

# Guilford County School Garden Network

The Guilford County School Garden Network brings together community stakeholders to create and sustain school gardens in Guilford County.

## Networking with other educators

- Connect to others providing garden-based education to share successes, best practices and questions at events.

## Professional Development & Workshops

- Seasonal gardening information and growing techniques.
- Specific garden curriculum and integrating the garden with standards.

## Monthly E-Newsletter

- Receive grant opportunities, garden-related curriculum and activities.
- Notice of upcoming events.
- Sign up: [guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/](http://guilford.ces.ncsu.edu/)
- [community-and-school-garden-network/](http://community-and-school-garden-network/)



# Support a Community Food Access Group

- **Greater High Point Food Alliance:** [ghpfa.org](http://ghpfa.org), 336-899-08865
- **Growing High Point:** [growinghighpoint.org/](http://growinghighpoint.org/), 336-848-1516
- **Guilford Food Council** [guilfordfoodcouncil.com](http://guilfordfoodcouncil.com)

## For more information, contact:

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# School Gardens In Guilford County



# Why School Gardens?

A school or learning garden is an outdoor classroom: a living laboratory where gardeners of all ages learn by observing and doing. Gardening offers real world, problem-based learning opportunities in every discipline, including the natural sciences, math, language arts, and nutrition.

## What are the Benefits of a School Garden?

**Inquiry-based learning:** School gardens are learning labs that can enrich every part of a school's curriculum.

**Community:** Build school pride through taking ownership. Involve whole families; this is for gardeners of all ages!

**Health:** Kids are more likely to eat something that they have grown, and gardening exposes kids to a variety of new food! Gardening also decreases stress and increases physical activity.

**Life Skills:** In addition to a wealth of plant growing information, gardening teaches cooperation, responsibility, perseverance, and hard work

**Entrepreneurship:** Some schools fundraise by selling produce or seedlings that they grow.

**Nature:** Connect with plants, pollinators, birds, and life cycles in the garden.

## Steps to Success

### Step 1: Gather your Team

- Build a leadership team of 5 to 10 people, including support from teachers, students, administration, and families.

### Step 2: Integrate the Garden

- Ask: Why is a garden right for us? What are our goals? Will the garden connect to specific standards?
- Who is our garden for? When in the school day will it be used?

### Step 3: Find a Garden Site (and Permission!)

- Easily visible and accessible for teachers and students, 8 hours of direct sunlight, and close access to water.
- Work closely with your school's facilities department and administration about permits or other requirements.

### Step 4: Develop the Garden

- Design the garden with students and teachers! Start small and build on success. Developing in phases is a good way to go.
- Identify partners who can help with resources and funding. See listed grant opportunities

### Step 4: Develop the Garden

- Plan: How will the garden be maintained? Will each class have their own plot, will it be a communal garden, or some combination? Develop leadership roles and garden guidelines.

### Step 5: Build Community Year-round

- Hold school-wide workdays, workshops, and garden celebrations.
- Share successes with the School Garden Network Facebook page!

## Resources through Extension

- Seed Donations
- Extension Master GardenerSM Volunteers (MGV) School Garden Mentors
- General Gardening Questions
- Gardening and Nutrition Curriculum
- Grant Opportunities

Please contact the Guilford County Extension office to learn more about these opportunities and resources at: (336) 641-2421