Step 4. Managing the School Garden

Once the garden is designed and the plot is installed, it comes down to the daily maintenance of the garden. Gardens are not self-sufficient and will either thrive or go downhill fast depending on the amount of attention they receive. Ideally, a garden should be checked on daily basis.

Maintain a “To Do” list and/or a calendar for the garden. This can be kept in a central location and accessed by classes as well as volunteers. It can contain regular and “big job” garden needs. Work days two to three times a year that include big jobs like raking, loosening soil, planting, building new structures, and repairing old structures should be included on the garden calendar. Again, it cannot be emphasized enough — good volunteer management is important (see Appendix 2: Volunteer Recruitment and Management).

Have different classes assume responsibility for certain tasks such as weeding, watering, pest watch, planting, harvest, leaf raking, sign making, compost turning, and general clean up.

Other Resources:

Appendix 7: General Garden Upkeep outlines some important garden management activities and resources.

Appendix 8: Area and Watering Cost can also be used as math lessons by allowing students to complete calculations.

Appendix 9: General Gardening Questions and Resources

Need more information?

Gardening Resources for Southern New Mexico

http://aces.nmsu.edu/county/donaana/mastergardener/gardening-resources.html