



Building a Support Network

Finding supplies and equipment for the school garden is the first step in creating a thriving school garden. Finding dedicated volunteers is essential for a successful school garden. DUG believes that these volunteers become dedicated caretakers of the school plots over the summer, and provide support for garden-related programming. Here are a few tips on how to find and involve volunteers:

Who can be a resource for your school garden program?

- Students
- Parents and other family members
- Community members
- Community gardeners
- Teachers
- The school administration
- The cafeteria manager
- Grounds and facilities
- School Wellness Committee
- Green School Committee
- Neighborhood businesses

How can you involve people to build a school garden committee?

- Host a back to school night in the garden
- Host events (social events; work parties; seasonal festivals) throughout the school year in the garden
- Have students present at a PTA/PTO meeting
- Meet with teachers
- Present at teachers' staff meeting
- Send flyers home with students

How can you keep people involved?

- Start the Youth Farm Stand program at your school
- Start the Garden to Cafeteria program at your school
- Start an after-school and/or summer garden club at your school
- Engage and regularly communicate with the Community Garden Leaders
- Invite community gardeners to attend school garden events
- Hold regular meetings
- Put notices in school bulletins – have a School Garden Corner in the bulletin/newsletter
- Involve everyone, including students, in decision-making
- Create visible signage around the school
- Develop a system that volunteers can easily plug into