

SASA Green Ribbon 3 Year Plan

Our Goals

- Earn Michigan Green School status in 2025
- Earn US Department of Education Green Ribbon status by 2026
- Develop a fully-sustainable model ecosystem by 2028



Michigan Green Schools

- **Green School**
 - 10 total activities with at least two activities from each of the four categories.
- **Emerald School**
 - 15 total activities with at least two activities from each of the four categories.
- **Evergreen School**
 - 20 total activities with at least two activities from each of the four categories.



Michigan Green Schools

Four categories of **Green School** activities:

- Reduce/Reuse/Recycle
- Energy
- Environmental Protection
- Miscellaneous



Michigan Green Schools

Category 1 Qualifying Activities

- Composting Food and Organic Wastes - *started in 2021*
- Waste-Free Lunch Program - *conducted a waste audit and created share table in 2023*
- Recycling Program for at least 2 -SASA Env. Club has been doing this for more than 5 years
 - Office Paper
 - Plastic
 - Glass



Michigan Green Schools

Category 2 Qualifying Activities

- Offering at least one teaching unit on alternative energy -
 - every year as part of the Pre-AP and AP Environmental Science curriculum
 - Middle School ELA began teaching a unit on *The Omnivore's Dilemma* 2 years ago
- Implementing a school energy-saving program
- Sponsoring an alternative energy presentation, project, or event



Michigan Green Schools

Category 3 Qualifying Activities

- Participating in activities promoting the health of the Great Lakes watershed
- Establishing or maintaining an animal habitat project
- Other Green Activity (Approved in advance by County Coordinator) - Salmon in the Classroom



Michigan Green Schools

Category 4 Qualifying Activities

- Establishing a student organization that participates in environmental activities
- Observing earth day by participating in an earth day event in April
 - Tree plantings - *multiple years*
 - Schoolwide battery drive - *2024*



US Department of Education Green Ribbon

1. **Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs**

- Reduced or eliminated greenhouse gas emissions, using an energy audit or emissions inventory and reduction plan, cost-effective energy efficiency improvements, conservation measures, and/or on-site renewable energy and/or purchase of green power;

2. **Improved Health and Wellness**

- High standards of Whole School Whole Community, Whole Child health, including health, nutrition, and outdoor physical education; health, counseling, and psychological services for both students and staff; family community involvement;

3. **Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**

- Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems

SASA Sustainable Garden, Currently

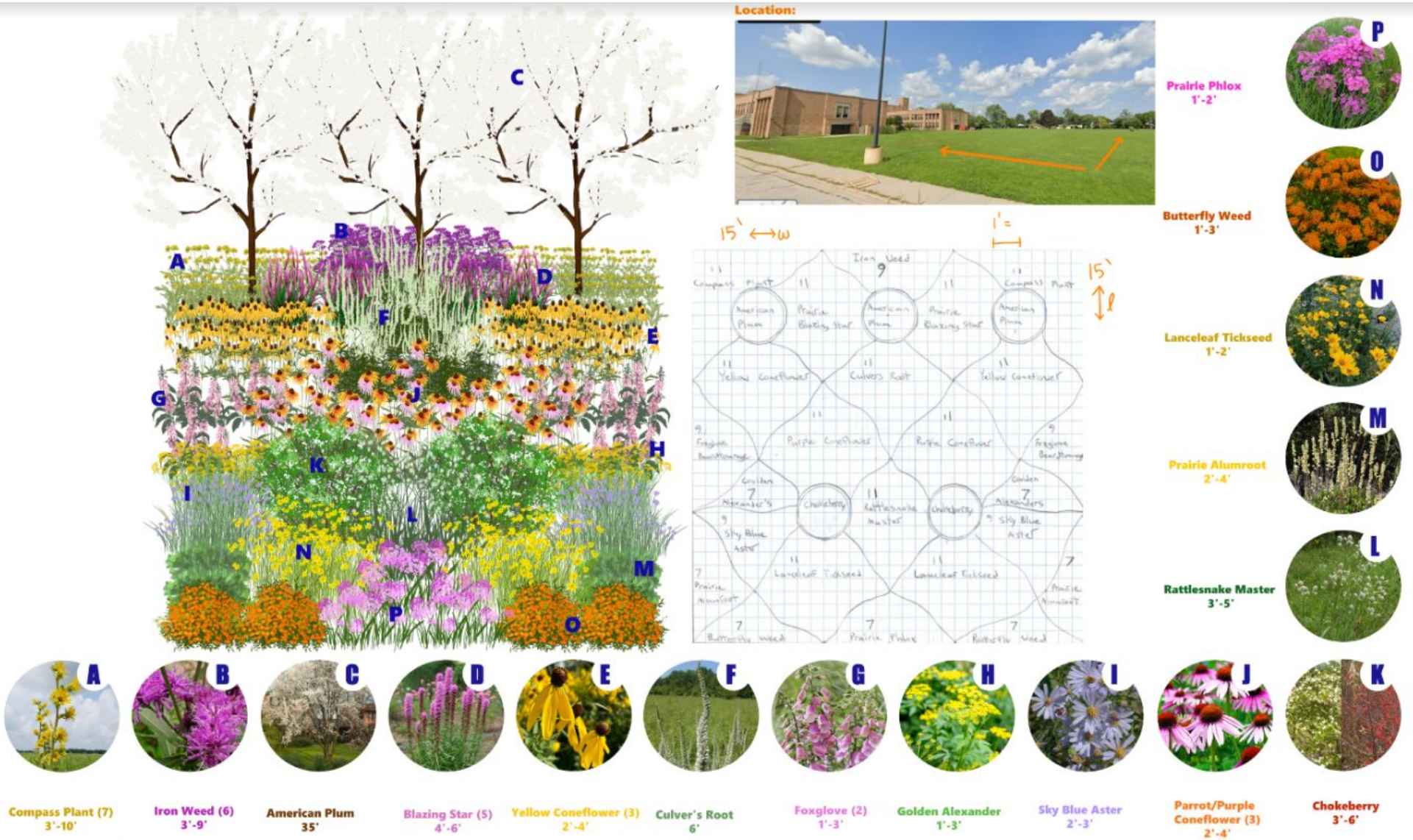


- 4 large and 1 small vegetable and herb beds
- 3 Compost bins, made from scrap pallets
 - Composted yard and food waste produces soil amendments for the garden beds
- 3 vermi-compost (worm) bins
 - Produce worm castings, a natural fertilizer
- 2 rain barrels and drip line irrigation system
 - Can be automated with the addition of hygrometers and switches

Growth Plan

- Become a fully-sustainable model ecosystem
 - Rainwater irrigation
 - Seeds will be harvested each fall; sown in the greenhouse in March
 - Compost will be produced onsite from yard waste and food scraps produced on campus
 - Low-mow or no-mow southwest campus
 - Native plantings will replace 1,000 sq. ft. or more of lawn on the SW campus

Native Garden Schematic



Compass Plant (7)
3'-10'

Iron Weed (6)
3'-9'

American Plum
35'

Blazing Star (5)
4'-6'

Yellow Coneflower (3)
2'-4'

Culver's Root
6'

Foxglove (2)
1'-3'

Golden Alexander
1'-3'

Sky Blue Aster
2'-3'

Parrot/Purple
Coneflower (3)
2'-4'

Chokeberry
3'-6'

Prairie Phlox
1'-2'

Butterfly Weed
1'-3'

Lanceleaf Tickseed
1'-2'

Prairie Alumroot
2'-4'

Rattlesnake Master
3'-5'

Growth Plan - Use as a place-based, project-based, instructional tool:

Biogeochemical cycles

- Environmental Science common core curriculum
 - NGSS
 - IB Curriculum
- Environmentally sustainable agricultural processes
 - Environmental Science common core curriculum
 - NGSS
 - United Nations
 - IB Curriculum

Growth Plan - Use as a place-based, project-based, instructional tool:



- Become a fully-sustainable model ecosystem
 - Teach circular economy
 - aligns with NGSS standard for citizen scientists,
 - IB standard of students as stewards of the Earth,
 - UN pillar
- Provide food for school lunches during harvest months
- Provide food for local community during summer months?

Current Community Partners

H.M. Boyd Community Garden

- Donation of seeds, plants, garden tools, garden shed

Ezekiel Project

- Donated \$900 to the SASA Garden Project
- Requested by H.M. Boyd

Abele Greenhouse

- Donates vegetables and companion flowers

Stone Quest of Saginaw

- Donated 500 cu ft of soil and compost for initial planting

Saginaw Lumber

- Donated lumber to build beds



<https://greenschools-michigan.hub.arcgis.com/pages/green-activities>