Action Plan
New Central Public School
Grounds and Greening

PLANT THE SEED/GET INPUT – SHOW SCHOOL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. Hold meeting with Eco Ranger Teachers: Week of the 13th

- Share our ideas with them, and get their ideas and thoughts for how best to involve the students

2. Suggest we hold a design charette with them? ASAP after meeting

- Charette: Begin by talking about what the students like to do outdoors, get them to draw pictures of what they want to have on the grounds, take a big map of the property and begin to map out where they like to play, what parts of the playground they like best and what they use them for, talk about nature experiences, ideas for development…etc., have them draw pictures of a butterfly garden, etc.

- Schedule design charette time – 1 hour, weekday

- See if the teachers can get the kids to draw pictures of the butterfly garden on their own so that we can submit with our grant app.

- Be sure to take photos at the design charette to submit with the grant

3. Draft up base map drawing of kid's ideas to submit with our grant app.

4. Ask if the teachers, students, and parents who have expressed interest thus far will be a part of the Greening Committee (at least for purposes of Grant Application)

5. Once we determine how much the project will cost, ask for a grant from the Parent Council to show school financial support – at the March Meeting

6. Organize a Earth Day school yard greening day (describe in grant app.) to show school community support (April – announce at March PC meeting) – organize with Guy Nelson

7. Once we have our goals/rough plan call Alix Aylen at Evergreen to get her thoughts on our application

IDENTIFY GOALS

1. Finalize goals once we get input from teachers, parents, students, Mr. Nelson, Merrill, and Nick Maandag

2. Convey our ideas to Guy Nelson and Nick Maandag through a rough plan of the grounds showing what we want to do where and when – i.e. butterfly garden and Earth Day event (Spring 2012), and Master Planning (Fall 2012)

3. Alter goals based on input

SIZE UP SITE/PREPARE DESIGN

1. Request a plan of school property that shows required information (utility lines, etc) – see if we can get one at 24 " x 36" – if not we will have to draft one up to submit

2. Use Existing Conditions option as Master Plan for site, explaining that the next phase is to create a master plan for the property based on community input, but that the butterfly garden is our first step our pilot project to generate more interest and involvement

3. Inventory and analyze site for butterfly garden – have a group of Eco Rangers help - ASAP

- Shovel test soil
- Measure
- Determine sun/shade
- Location, drainage, etc.

4. Draft base map of area

5. Identify appropriate trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials to use for butterfly garden and according to grant guidelines (natives)

6. Do simple design incorporating appropriate vegetation, hardscape and seating (?)

7. Design garden for appropriate maintenance levels – how much water and care?

8. Review design with Committee

9. Finalize design and plant lists for grant purposes – can be changed as necessary post grant if remaining in guidelines

10. Get necessary approvals

11. Prepare drawings (need not be professional, only legible) of garden design to submit

12. Present at Parent Council meeting

BUDGET

1. Determine a budget for garden

2. Get estimates for costs of plant material

3. Top soil and amendments (grant won't pay for top soil) purchase

- Set up compost pile?

4. Mapping of utilities

5. Excavation

6. Hardscape construction – paths, edging, etc.

7. Put together total budget for project – and grant request budget

PLAN FOR SITE MANAGEMENT

1. As we design – think about irrigation, maintenance

2. At presentation to Parent Council in March, talk about how to best address maintenance issues – present ideas to them

3. Go over plan with Mr. Nelson

4. Water and weeding primarily need to be addressed

5. Identify a tree advocate and fill in paperwork for grant

FUND RAISE

1. Apply for grant – include our fundraising plan in grant

2. Ask Council for funding once we know budget

3. Identify any connections in school community to local nurseries

4. Solicit nurseries, etc.

5. Put out press release about garden to Oakville Beaver (ie marketing return for business donations)

6. Put together a brief presentation on importance of outdoor environmental education for children to have at Spring Fair and for donor solicitations

7. Have a table at the Spring Fair to generate interest (in front of new garden!) – with donation acknowledgements to donors

PUT INTO ACTION

1. Organize planting day

2. Put down hardscape – if any – and dig and amend soil ahead of time
3. Have plants and trees ready to plant
4. Solicit help from professional landscape company/town if possible to guide volunteers
5. Photo document
6. Get refreshments donated
7. Involve the students/garden clubs/etc.