

Background Information

Based on The Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, CA, Grow Pittsburgh's Edible Schoolyard engages students and their families in the work of growing, preparing, and sharing food. This is accomplished through weekly in-school lessons, quarterly extra-curricular events, and a summer garden care program. Currently the program operates at four elementary schools within Pittsburgh's east end.

Scope & Expense

In response to interest from parents, administrators, and educators across the region, Grow Pittsburgh is expanding the reach of its Edible Schoolyard program. This fall, two new schools will be selected. The program will be established at these schools in two phases over the course of 18 months. Phase 1 involves designing, constructing, and supplying the garden. This phase will take place in Spring 2012 at no cost to the school. Phase 2 involves implementing Edible Schoolyard lessons, holding outreach events, and establishing garden maintenance procedures. This phase will take place over the course of the 2012/13 academic year, and schools are expected to contribute toward the expenses Grow Pittsburgh incurs. For more information on pricing schedules, please contact jburnett@growpittsburgh.org.

Schools selected in this process have the option of continuing support from Grow Pittsburgh beyond the initial 18 months.

What criteria must a school meet to apply?

- Located within Allegheny County
- The ability to pay for assistance in academic year 2012/13
- Schools serving elementary age students given preference
- Schools with greater than 50% of students receiving free and reduced price meals given preference

GETTING HELP

For assistance while completing the application packet, contact Joshua Burnett, Grow Pittsburgh's Director of Educational Programming.

412-362-4769

jburnett@growpittsburgh.org

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

By Mail:

attn: Joshua Burnett
Grow Pittsburgh
5429 Penn Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Electronically:

jburnett@growpittsburgh.org

TIMELINE (2011-12)

Fri, Nov 11 Application deadline

Wed, Nov 30 New sites announced

Jan—Feb 2012 Program planning

Mar/Apr 2012 Site construction

May 2012 Planting day and training for summer care

Fall 2012 Regular programming begins

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Application form
- Site map
- Site photo
- Soil test
- Site permission
- Teacher letters of support (3)
- Parent Support Survey

School Information

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Principal Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

School District: _____

Superintendent: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Grade levels served by your school: _____

Percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals: _____

Total number of students enrolled in your school: _____

Estimated number of students who will participate in the Edible Schoolyard program: _____

Does the school have an active parent organization? yes no**Program Impact**

Why do you want an Edible Schoolyard program at your school? What outcomes would you hope to see as a result of the program?

SURVEY QUESTIONS

These questions will not be used to determine the eligibility of your school for an Edible Schoolyard program. They are for survey purposes only.

Does your school already have a garden? yes no

Does your school prepare lunch on site? yes no

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Please identify a program coordinator who can serve as Grow Pittsburgh's primary contact both for this application and for the planning and implementation phase.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Please describe the content you expect students to cover as part of their Edible Schoolyard lessons. Which subject area(s) will the lessons align with most closely?

In addition to those outlined in the “Scheduling” sidebar, there are myriad ways of scheduling ESY lessons. Please outline how scheduling might work at your school.

Please review the sidebar and describe the type of assistance from Grow Pittsburgh that would be most helpful after the garden has been constructed.

Do you envision Grow Pittsburgh’s involvement changing in successive years? If so, how?

SCHEDULING

Here are a few of the many possibilities for scheduling ESY lessons:

- Identify a handful of classes at the beginning of the year, and establish a weekly schedule for each.
- Regularly provide all classes with a menu of upcoming activities. Teachers sign up for the activities that interest them.
- Break ESY activities into units and assign those units to different grade levels. A class will meet weekly during its allotted unit.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE (A SAMPLING)

- Schedule and/or lead lessons
- Coordinate garden maintenance
- Create a planting schedule and yearly garden layout
- Provide supplies (e.g. seedlings)
- Plan, publicize, and execute community events
- Maintain communication between all parties
- Provide procedural instructions for specialized tasks

Site Assessment

Who owns the site? _____

Form of permission:

- Board approval. Date approved: _____
- Garden waiver (please attach a copy)
- Other: _____

How is the site currently used? Who maintains it?

How far will students need to walk to access the site? _____

Do any of the following wildlife appear at or near the site?

- groundhog rabbit deer

Is the site enclosed by a fence? yes no

Is the site lit after dark? yes no

Approximate site dimensions (please specify units of measure):

Garden Space

Does the garden space receive at least 6 hours of sunlight a day in spring and summer? yes no

What is the ground like in the garden space? (check all that apply)

- grass soggy weedy asphalt/cement
- rubble sandy compacted nothing growing

Which best characterizes the slope of the garden space?

- mostly level gently sloping steeply sloping

Does the school have an outdoor classroom?

- Yes. Where is it in relation to the garden space?

- No. Is there room to locate one near the garden space?

Site-related Attachments

- Please attach a photo of the site.
- On graph paper, please draw a map of the site that is roughly to scale. It should show the location of the garden space, water access, tool storage, the compost bin, existing trees and buildings, and any areas with significant slope. Please include a compass rose indicating North. (See the attached *Sample Site Map* for an example.)
- Please include a copy of the results of a soil test. If the results are not yet available, please list the date the samples were sent for analysis: _____

PERMISSIONS

Before work can begin on a site, you must obtain proper permission. If the site is on school grounds, the head custodian and the head of facilities for the district must be notified, and board approval must be secured. If the site is on city-owned property, a garden waiver must be secured. For assistance obtaining a garden waiver, please contact Grow Pittsburgh.

SITE COMPONENTS

A site usually contains at least three components: a composting area, a tool storage location, and a garden space. The garden space is the most important of the site components, as it is where the plants will grow, but the situation of the other components should not be neglected in a site plan.

SOIL TEST

UMASS-Amherst has an inexpensive soil test that measures lead content. The instructions can be found at www.umass.edu/soiltest. The Standard Soil Test costs \$10, and the results can be e-mailed to you within a week of their receipt of the sample.

Additional Attachments

The success of your Edible Schoolyard program rests on engaged teachers and committed parents. Please attach the following:

- Letters of support from three different teachers at the school. The letters demonstrate that there is sufficient interest from the teaching faculty in the program.
- The completed *Parent Support Survey* (attached). This is a list of signatures from at least twelve parents who would be willing to volunteer for the program.

CUSTODIAL SUPPORT

This program can have an impact on your custodial staff. Be sure to make them aware of the school's intentions to begin an Edible Schoolyard. Their input regarding site design and program implementation will be essential.

Signatures

HEAD CUSTODIAN

Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____

PRINCIPAL

Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____

SUPERINTENDENT

Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____

THE EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD • Sample Site Map



