

Qualitative Assessment Tool

Name of Action: **Jersey City School Garden Program**

Describe the action and identify your partners.

This program established gardens in schools. They are built by the students and teacher(s) and the curriculum for their continued care and harvest is passed along to the assigned school teacher(s). The children have an active role in the garden design, development and contents and caretaking. They are also provided with the tools to start an environmental or garden club.

Jersey City has partnered with the non-profit organization City Green to replicate the successful school garden started at Conwell-Middle-School4 in Downtown JC. A video link of the project is provided. The City wrote and received a PSEG Foundation Grant for \$10,000 to expand the existing PS4 garden and add gardens at schools 5, 38, 7, and the Learning-Community-Charter-School. These schools are now completed. **Please note that all 5 gardens were active in the most recent growing season and they are planned to continue next year.** Their overwhelming success has prompted program expansion next year to the Four (4) schools listed above.

A detailed curriculum is provided as well as background information from City Green. They provide Environmental-Club and/or Garden-Club services, they publish a monthly gardening newsletter available to their schools and they sponsor special events coordinated with each principal where the children's achievements can be highlighted. (Detailed Attachment of Curriculum and newsletters are provided with the up-load for this task)

Even if the action was performed by volunteers, or you got in-kind donations, please estimate your costs and the time commitment required to complete the action.

Total costs were about approximately \$600.00 to \$700.00 per school. Our time commitment required one City Planning Staff member to coordinate with City Green and the Principals. She spent approximately 8 hours per week per school. City Green was paid through the PSEG Foundation Grant.

Assess what worked and what could be done if this action is tried again in the community.

We are duplicating the program at each school. The difference in each facility is mostly where the garden is placed. Not all of them are on the roof. In fact, some of the schools prefer the garden on the ground so they can implement a solar program on the roof.


What are the next steps for this action?

Too seek additional funding for next year because now we are beginning to develop an on-going list for 2012-2013 school year participants. We will also meet with the Board of Education Facilities Committee to coordinate placement of gardens and solar panels for future participants.



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




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Jersey City's first school rooftop garden

Posted: Tuesday, May 25, 2010, 11:19 AM



By **Reena Rose Sibayan/The Jersey Journal**

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Students at Frank R. Conwell Middle School 4 in Downtown Jersey City, with help from the non-profit organization, City Green, create a rooftop garden, the first in the city, according to Science teacher Melissa Khiry who organized the effort with support from Principal Wallace DeFilippo, on Friday, May 21, 2010. (Video by Reena Rose Sibayan/The Jersey Journal)

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joisyjoe

May 28, 2010 at 2:36PM



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How very modern! Please tell us which subject(s) will be replaced by "rooftop gardening"? Will we short the children on their Reading? English Grammer? Maybe less math, or spelling? This is a Stunt! A publicity magnet, which will take away from classroom time.

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teacharts

June 01, 2010 at 8:57PM

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joisyjoe,


FYI- this is an AFTER SCHOOL program, called The gardening club. Our children have been responsible for a beautification project in the planters downtown as well as planting and tending in the gardens surrounding our school. They have seen the fruits of their labor and it has been recognized by many who support their efforts. Ms. Khiry does an amazing job with the students and the children love it.

Why do you find it necessary to belittle something positive going on in the schools? And by the way, you misspelled grammAr. Maybe it's time you return to school and see the wonderful things taking place on a daily basis. I have read your negative posts before and find your attitude troubling.

Would you would prefer our children be out on the streets after school? I'm sure you would be the first to post about how terrible the kids today are and how teachers are overpaid.


You need a hobby. How about mentoring in one of the schools you constantly bash?

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habika

June 02, 2010 at 3:18AM

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I have read your negative posts before and find your attitude troubling.

Would you would prefer our children be out on the streets after school? I'm sure you would be the first to post about how terrible the kids today are and how teachers are overpaid.

=====

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