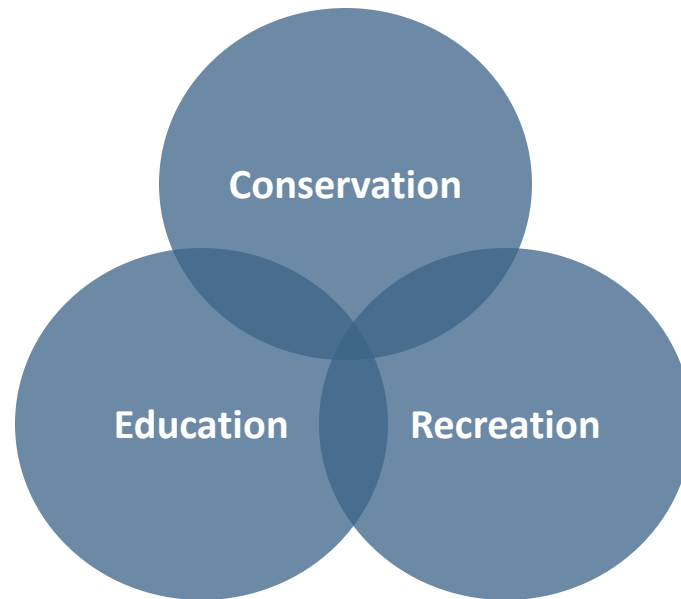


A stylized, light green leaf graphic with a central vein, positioned behind the text.

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

**Protect the region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.**



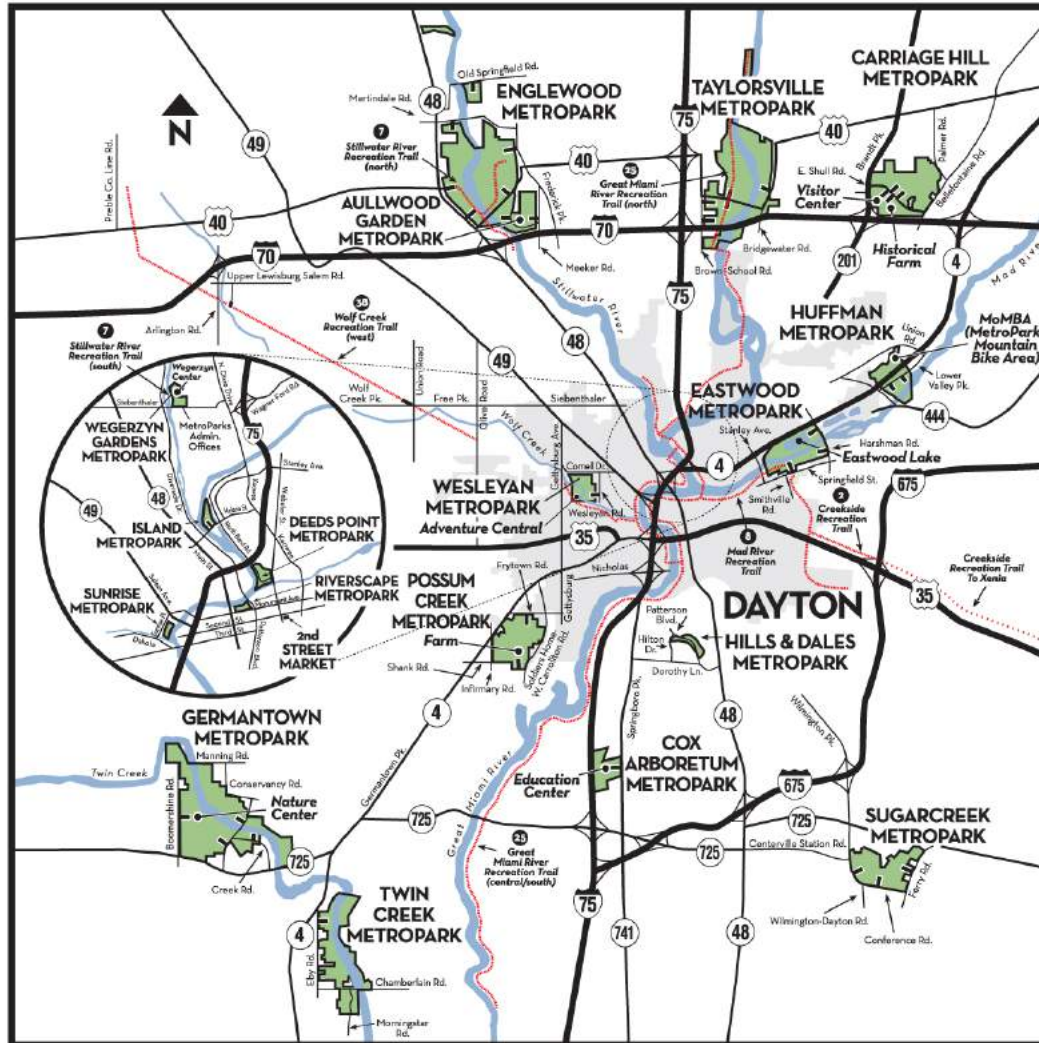
# 25 facilities 15,000 acres protected

Aullwood Garden MetroPark  
Carriage Hill MetroPark  
Cox Arboretum MetroPark  
Deeds Point MetroPark  
Eastwood MetroPark  
Englewood MetroPark  
Germantown MetroPark  
Hills & Dales MetroPark  
Huffman MetroPark  
Island MetroPark

National City 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Market  
Possum Creek MetroPark  
RiverScape MetroPark  
Sugarcreek MetroPark  
Sunrise MetroPark  
Taylorsville MetroPark  
Twin Creek MetroPark  
Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark  
Wesleyan MetroPark/Adventure  
Central

Conservation Areas  
Recreation Trails  
River Corridors  
Recreation Facilities





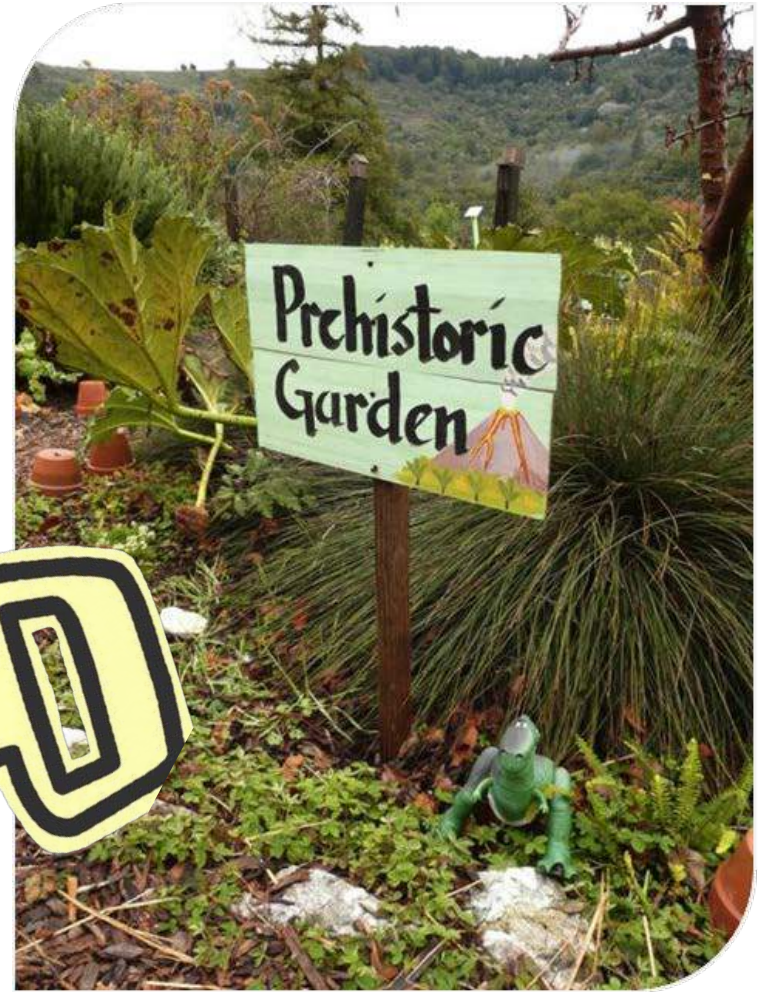
# A Green Schoolyard is...



...an amazing, stimulating, creative, and wondrous place in which to exercise one's mind and sense of discovery, awakening to the mysteries and diversity of Nature, Community, and Self



# Greening Your Schoolyard



School  
gardens come  
in all shapes  
and sizes

# Also known as

WILD School Sites  
Outdoor Classrooms  
Habitats for Learning  
Green Space  
Green Room  
Schoolyard Habitats  
School Nature Centers  
School Vegetable Gardens

# Why have a Green Schoolyard?

## Some startling finds:

- Children ages 8-18 spend 7-1/2 hours a day in front of media. (Kaiser Family Foundation (2010). "Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds. ")
- In a typical week, only 6 percent of children ages 9-13 play outside on their own. (Children and Nature Network, 2008. )
- The key obstacles to overcome in getting youth to spend more time in nature are a lack of access, a lack of interest, and feelings of **discomfort**. (The Nature Conservancy Connecting America's Youth to Nature Survey Results. Methodology: From July 28 to August 4, 2011, FM3 and POS completed 602 on-line interviews with American youth between the ages of 13 and 18. Quotas were established to ensure representativeness of the sample by age, gender, geography, and race.)







# Getting Started

- Do Your Homework
- Involve your community
  - Especially your **Principal** and **Maintenance!**
- Hold a meeting to gauge interest in a garden
- Develop a Green Schoolyard Team



# Develop your team:



- **Important players:**
  - Coordinator(s)
  - Garden Volunteers
    - For weeding, constructing new beds, supervising kids, etc.
  - Garden Planner(s)
  - Funding
  - Public Relations
  - Education



# Planning: Develop your Goals

- Hold a Visioning Session

Ask open ended questions like:

- Why do you want a garden?
- How many students will be in the garden at once?
- Ages?
- What will you use it for?



Once goals are defined, start planning process but

**remain flexible.**

# Planning: Do a Site Analysis

- Observe your site
  - Size of Site
  - Sunlight
  - Water
  - Soil Assessment
  - Drainage
  - Access
  - Traffic & Use Patterns (i.e. sports, recess)
  - Existing Features
  - “look”

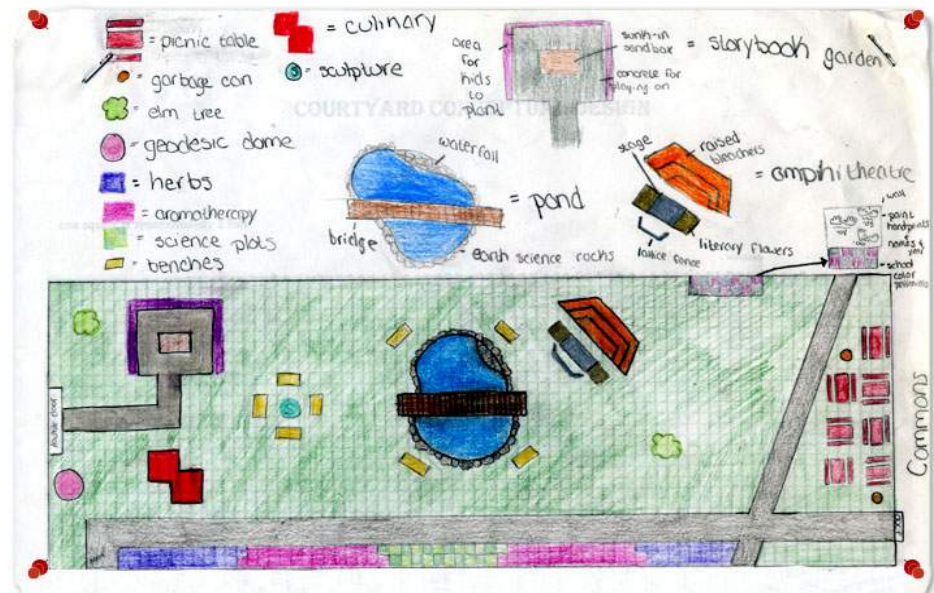
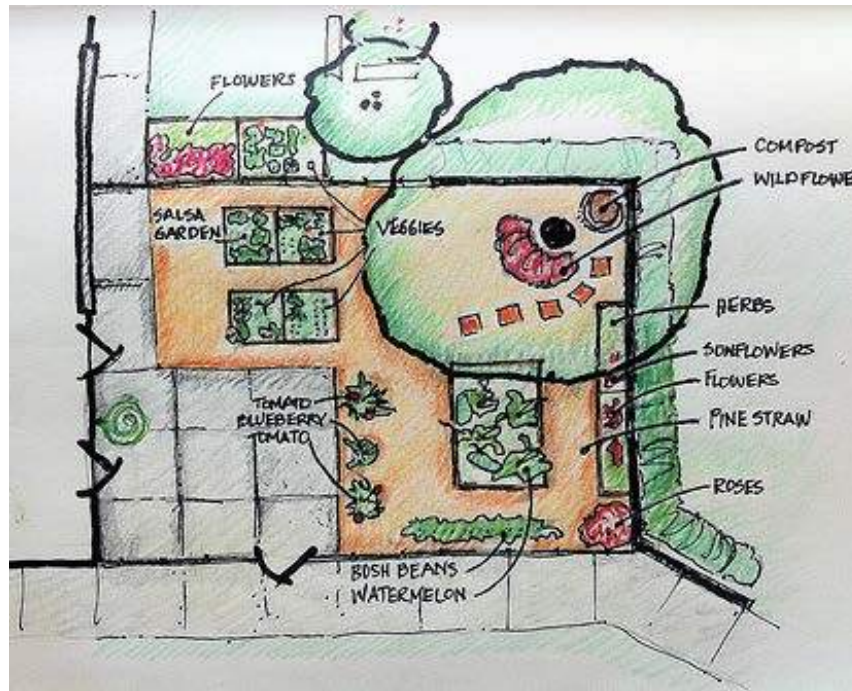


Create a rough map of your findings.



# Planning: Hold a Design Meeting

- Draw a garden plan:
  - Garden beds, water areas, pathways, trees, sitting area



# *What Projects Can You Do?*



**Bird Feeding and  
Monitoring**

# Bird poop garden





# Edible Flower Gardens



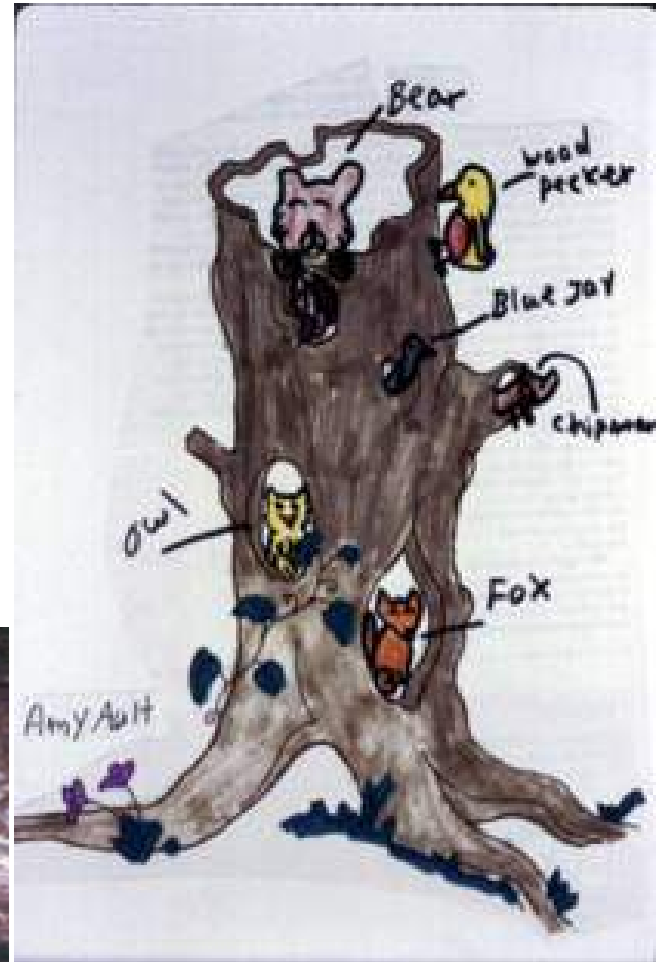
<http://growingstories.wordpress.com/2013/08/01/s Summers-edible-flowers/>



Chives

<http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/edible-flowers/8078.html>

# Life in a Log





# Habitat/Home for Wildlife



# Rain Gardens



Installed in 2006,  
picture taken in 2007  
By resident in Plymouth, MN  
[http://www.raingardennetwork.com/rgphoto\\_sE5.htm](http://www.raingardennetwork.com/rgphoto_sE5.htm)



Native Rain Garden  
Ritter Public Library  
Vermillion, Ohio



# Theme Gardens



Butterfly Garden



Literature Garden – Peter Rabbit



Alphabet Garden

# Bean Teepee

Great connection to *Jack in the Beanstalk* story!





# Three Sisters Garden



Three Sisters Garden



# Accessible and Container Gardens

Small planters can be reached from paved area, also small enough to be moved



Hanging gardens for access at any level

<http://accessiblegardens.blogspot.com/p/components-of-accessible-garden.html>

# Recipe Gardens




Pizza Garden

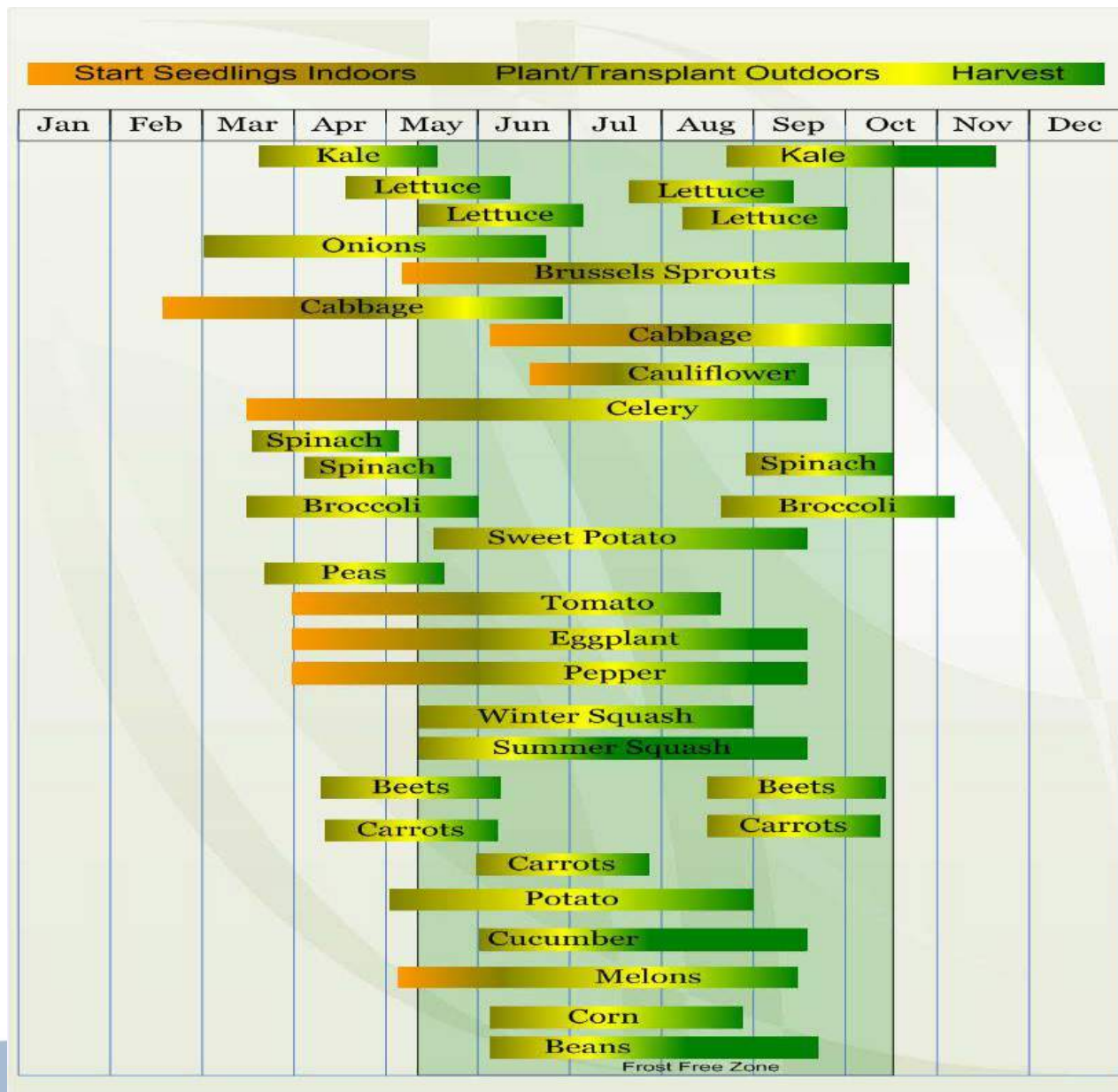


Salsa Garden

# Planning: Construction and other Practical Things

- Materials:
    - For pathways: stone/pavers vs woodchips vs mowable grass
  - Construction Methods
    - Consider volunteer skills and desires
  - Plant Preferences
    - When will you be using the garden
    - Plot your garden on a calendar
- 





# Planning: Mock up your Garden

**Actually lay it out, to size, before you build**

- Does it match your vision?
- Check Accessibility
- Make sure you've chosen practical pathway materials
- Consider the soil
- See what response you get



<http://www.sustainablearlington.org/sa15/resources/news/1/234-let-it-rain-gardens->



# Funding your Garden

- Donations
  - Time (volunteers)
  - Materials (talk to local stores, found items)

**Don't forget about your  
existing inventory!**

- Fundraisers
- Local resources (**MetroParks!**)
- Networking
- Grants (WILD School Sites)

*Funding is an ongoing Process...*



[http://www.warming-trends.com/blog-archives/blog\\_More-Creative-Ideas-for-Garden-Planters-from-Recycled-Goods.html](http://www.warming-trends.com/blog-archives/blog_More-Creative-Ideas-for-Garden-Planters-from-Recycled-Goods.html)

# Freebies!

- Compost
  - Compost Kitchen
  - make your own!



- Leaves
- Woodchips
- Seed swaps
- Cardboard
- Manure
- Ask for donations!

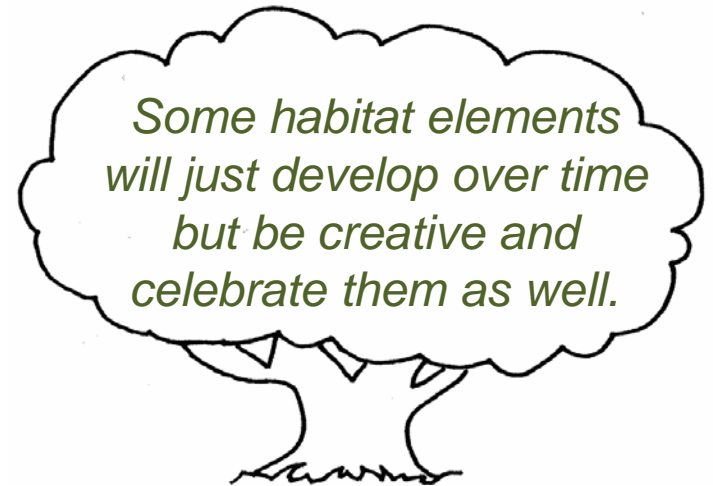
<http://www.houselogic.com/home-advice/composting/start-compost-pile/#>.

<http://www.bostonbuildingresources.com/advice/which-home-compost-bin-is-the-best-choice>

# Install the Garden

- Schedule workdays to install elements of your garden:
  - Bed building
  - Laying compost and path material
  - Planting days for seeds, plugs, seedlings
  - Mural painting day

*More ideas?*



**Don't forget to ADVERTISE and CELEBRATE each step!**



# Keep your garden going!

- Upkeep
  - Maintain Soil
  - Weed Control
  - Summer plans
  - Work with Maintenance
  - Recruit volunteers—and have volunteer appreciation events
- Future Funding
  - Continue to build relationships
  - Ask for donations
  - Apply for grants
- Keep the community involved



# FRMP Green Schoolyards Program

- **First Contact Visit:**
  - Discussion with teacher(s) and walk through of prospective site
  - Teacher then speaks with additional faculty and **Principal** invites us back for
- **Second Site Visit and Group Presentation:**
  - Formal Presentation on Creating a Green Schoolyard plus walk through of site
  - This qualifies as WILD School Site Presentation and allows us to give you some resources
- **Opportunity to apply for partnership with FRMP for two years**
  - Requires a School Liaison and Principal Acknowledgement
  - Year One: Assistance with planning meetings and planting day
  - Program support from menu options for specific class
  - Year Two: Modeling for other FRMP Partner Schools

# So what is a WILD School Site?

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/education-and-outdoor-discovery/conservation-education-project-wild>



You already have a  
WILD school site...

Just go outside!





# Useful Resources

## **Garden Planning:**

School Garden Wizard [www.schoolgardenwizard.org](http://www.schoolgardenwizard.org)

Sustainable Food Center <http://sustainablefoodcenter.org/>

Education Outside <https://www.educationoutside.org/how-grow-school-garden>

Soil Volume Calculator <http://www.hafners.com/cincinnati-landscape-services/materials-calculator.html>

Rain volume calculator <http://www.calctool.org/CALC/other/default/rainfall>

## **Curriculum Resources:**

Collaborating Classrooms

<http://collaboratingclassrooms.ath.cx/?garden=/nutrition&section=curriculum>

The Edible Schoolyard <http://edibleschoolyard.org/esyberkeley#curriculum>

Education Outside for lesson plans organized by

month <https://www.educationoutside.org/lesson-pathway>

Granny's Garden School <http://www.grannysgardenschool.org/#>

Green Education Foundation [www.greeneducationfoundation.org](http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org)

# Useful Resources

## Native Prairies/Habitats:

Marianist Environmental Education

Center <http://meec.udayton.edu/default.asp>

Ohio Prairie Nursery <http://ohioprairienursery.com/cart/>

Ohio Department of Natural Resources: for info about Project WILD, becoming a WILD school site, grant, and free training details

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/education-and-outdoor-discovery/conservation-education-project-wild>

National Wildlife Federation <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx>

BirdSleuth K-12 <http://www.birdsleuth.org/> (also possibility to receive a free birdfeeder)

## Plants:

Johnny's Selected Seeds <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/>

Greenfield Plant Farm <http://greenfieldplantfarm.com/>

Seed Libraries <http://seedlibraries.weebly.com/sister-libraries.html> (check out Dayton and Cincinnati)

# Useful Resources

## Grant Info:

Dayton Metro Library <http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/databases> check out the 'Foundation Grants to Individual Online' and 'Foundation Directory Online Professional' databases to find specific grants (must be on Main Library premises for access)

GrantSpace <http://grantspace.org/> (check out the Foundation Directory Online for less comprehensive grant info, access available from home)

Kids Gardening.org <http://grants.kidsgardening.org/>

## Compost:

Uncle Jim's Worm Farm, great source to buy Red Wigglers for indoor worm composting

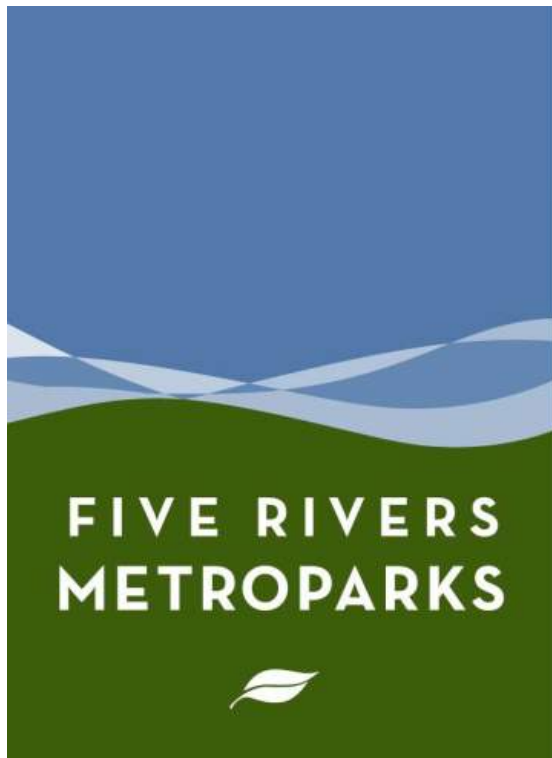
<http://unclejimswormfarm.com/index.php/Live-Worms/View-all-products.html>

Compost Kitchen. Check out MetroParks.org for this 3 part course to learn about composting and receive a free Earth Machine Composter

**Five Rivers MetroParks** [www.metroparks.org](http://www.metroparks.org) Visit our Web page and look under 'Special Interest' 'Teachers.' Education Kits Available: Mammals, Ohio Fossils, Birds, Forest, etc. Also call 277-4178 to ask about our Inquiry Kits.



# Green Schoolyards Contacts



## Five Rivers MetroParks Staff

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937-277-4835  
[dhorvath@metroparks.org](mailto:dhorvath@metroparks.org)

FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

