Groundwork Lawrence and the Regional Environmental Council to learn best practices from two school and youth garden programs. Participants can expect to hear about common challenges and pitfalls as well as successful strategies and will leave with resources for how to effectively integrate gardening into the classroom.

Steps to Establishing a School Garden Program

Yola Cabrillana of Mass Master Gardeners, Liz Wills-O'Gilvie of Gardening the Community, Jessica Van Steensburg of Just Roots

Presenters will reveal basic steps, common barriers and best practices associated with successful programs. This workshop will include starting a program from scratch, re-vitalizing a pre-existing program, building a team to develop and support the garden within and outside of the school community, and will address the process/importance of CORI checks. Bring your questions.

Tour of the Natick Community Organic Farm (*must pre-register*)

Christine Schell of Natick Community Organic Farm

Discover agricultural education and farming in action at Natick Community Organic Farm. We'll explore some combination of animal pens, greenhouses, sugar shack, flower and vegetable fields, beehives, and more. Learn how our seasonally-based, school curriculum aligns with MA Curriculum Frameworks, and see a brief demonstration of a sample lesson.

- 11:15-12:15 Breakout Sessions:

Connecting Garden to the Cafeteria & Education through Harvest of the Month

Lisa Damon of Massachusetts Farm to School and Simca Horowitz of Massachusetts Farm to School

Mass Farm to School staff will discuss their Harvest of the Month program and how it can be used to connect the greater school community (garden, cafeteria, and classroom) around local food. Learn how Harvest of the Month tools can help integrate school gardens into cafeteria menus, classroom activities, and strengthen connections with local farmers.

Independent Management for School Gardens

Hope Guardenier of School Sprouts and Jane Hirshi of CitySprouts

CitySprouts and School Sprouts will present on their approach of bringing an outside garden program to work within a school system. They will discuss how they implement school gardens, what they offer to schools, how they are funded, and the outcomes we measure.

Resources for Robust School Garden Programs

Danielle Fleury of USDA Food and Nutritional Service, Karyn Novakowski of Somerville Public Schools, Val Snowdon of Mill City Grows

This panel presentation will provide an overview of USDA Farm to School Program resources that support school gardens, along with firsthand perspectives of two recent USDA Farm to School Grantees about the funding, partnerships, curriculum, activities, and other resources that have allowed them to build and sustain their gardening programs.

The Science & Fun of Seed Saving

Aileen Bellwood of Somerville Community Growing Center and Sonja Johanson of Mass Master Gardeners

Explore the logistics of saving seed, the basics of what to plant, and how to get viable seed. Learn about curricular activities that incorporate seeds and seed saving.

12:15-1:00 Lunch provided by Chipotle Mexican Grille

1:00-1:20 School Garden Summit Summary: Andrew Nowak, Slow Food

1:30-2:30 Breakout Sessions:

Ecologically Mindful Garden Planning

David Fiske and Hannah Traggis of Massachusetts Horticultural Society

Mass Hort staff will share garden plans and plant lists for gardens that are not vegetable gardens. Learn how to establish native perennials that support local wildlife, including pollinators.

Farm and School Garden-based Healthy Eating Curriculum: Models from Community Harvest Project and Slow Food USA

Alicia Cianciola of Community Harvest Project and Lauren Howe and Andy Nowak of Slow Food USA

This workshop will present two models of healthy eating curriculum based in a school garden and on an educational farm. Participants will be shown how to engage students in hands-on activities that build knowledge, skills and confidence to support life-long healthy habits

Green Team and Composting: Indoor and Outdoor Methods (bring a 14 gal bin)

Ann McGovern of Mass Department of Environmental Protection

Set up a classroom worm bin or outdoor compost bin to teach life science standards on energy, nutrient cycles and ecology through organic recycling. Bring a 14gal (or larger) plastic tote to build your own worm bin; worms provided free! Easy outdoor compost bins available from DEP's Green Team program demonstrated. Great tie-in with school gardening.

Many Needs for Your Project? Mini Grants from MAC may be Your Solution!

Roberta Oles and Marian Hazzard of Massachusetts Agriculture in the Classroom

Mass Ag in the Classroom's Mini Grant program is in its twentieth year. In that time, more than \$215,000 has been awarded to educators around the state. Apply for a Mini-Grant to help fund your school garden or other agricultural education endeavors. Learn about additional methods and resources from MAC to help you integrate agricultural education into the curriculum and your classroom.

2:45-3:45 Breakout Sessions:

Making the Connections: Learning Prep School Greenhouse and Horticulture Program 36 Years and Growing!

Seth Bernier and Peter Hinrichs of Learning Prep

A case study in program development and why diversity is the key to success and sustainability. Topics discussed will be revenue generating ideas, cross curriculum opportunities, seed to stomach programs, and community outreach.

Teaching STEM-Connected Lessons in the Organic School "Farm Garden"

Kelly Hartnett of SHED Children's Campus and Jon Belber and Janice McPhillips at Holly Hill Farm

Participants in this workshop will learn some practical ways to meet state standards in multiple subject areas while teaching in a school "Farm Garden."

Summit Open Space Forum

Find out about initiatives in Massachusetts that are underway to promote school gardens in the state. Let us know what you think is important to consider in this larger conversation.

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3:45-4:00 Closing Remarks

*Details Subject to Change

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