



## A step-by-step guide to get your school garden growing

This document is a checklist of tasks that will help you to create a sustainable school garden project in NYC. Each major task is accompanied by a worksheet and/or resource page on the *Grow to Learn* website.

To make this guide work for you we recommend that you assign a leader for each task. Write that person’s name into the “Person Responsible” column of the guide and give her/him the accompanying worksheet. If you need support along the way, please feel free to contact us at [growtolearn@grownyc.org](mailto:growtolearn@grownyc.org) or 212-788-7923.

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WWW.GROWTOLEARN.ORG

### Step #1: BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Task	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Recruit school garden committee members (Worksheet 1). In order to register your garden with <i>Grow to Learn</i> , your committee must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Principal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Principal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Custodian Engineer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 teachers (minimum)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 2 other school community members (minimum)</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Join the <i>NYC Youth and School Gardens Google Group</i> and sign up for the <i>Grow to Learn</i> E-newsletter .	
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan a site visit to a school garden and/or community garden near you. (Worksheet 2)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Learn about greening organizations right here in NYC and what resources they might have for your school garden. Report back to your garden committee. Here are a few great ones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> GreenThumb</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New York, Queens, and Brooklyn Botanic(al) Gardens</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-a-Farmbox</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> MillionTrees NYC</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> GrowNYC Greenmarket Youth Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> New York City Compost Project</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Edible Schoolyard at P.S. 216</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule a school garden committee meeting. Start planning a season in advance! If you want to garden in the spring, schedule a meeting in the fall. If you want to garden in the fall, schedule a meeting in the spring.	

## Step #2: CREATE A SHARED VISION

Task	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your school garden committee and talk about goals and future plans for your garden. (Worksheet 3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft a principal's letter of support for the garden and have your principal sign it. Use this as an opportunity to put your goals in writing! (Worksheet 4)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Find a school garden curriculum that fits your school's garden goals. Learn about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Garden Mosaics (high school)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nourish (middle school)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Greenmarket Seed to Plate (elementary school)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Our Growing Place (elementary and middle school)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inquiry based learning (all grades!)</li> </ul>	

## Step #3: PLAN AND DESIGN YOUR GARDEN

Task—Select Garden Type and Site	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Locate the sunny areas at your school. Remember, edible plants need about 8 hours of sunlight each day in order to produce fruit.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Locate all available water sources. As a last resort, consider hydrant access. Contact Andrew Barrett ( <a href="mailto:andrew.barrett@parks.nyc.gov">andrew.barrett@parks.nyc.gov</a> ) at GreenThumb about a hydrant permit.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Learn about different types of gardens and the benefits of each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In-ground</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Raised beds (can be built on concrete, pavement, or grass)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sub-irrigated planters</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hydroponics and/or aquaponics</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rooftop</li> </ul>	

Task— Create a Garden Map	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Draw a school garden map (Worksheet 5), indicating current or planned location of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Garden beds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tool shed/storage area</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Composts area</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Instruction area</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water source</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse/cold frames</li> </ul>	

Task— Test your Soil (if you're planting in ground)	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Using a clean trowel, take small samples from 10 random, evenly distributed spots in your garden space. Sample depth should be 6-8". Place samples in a clean container.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mail samples to a lab to test for heavy metals. You can also test soil pH and standard nutrients at this time. Cornell, Brooklyn College, and UMass Amherst will all test soil for a small fee.	

Task— Make a school garden supply list	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Take an inventory of all garden equipment already at the school.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Make a list of needed tools and materials. (Worksheet 6)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Find a place where you will be able to store garden equipment after you have purchased it. Consider building a shed with a rainwater harvesting system.	

Task—Make a timeline	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule regular garden committee meetings. (Worksheet 7)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Set date for workday to build beds, move soil, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Set date for ribbon cutting ceremony, if you plan to have one .	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tell students, faculty, and staff about the garden and get their input. Invite them to the workday.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create a planting schedule with what to plant when.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Research school garden professional development opportunities in your community and schedule your teachers and garden committee members to attend. Learn about professional development at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grow to Learn NYC events Calendar (<a href="http://www.growtolearn.org">www.growtolearn.org</a>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> BK Farmyards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens Botanic(al) Gardens</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Horticultural Society of New York</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create and fill a class-use and maintenance schedule. (Worksheet 8)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decide on a summer maintenance plan. Note: Planting a cover crop for the summer when you're not there <b>does</b> count as a plan!	

#### Step #4: REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL GARDEN

Task	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Collect the first and last names, email addresses, and phone numbers of garden committee members.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Collect and scan these documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signed Principal's Letter of Support</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Garden Map</li> </ul>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Email Principal's Letter of Support and Garden Map to <a href="mailto:growtolearn@grownyc.org">growtolearn@grownyc.org</a> .	
<input type="checkbox"/> Go to <a href="http://www.growtolearn.org">www.growtolearn.org</a> and fill out parts one through seven of the online registration form (Part 8 is the grant narrative. You only need to fill this out if you want to apply for a Grow to Learn Mini-Grant).	

#### Step #5: SECURE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR YOUR GARDEN

Task	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Find community partners and organizations that can donate resources (show them your materials list and see how they can help). (Worksheet 9)	
<input type="checkbox"/> If you would like to receive material donations from GreenThumb, attend GreenThumb workshops for these supplies. For lumber, soil, compost, and mulch you must <b>ATTEND A WORKSHOP ONE SEASON IN ADVANCE</b> of when you need the material!	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create a budget. Consider the following categories for your budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Materials for beds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fencing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Planting containers</li> </ul>	

<input type="checkbox"/> Soil and fertilizer <input type="checkbox"/> Mulch/Woodchips <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening tools <input type="checkbox"/> For students <input type="checkbox"/> For teachers <input type="checkbox"/> Watering/Irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Seeds/plants/seedlings <input type="checkbox"/> Education curriculum and resources <input type="checkbox"/> Professional development for teachers <input type="checkbox"/> Materials for outdoor classroom (tables, chairs, clip boards, etc.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Make a fundraising plan. Note: Mini-Grant opportunities are available on the <i>Grow to Learn</i> website. (Worksheet 10)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Place order for soil, seeds, and/or starter plants. Make sure to check the GreenThumb calendar for seed and plant starter giveaways. You may be able to get these materials for free!	
<input type="checkbox"/> Place order for garden tools and supplies. Or, if your school is not ready to purchase tools, check with GreenThumb to see if your school can borrow tools for the day.	

### Next Steps: ONCE YOUR GARDEN IS UP AND GROWING...

Task	Person Responsible
<input type="checkbox"/> Put up a garden sign and plant labels to teach the community about your garden. GreenThumb provides laminated garden signs for free. Check out this link <a href="http://www.greenthumbnyc.org/resources.html">http://www.greenthumbnyc.org/resources.html</a> and place an order.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create a list of garden rules that reflect your garden goals and school culture.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Host ribbon cutting ceremony. Invite your community and, if you're up for it, the press.(Worksheet 11)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fill out an application for a <i>Garden to School Café</i> Harvest Event. Food services can help you to get the produce from your garden into your school cafeteria! Contact Whitney Reuling ( <a href="mailto:wreuling@schools.nyc.gov">wreuling@schools.nyc.gov</a> ) for more information.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create a website or blog for you school garden. Check out Your Garden Show ( <a href="http://www.yourgardenshow.com/">http://www.yourgardenshow.com/</a> ) as a possible web host.	

**What else would you like to see in this guide book?** We want to know! Please email us at [growtolearn@grownyc.org](mailto:growtolearn@grownyc.org) with suggestions, comments, and concerns. Thank you for joining *Grow to Learn NYC, the Citywide School Gardens Initiative*. Together we will make NYC grow!



New York State  
Department  
Of Agriculture  
And Markets



A special thanks to Jennifer Loftin at the Horticultural Society of New York (HSNY) for her collaboration on this project.

**Worksheet 1:** Recruit garden committee members and define their roles.

**Web guide:** <http://growtolearn.org/view/BuildCommunitySupport>

**Instructions and Notes:** In order to be eligible for GreenThumb resources and to apply for a *Grow to Learn* Mini-Grant, your school garden committee must include the seven starred committee members as listed below. For your co-coordinators, consider school librarians, community gardeners, farmers, custodians, cafeteria staff, parents, and students.

Position	Name	Role in Garden	Phone #	Email
*Principal				
*Asst. Principal				
*Custodian Engineer				
*Teacher				
*Teacher				
*Co-coordinators				
*Co-coordinators				
additional member (optional)				
additional member (optional)				
additional member (optional)				

**Important considerations:**

1. Who will be the committee leader? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where will we meet? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How often will we meet? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How will we stay in touch between meetings? Email? Google Group? Private Facebook page?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Need help defining school garden committee roles? Check out this link for ideas and suggestions:  
<http://www.schoolgardenwizard.org/wizard/plan/team.php>

**Worksheet 2:** Visit school gardens and/or community gardens near you.

**Web guide:** <http://www.growtolearn.org/view/success>

**Instructions and Notes:** Make a list of school and community gardens near you. Then visit some of those gardens to get inspiration for your own garden project. Find community gardens by searching on Oasis <http://www.oasisnyc.net/>, contacting GreenThumb with your Community Board information, or checking out the Google maps on the *Grow to Learn* website.

<i>Garden</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone/Email</i>

**Visit a garden, take notes, make sketches, and take pictures (if allowed):**

Garden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Date and Time \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Directions \_\_\_\_\_

**Helpful tips from garden visit:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Worksheet 3:** Create school garden vision.

**Web guide:** <http://www.growtolearn.org/view/DevelopaSchoolGardenProposal>

**Instructions and Notes:** Answer the following questions with your school garden committee. This worksheet can be used as an agenda for your first school garden committee meeting.

Why do you want the school to have a garden?

Where might our school build our garden? Brainstorm all possible locations—indoor and outdoor, on school grounds and off.

**Notes:**

Which classes/grades will work in the garden? Which subjects will we teach in the garden? Check all that apply and write in the name of a teacher who teaches that subject and might want to get involved.

Subjects:

- Math
- Science
- History
- ESL
- Art
- Nutrition
- English Language Arts
- Foreign Language
- Physical Education
- Social Studies

Grades: \_\_\_\_\_

You can use your garden to teach one or all of these subjects.

**Notes:**

What will we grow in the garden? If we grow food, what will we do with that food?	<b>Notes:</b>
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How will we involve the community?
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If the garden is doing well, do we want to expand? How? Feel free to add in your own ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Composting system</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lunchroom composting</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Garden club</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Summer garden program</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Beehives</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Chickens</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Garden to School Café</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> After school programming</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rainwater harvesting</li></ul> Visit other gardens for more ideas.	<b>Notes:</b>
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\*Need some technical support in planning your garden? Email Andrew Barrett ([Andrew.Barrett@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Andrew.Barrett@parks.nyc.gov)), the School Garden Operations Associate at GreenThumb, a division of NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. Andrew can answer questions via email or, time permitting, make a site visit to your school.



**Worksheet 4:** Draft a principal’s letter of support for the garden and have your principal sign it.

**Web guide:** [http://growtolearn.org/view/mission\\_statement](http://growtolearn.org/view/mission_statement) (this page will help you to build your case)

**Instructions and Notes:** Have your principal or another committee member draft a letter of support. You will need this letter in order to register your garden and apply for a *Grow to Learn* Mini-Grant. Completing “Worksheet 3” will help you to draft this letter. Here is a sample template:

## [INSERT OFFICIAL SCHOOL LETTERHEAD]

[Date]

Ms. Julianne Schrader, Director  
Grow to Learn NYC  
Citywide School Gardens Initiative  
GrowNYC  
51 Chambers Street, Room 228  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Schrader,

I proudly write this letter to the NYC School Gardens Initiative in support and approval of the school garden project here at [School Name].

[Suggestions for OPTIONAL narrative:

- School garden vision and goals
- Garden Committee activities
- Description of collaboration with partners
- Anything else you would like to share with us about your garden!]

Our garden will serve as an educational space to inform youth about food related issues, such as health and the environment, as well as to support science and math learning.

I am excited to be a part of this network, and a part of the larger movement for school gardens in New York City and abroad.

Sincerely,

[Principal Signature]

[Principal Name]

Principal

[School Name]

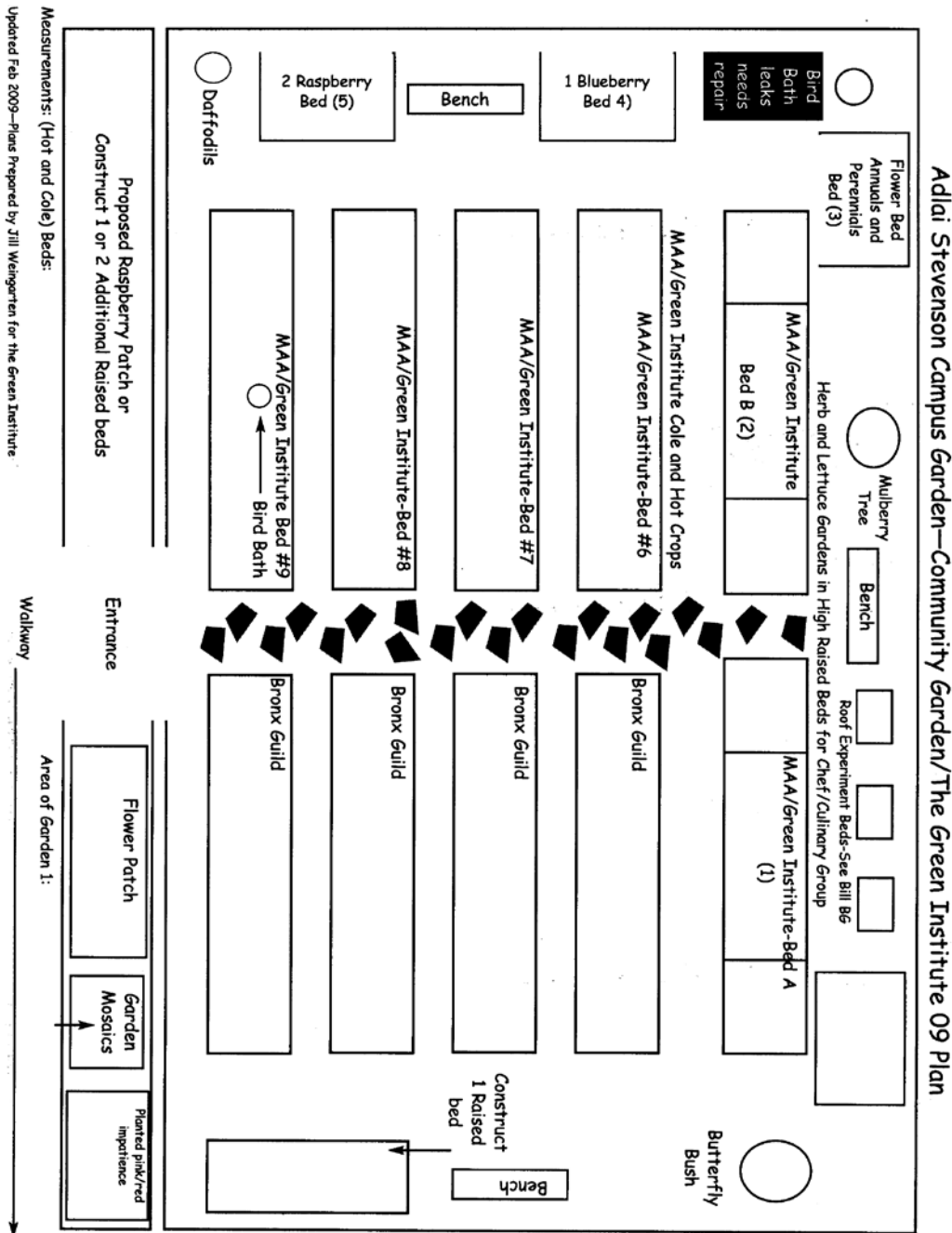
You can also download this template at <http://growtolearn.org/pdf/SamplePrincipalsLetter.pdf>.



**Worksheet 5:** Draw a school garden map.

**Web guide:** [http://www.growtolearn.org/view/Plan\\_and\\_DesignYourGarden](http://www.growtolearn.org/view/Plan_and_DesignYourGarden)

**Instructions and Notes:** Draw a map of your garden (to scale, if possible). Indicate where you will place your beds and what you will plant where. Make sure that paths are wheelchair accessible! Download sample maps like the one below at <http://growtolearn.org/view/RC4966>.



**Worksheet 6:** Create a garden materials list.

**Web guide:** <http://www.growtolearn.org/view/MakeaGardenSuppliesList>

**Instructions and Notes:** Here is a list of common garden needs. Check off everything that you want to have (immediately or in the future). When you create your budget, write in all of your immediate needs and then add in the other items as your budget allows. Later you can approach local hardware stores and nurseries for donations.

**SCHOOL GARDEN WISHLIST**

<input type="checkbox"/> Soil test kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need	<input type="checkbox"/> Future need	Notes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Growing media <input type="checkbox"/> Soil <input type="checkbox"/> Compost	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need	<input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need	Notes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Mulch (often used in walkways)	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need	<input type="checkbox"/> Future need	Notes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Kids' Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' shovels <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' hoes <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' steel rakes <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' leaf rakes <input type="checkbox"/> Kids' hand trowels <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrows	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need	<input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need	Notes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Fan rake <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Hammer <input type="checkbox"/> Hoe <input type="checkbox"/> Lopper <input type="checkbox"/> Pruners <input type="checkbox"/> Spade shovel <input type="checkbox"/> Steel rake <input type="checkbox"/> Trowel <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelbarrow	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need	<input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need	Notes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Materials for beds <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber <input type="checkbox"/> Screws/Nails	<input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate need	<input type="checkbox"/> Future need <input type="checkbox"/> Future need	Notes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Seeds and Plants			Notes:



**Worksheet 7:** Schedule regular garden committee meetings.

**Instructions and Notes:** This is template agenda for a monthly garden meeting. Edit this document to fit your garden committee's needs.

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**Garden Committee Meeting**

DATE

TIME

LOCATION

AGENDA:

1. **Review notes from last meeting**
2. **Old business**—Updates from individual committee members
3. Important news from *Grow to Learn Newsletter* and *NYC Youth and School Gardens Google Group*-- have one committee member sign up and report each month!
4. **New business**—see below for recommend agenda items by month

September—Make a timeline for the calendar year, scheduling work days, harvest events, and regular meeting times. Discuss any professional development needs for the upcoming year. Review fall maintenance schedule.

October—Organize fall fundraisers and fall harvest event.

November—Decide which classes will work in which parts of the garden.

December—Make a spring maintenance schedule, start thinking about summer maintenance.

January—Re-register garden with *Grow to Learn*. Use this as a time to discuss future garden goals

February—Make a summer maintenance plan.

March—Plan work day and harvest events.

April—Make final plans for work day.

May—Host troubleshooting workshop with individual classroom teachers.

June—Make plans for spring harvest event.

**Worksheet 8:** Create and fill a class-use and maintenance schedule

**Instructions and Notes:** Fill in the chart below, indicating which classes and/or volunteers will work in the garden during the spring and fall growing seasons. Note: In May and June, you will probably need to water the garden *at least* once day. Also the best time to water a garden is in the morning.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Early Morning						
Mid Morning						
Early Afternoon						
Late Afternoon						
After school						

**Worksheet 9:** Find community partners and organizations who can donate resources.

**Web guide:** <http://growtolearn.org/view/greenthumb> (Check out this link for some great free resources!)

**Instructions and Notes:** Visit local organizations. Share your material list and see how they can help.

Business Name: Address: Contact: Tel.: Email: Contribution:	Notes:
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Business Name: Address: Contact: Tel.: Email: Contribution:	Notes:
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Business Name: Address: Contact: Tel.: Email: Contribution:	Notes:
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Business Name: Address: Contact: Tel.: Email: Contribution:	Notes:
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**Worksheet 10:** Make a fundraising plan.

**Web guide:** <http://growtolearn.org/view/otherresources>

**Instructions and Notes:** Meet with your committee to fill out this worksheet. Have this meeting after you have completed your budget and received garden donations. Make sure to decide who will write each grant or spearhead each fundraising project.

How much money do we need to raise? _____	Notes:
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How do we plan to fund the school garden?	Notes:
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Are we going to apply for a Grow to Learn NYC Mini Grant? If so, for how much will we ask? What items will we request? Who will write the grant?	Notes:
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Will we apply for other grants? Who will research grant opportunities? Who will write the grants?	Notes:
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If we need more funds, what sort of fundraisers will we organize? Who will organize them? Check all that apply. Feel free to add your own ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Plant sale (Christmas, Mother's day, etc.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fall pumpkin sale</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Walk-a-thon, Read-a-thon</li><li><input type="checkbox"/></li><li><input type="checkbox"/></li><li><input type="checkbox"/></li></ul>	Notes:
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**Worksheet 11:** Write a press release to introduce your garden to the community. Share it with *Grow to Learn* and we will feature your garden on our website, Facebook, and Twitter page!

**Instructions and Notes:** This is a sample media advisory (front of page) and a sample media release (back of page). Fill in the blanks for both documents. Email or fax the advisory to local media three to seven days before the ribbon cutting ceremony. Email or fax the release to local media on the day of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

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LOGO HERE

ADDRESS HERE

Contact: [ADD](#) HERE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CATCHY TITLE HERE**

*XYZ School Hosts Ribbon Cutting on New Learning Garden*

**DATE (BOROUGH, NY)** On DATE, XYZ school, joined by ADD HERE, will cut the ribbon on their new learning garden, designed to ADD HERE. DESCRIBE GARDEN HERE – WHAT’S GROWING, SIZE, LOCATION, ETC. DESCRIBE HERE WHAT SUBJECTS WILL BE INCORPORATED, MATH, SCIENCE, ETC. Press coverage welcome. (this section should be short for an advisory)

WHAT:

WHEN:

WHERE:

####

*ADD INFO ABOUT SCHOOL HERE*

*Grow to Learn NYC: Citywide School Gardens Initiative* is a partnership between GrowNYC and the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City with the mission to inspire, promote and facilitate sustainable school gardens in New York City’s public schools. *Grow to Learn* was created to serve as an umbrella for school garden activities, providing centralized coordination for government and non-government efforts to ultimately ensure that all 1,600 NYC public schools are connected with needed tools and resources. For more information, visit us at [www.growtolearn.org](http://www.growtolearn.org)

##END##

LOGO HERE

ADDRESS HERE

Contact: [ADD](#) HERE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CATCHY TITLE HERE**

*XYZ School Hosts Ribbon Cutting on New Learning Garden*

**DATE (BOROUGH, NY)** Today XYZ school, joined by ADD HERE, cut the ribbon on their new learning garden, designed to ADD HERE.

DESCRIBE GARDEN HERE – WHAT’S GROWING, SIZE, LOCATION, ETC. DESCRIBE HERE WHAT SUBJECTS WILL BE INCORPORATED, MATH, SCIENCE, ETC.

XYZ school received a Grow to Learn Mini Grant of AMOUNT from *Grow to Learn NYC: Citywide School Gardens Initiative*. *FOR EXAMPLE:* The school was recently awarded a *Grow to Learn* mini-grant to amend garden beds, purchase composters and lights so they can grow seeds indoors. After registering their garden on [www.nyc.gov/growtolearn](http://www.nyc.gov/growtolearn), they received donated plant materials and technical assistance from *Grow to Learn* Partner Green Thumb, and their Harvest Day and other nutrition curriculum comes from participating in Garden to School Café, operated by the Office of SchoolFood, another partner in *Grow to Learn*.

DESCRIBE WHAT STUDENTS WERE OUTSIDE DOING AT THE GARDEN...

**INSERT PRINCIPAL QUOTE**

**INSERT GROW TO LEARN REP. QUOTE**

Schools who register with *Grow to Learn* become eligible to receive materials and expert advice from GreenThumb, the community garden division of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. 32 school gardens programs are up and running thanks to *Grow to Learn* mini-grants. Schools can go to <http://www.nyc.gov/growtolearn> and access information on how to plan a garden, ask technical gardening questions, apply for subsequent mini-grant rounds, get inspired by success stories and more.

####

*ADD INFO ABOUT SCHOOL HERE*

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##END##