



So far... site cleared, plots marked, dug, and filled with compost, shed and irrigation system installed.

What is the VV Community Garden?

The VV garden is a partnership between Ventana Vista Elementary, Community Schools, and Community Gardens of Tucson to provide a garden space for each grade level at VV as well as spaces for members of the community.



Advanced Excavating digs the plots at VV garden site, NW of the upper playground.

CAUTION: The garden is still under construction and not available for use just yet. The perimeter fence is scheduled for construction 9/22-9/30. The goal is to have the garden operational by mid October... stay tuned.

How Does the Garden Grow? The partnership between Community Schools and Community Gardens of Tucson, (CGT) along with help from volunteers and the Catalina Foothills School District has allowed the garden project to become a reality. Funded through VV tax credit dollars and grant money awarded to CGT focused on nutrition and diabetes prevention, the VV garden is nearing completion.

The garden will have a total of 24 plots. A 3ft x 20ft garden plot will be available for each grade level (K-5), as well as a plot for Community Schools use. The remaining 17 plots will be available for community members to 'rent' from CGT for \$15/month. Call 795-8823 to inquire about CGT plots in the VV garden, or to be added to the wait-list.

Help make it grow. If you would like to volunteer or be a classroom-garden liaison please contact Matthew Woodhall @ 209-8013, mwoodhall@cfsd16.org or Janna Alexander @ 250-8825.



Why a School Garden?

Research shows that plant-based education produces positive growth for children in a number of important areas, including self-esteem, attitudes toward school and the environment, social development, physical and psychological health, creative thinking and problem solving, and effective learning of science and a variety of other academic subjects.

http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/plant_based_education.htm

VV Garden Contacts

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Resources, Links and Ideas

Teachers and volunteers: If you are interested in finding meaningful projects for students in the garden, there are many resources available. Looking at the ideas and projects completed in other school gardens can be very inspiring, and make taking a class to the garden less daunting. Some interesting projects include; 1) A kindergarden class that plants beets and then discovers the words that rhyme with beet, followed by stories in the garden. 2) A 4th grade, 'media' type project, that has students take pictures of their planted sunflower to create an 'animation' and track the progress of its growth over time. 3) Many examples of classes growing flowers or vegetables and then measuring leaves, stems, petals, fruit etc. and comparing to show similarities or create averages for growth rates, or number of petals etc. There are many ways to involve a class in the garden and not all of them require a focus on science, plants or gardening specifically. Looking through the resources on school gardens shows there is room for every subject in the garden. Have fun!

<http://www.edibleschoolyard.org/> Fun site, lots of resources.

<http://www.communitygardensoftucson.org/main/> Our partner at the VV garden. Info for new members, history, blogs, and more.

<http://www.csgn.org/> The California School Garden Network has an amazing website with a ton of great resources for getting a classroom in the garden.

http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/plant_based_education.htm Research papers on benefits of school gardens and much more.

<http://www.kidsgardening.org> Everything kids and gardens and lots more research papers.

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/> Search for 'school garden' on this site for great articles, it's a movement!

<http://www.mbgnet.net/bioplants/> Catch up on your plant biology and more.

<http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/forkids/vegquiz/plantparts.html> Fun with plant parts.

<http://www.clover.okstate.edu/fourh/aic/lessons/primary/parts.pdf> More plant parts.. more detailed lessons.

www.nwf.org/schoolyardresources Find the powerpoint 'webinar' called "Taking Learning outside" or I'll send you a copy if you can't find it.. mwoodhall@cfsd16.org

Stay Tuned, Coming Soon

Look for us at [Plant Science Family Night](#) for garden fun and more garden info. (Fri. 9/30/11 5-8pm.) Stay tuned for our next garden meeting (TBD). Contact Matthew Woodhall at 209-8013 for questions or concerns. Get excited, get involved, let's make the Ventana Vista Community Garden grow!