

(NEW) Jefferson West Elementary School – worked with an after school program to create a bird and butterfly garden; met with the students several times teaching them about what plants need; prepared the soil; planted plants, and added mulch, signage, and garden art. This project has blossomed into a school vegetable garden that is being planned and implemented for the 2011-2012 school year.

Jefferson West Elementary After School Club Bird and Butterfly Garden

The Jefferson West Elementary After School Club contacted the JCMGV's looking for help with planning a bird and butterfly garden along with teaching the students about plants and gardens.

The JCMGV's met with the After School Program Coordinator and the After School Science Coordinator to discuss what they were looking for; review the area that the garden was to be planted; and the time frame for the instruction and hands-on portion of this project.

There were three Tuesday's from 4:30 to 5:30 pm that were scheduled for this project. The first half hour was for the second and third grade students and the second half hour was for the fourth and fifth grade students.

The first Tuesday the students learned about different soil types; what would be best for growing plants and why; along with what compost is and why it is used. They then went out to the garden and helped add mushroom compost and mix it in with the soil.

The second Tuesday the students got to put in the plants. The MGV's created a master plan using native perennials that would work best for this garden. They then placed markers that matched the plants to be put in to make the planting as easy as possible. The students learned what plants need to survive; why the native perennials were chosen; and how to put the plant in the ground. This seemed to be the favorite part of the lesson; many students had never planted anything before and many wanted to keep planting even after we ran out of plants to put in.

The final Tuesday the students learned about mulch and added some to the garden; added labels to their plants along with placing decorative rocks and bricks in the garden, which they had made in one of the After School classes.

This project reached eight teachers and 35 second to fifth grade students who learned about gardening. This project has blossomed into a school vegetable garden that is being planned and implemented for the 2011-2012 school year.

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