



**WAUNAKEE**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# GARDENS AT PRAIRIE



**WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2025**

# Why a Garden?

A school garden is more than just a patch of soil; it's a living classroom where students can explore science, nutrition, and sustainability. By participating in the garden, students will learn about the life cycle of plants, the importance of healthy eating, and the value of caring for our environment. Families will also have the opportunity to engage in this enriching experience, creating lasting memories and connections within our community.



# Prairie Garden: Past, Present & Future

Spring 2014

2015-2025: A decade of growth & learning

Spring 2025 and beyond

Fall 2014

- Sustain Dane GROW Grant application submitted and received by Prairie Elementary
- Installation by volunteers (students, families, staff, business partnerships, donations, high school students)
  - [The Gardens at Prairie](#) Facebook page developed showcasing the transformation through the years



# Benefits of an Outdoor Learning Environment

- Engaging students with nature fosters hands-on experiences with the environment
- Develops lifelong skills
- Exposes students to healthy food options
- Provides SEL support/options including: mindfulness, behavior regulation, and providing a peaceful learning space.
- Provides opportunities for past staff and community members to volunteer by painting, building, planting & weeding.
- Makes learning more memorable and impactful for students.



# Growing Food: Understanding Nutrition and Responsibility



Gardening teaches students the importance of nutrition and instills a sense of responsibility as they learn to care for plants and appreciate where their food comes from.

- Students are engaged in every step from planning & planting to harvesting & eating.
- Sharing the harvest in the lunchroom and exposing kids to new & healthy food options.
- Students brought these experiences home and created gardens with their own families.



# Why is the Prairie Community Garden important to our building and curriculum?

- Prairie is the only K-4 building in the district with a garden
- Students learn life cycles of plants & insects during the school year and during Summer School
- The outdoor classroom provides a learning space for all subject areas (reading, writing, science, math, etc.) and allows for an alternative way to teach
- We are lucky enough to have a large science resource closet that is available to all grade levels
- Provides a higher motivation and initiative for learning
- Creates a partnership between the District and the community



“Because of what I learned about monarchs and how they use milkweed, my dad lets it grow at our house!”

- Otto W

“I liked being able to start plans and flowers in the classroom.”

- Avery C

“The garden was like our second classroom. It inspired me overall.”

-Emma



“

“I enjoyed teaching the 2nd graders about planting and growing food.”

- Cal N

“I just liked being outside.”

- K.K.

“Every season it was neat to see what changed”.

-Olivia



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# Supporting Curriculum

Students learn life cycles of plants & insects during the school year and during Summer School



# Prairie Garden Throughout the Year

## Planning

Students helped to design the garden by using an interactive app called Planter. Thank you to WCHS greenhouse for their plant donations.



## Planting

Students plant seeds and plants, and learn gardening techniques.



## Summer Upkeep

Prairie families and community members help water and weed during the summer months.



## Harvesting

Students enjoy harvesting produce to sample during lunch and classroom learning time.



# Get Involved with our Community Garden!

CAN YOU HELP US BUILD OUR SCHOOL & COMMUNITY GARDEN?

 **Donate to the Prairie Garden**

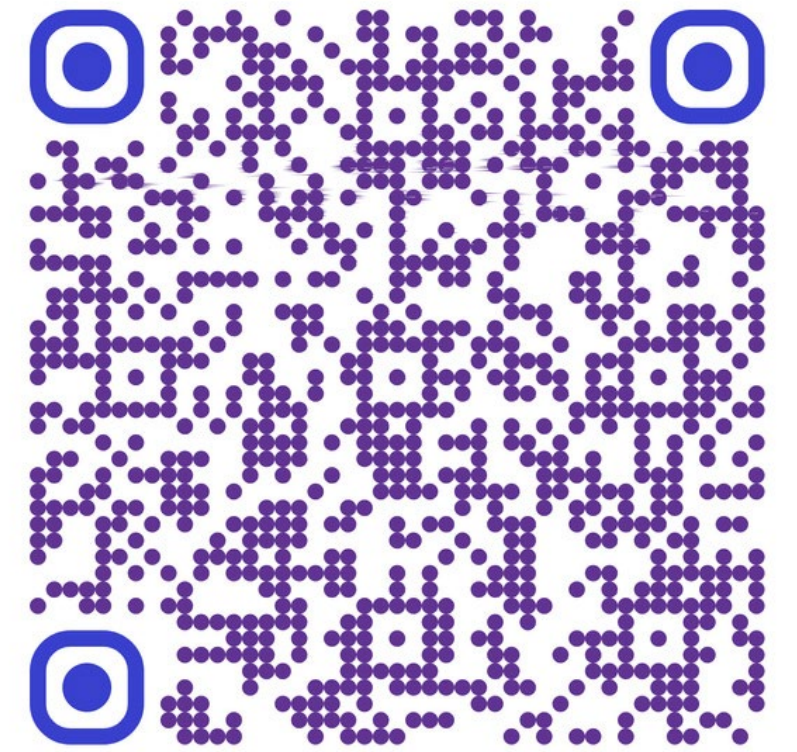
WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF...

- ORGANIC COMPOST
- MULCH
- CRUSHED GRANITE ROCK
- TOMATO CAGES



MORE OPPORTUNITES TO HELP GROW OUR GARDEN WILL BE COMING....STAY TUNED!

Scan here to  
support the  
Prairie Community Garden



## Student Presenters:

Kainen (K.K.) Ralph  
Olivia Seibel  
Emma Christoffersen  
Avery Cichon  
Otto Westby  
Callan (Cal) Neve

## Adult Volunteers:

Deanna Schadeberg  
Denise Farnsworth  
Trish Chaimson  
Amy Brown  
Erin Mayrand  
Dean Kaminski  
Family & Community  
Volunteers