Learning Garden Application 2016

Grow Pittsburgh and The Kitchen Community (TKC) have partnered to offer a school-based garden education program for schools across the Pittsburgh region. Learning Gardens are outdoor classrooms that are adaptable to any schoolyard and are designed to fit the space and needs of each school. The program will integrate garden and cooking activities into the regular classroom curriculum to support the development and education of the whole child. We aim to teach students to grow, cook and eat fresh food while celebrating the cultures and experiences of our students and our city. The work of Grow Pittsburgh and TKC in schools across the region is driven by the understanding that hands-on, inquiry-based learning has significant positive effects on the development of children and youth.

Grow Pittsburgh's school garden program began in 2007 and has been enhanced through a partnership with The Kitchen Community through the Learning Garden model in 2016. In this program, we work with school staff and community for two years to assist in planning and building on-site gardens. We work with teachers to train and host garden classes throughout the season and align garden classes with the school's mission and curriculum to create a dynamic, sustainable school-specific program.

We will select five new schools for garden builds in the fall and winter of 2016 to begin programming in the spring of 2017. Direct support and programming will run through the fall of 2018.

The application that follows will enable our team to evaluate whether the Learning Garden Program would be a good fit for your school. **Schools that meet the following criteria will be eligible to be considered for fall/winter 2016 garden builds.**

☐ Complete application (Parts 1-6, including photos) emailed or post-marked by **May 13, 2016.**

☐ Located in Allegheny County

☐ At least 4 organized and motivated people in your school garden leadership group. Groups can include any school staff and parents but must include at least two teachers interested in supporting this program

School Criteria (continued from Page 1):

☐ Signatures of support from school principal and head custodian

☐ A suitable site for gardening on school property with supporting photos and the completion of Part 3. Remember, Grow Pittsburgh can help you with this part

☐ Preference given to schools serving populations of at least 50% free and reduced priced lunches

☐ OPTIONAL: Attend an Affiliate School application information session

Note: If you don't meet these criteria, please submit as much information as you can and we will try to help you in other ways. Get in touch early and often throughout the process. The more we know, the better we can assist!

For assistance, please contact:

Jake Seltman
Director of Educational Programming
6587 Hamilton Ave #2W
Pittsburgh PA 15206
jake@growpittsburgh.org
412-362-4769 x102

(Application begins on the following page)

Part 1: CONTACT INFORMATION

The success of a school garden relies on committed and engaged teachers, school staff and parents. Please identify at least four individuals that would like to serve on the school garden leadership team. The first name should be the primary contact person. Responsibilities of the team include: organizing garden activities like watering, maintenance and harvest, connecting and engaging with other teachers and parents so that they can successfully use the space and communicating and collaborating with Grow Pittsburgh staff through the process of building the garden, running programming and creating a sustainable garden plan for years to come.

Primary Contact Person / Garden Team Member #1

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to school: _____

Garden Team Member #2

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to school: _____

Garden Team Member #3

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to school: _____

Garden Team Member #4

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to school: _____

Garden Team Member #5 (Optional)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to school: _____

Garden Team Member #6 (Optional)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Role and relationship to school: _____

Part 2: School Information

School Name: _____

Address:_____

City and Zipcode:_____

Phone: _____

Principal Name: _____

Principal E-mail: _____

Principal Phone: _____

School District: _____

School Neighborhood:_____

Student Diversity: %White_____ % Hispanic/Latino_____ %Black _____ %Asian _____ %American Indian/Alaskan Native _____ % Middle Eastern / North African _____ % Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander _____ % Two or more categories _____

Total Number of Students:_____

Grade Levels Served: _____

Free and Reduced Price Lunch Percentage: _____

Survey Questions

These questions will not be used to determine the eligibility of your school for a garden 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

Does your school have an active parent organization? □ yes □ no

Part 3: GARDEN SITE INFORMATION

Please identify a tentative garden site on school property and complete this section to the best of your ability. Grow Pittsburgh will help to identify the best location for the garden if you are selected and this is meant to be a starting point. You are encouraged to attend an information session or reach out directly to Jake (jake@growpittsburgh.org) if you have specific questions around this section.

We have found that the best locations for a garden are in plain view and easily accessible by all.

Photos:
The following photos and images are to be attached to the application:
- Four photos facing <u>toward</u> the proposed garden site from opposite directions (i.e. North, South, East, West). Include any obstructions in the photos and context of your proposed/preferred site
- One photo of the closest water source
- A Google Earth aerial photo showing where the garden site is in relation to the rest of the school
- If available, attach CAD drawings of the proposed site provided by the Facilities Manager or District

On what type of surface does your school plan to build the garden? In some cases, self-watering or irrigated containers on asphalt or concrete may be the best option. (check all that apply)

☐	Asphalt
☐	Concrete
☐	Grass
☐	Dirt

Describe the conditions of the surfacing (i.e. is the asphalt or concrete failing/cracking, is the grass currently irrigated, does the area stay wet after rainfall, is it over grown with weeds, is the soil very compacted?):

_____

_____

_____

_____

What is the exact dimension of the proposed site (i.e. 20' x 35')?

_____

_____

Are there any obstructions in the proposed area (i.e. light poles, irrigation heads, overhead or underground utilities, trees, etc.)? If yes, please explain and include the obstruction in your photos.

_____

_____

_____

_____

What is your school's plan for a water source for the garden? Are you connecting to an existing underground irrigation system? Are you planning to use the hose bib/spigot on the building? How far is the spigot from the proposed garden site? Please include a photo of your water source and confirm it is currently operable.

_____

_____

_____

Identify the proposed area. Check those that apply.

	On the playground or play space.
	In a fenced or private space.
	Interior courtyard with limited access.

Other: _____

Describe the context of the proposed area (i.e. entrances, site access, circulation, most occupied spaces, and surrounding areas).

_____

_____

_____

Does your site receive at least six hours of direct sunlight a day in the spring and summer months? □ yes   □ no

Which best characterizes the slope of your garden space?

	Mostly level
	Gently sloping
	Steeply sloping

Have you seen any animals in or near the proposed garden site (deer, ground hogs, rabbits, others)? Please be specific.

_____

_____

_____

Does the school have an outdoor classroom/gathering space?

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

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

Part 4: SCHOOL GARDEN VISIONING AND PLAN

How would you define a successful garden program at your school? Give examples of a few ideas you have to make your garden a success.

_____

_____

_____

_____

How does your school plan to integrate the garden with your school's curriculum and current programming?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Does your school have after school programs? Please outline them. Do you plan to integrate the garden into these programs? Please provide as much detail as possible.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Does your school have summer programs? Please outline them. Do you plan to integrate the garden into these programs? Please provide as much detail as possible.

_____

_____

_____

How do you plan to use the produce grown in the garden?

_____

_____

_____

How will you incorporate your community in the garden? How will the school get students and the school community excited about the garden?

_____

_____

_____

_____

Tell us about your long-term maintenance strategy for the garden. What garden resources does your school have available? (i.e. experienced staff, engaged PTO, neighboring community garden, etc.) Please explain.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Grow Pittsburgh will internally fundraise for this program and we do not want for a school's budget to effect its eligibility for this school gardening program. With that said, school fundraising for initial and ongoing yearly supplies like seeds and seedlings may be necessary. Please outline any strategies you might have for obtaining school garden focused funding.

_____

_____

_____

What is the biggest concern about installing and having a garden at you school? How will you overcome this concern?

_____

_____

_____

Part 5: EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT

Please provide the following signatures and contact information as evidence of support for this program. It is essential that all key personnel, including principals and custodial staff are in support of the program and have a say in the design and implementation of the garden.

HEAD CUSTODIAN

_____

Signature   Printed Name   Date   Phone

PRINCIPAL

_____

Signature   Printed Name   Date   Phone

Part 6: AGREEMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Garden team members 1-3 are asked to initial the following statements.

If selected to participate in the Grow Pittsburgh Affiliate School Gardening Program, I agree to:

_____ _____ _____ Coordinate and support Grow Pittsburgh teaching visits and teacher training opportunities over the first two years of the program.

_____ _____ _____ Work with Grow Pittsburgh and the school community to create a summer garden care maintenance plan

_____ _____ _____ Complete two surveys per school year to evaluate the impact of the program

_____ _____ _____ Comply with and help realize the values listed on Page 9

This application is compete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Primary Contact's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please postmark or email completed application by **Friday May 13** to:
Jake Seltman
Mail: 6587 Hamilton Ave #2W Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Email: jake@growpittsburgh.org

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VALUES

In January of 2015, Grow Pittsburgh adopted eight values to guide the long-lasting positive impact we strive to realize through our work within local communities. We include our values here to ensure all applicants are familiar with them. Our participation in your garden will be in accordance and we ask all partners to comply with and help to realize these values.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: prioritizing neighborhood voices to guide programs

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: using, teaching and advocating for restorative practices

EQUITY: working alongside communities to build access and power for all

FISCAL INTEGRITY: making responsible and effective use of available assets

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: supporting everyone's right to access, produce and distribute healthy and culturally appropriate food

RESOURCEFULNESS: creating hands-on opportunities to build individual and community self-sufficiency

SOCIAL JUSTICE: understanding systems of privilege, oppression and racism, and using this knowledge to drive our work

TRANSPARENCY: being accountable by using clear, direct and inclusive communication