

# Seward Montessori School

2309 28th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406



JeffersFoundation.org

## Summary

Seward Montessori, a K-8 Minneapolis public school, has both a Peace Garden and a rain garden on their school site. Both gardens serve as educational environments helping students learn the importance of caring for the environment. They have worked closely with Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers and Midwest Food Connection.

## Photos



*top left, Students begin by planting seeds indoors. left below, Transplanting above, Scientific observation. left, above, Students make and sample mini salads outside next to the garden. right, Garden experts come to teach transplanting, nutrition.*



## Details

Seward Montessori works closely with Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers who helped design and coordinate the installation of the new garden in spring 2012. Established in 1997, the Peace Garden serves to augment students' education and engage the community in an act of sustainability.

### Welcome to the Garden

Under the guidance of Principal Tammy Goetz, the garden is used in a variety of ways to promote wellness and to cultivate environmental awareness.

These include:

- Classrooms study plants, bugs, and other subjects in ecology.
- Teachers utilize produce for classroom lessons and crafts, such as carving pumpkins in the fall.
- Connection of community to food - kids learn where food comes from and how to grow it, AND surplus food gets donated to a local food shelf to provide healthy, fresh vegetables to people in need.
- Volunteers see to the upkeep of plants and actively maintain the compost site. The Garden Committee and Garden Coordinator facilitate the use

of the garden during events.

■ Additionally, two local businesses sponsor the Peace Garden. The Birchwood Café has generously donated money and bought produce.

Seward Peace Garden websites:

[http://seward.mpls.k12.mn.us/seward\\_peace\\_garden](http://seward.mpls.k12.mn.us/seward_peace_garden)  
[http://www.placeography.org/index.php/Seward\\_Youth\\_Peace\\_Garden\\_Seward\\_Montessori\\_School\\_2309\\_28th\\_Avenue\\_South\\_Minneapolis\\_Minnesota](http://www.placeography.org/index.php/Seward_Youth_Peace_Garden_Seward_Montessori_School_2309_28th_Avenue_South_Minneapolis_Minnesota)

### Seward Montessori Rain Garden was installed in June of 2012

The school's mission is to create a healthy, productive, respectful, and interesting learning environment where all children feel accepted, empowered, and inspired to learn; and thereby to educate children and build foundations to help them grow as engaged and successful citizens. The school's proximity to the Mississippi river, offers a unique opportunity to help everyone in the community become more aware and appreciative of the river's ecological significance, and the ways that their choices and actions can impact its quality. It is their

hope that the rain garden project on their school grounds will lead others in their community to recognize, appreciate, and perhaps install their own such gardens elsewhere in the neighborhood. They also hope that by exposing and involving children in this effort, they lay critical groundwork for their developing environmental awareness. Visit the [Seward Rain Garden website](#) for more information about their rain garden project, including a guide to plants. This website will also provide updates as to how the community of students, staff and parents are utilizing this new resource for learning and exploration.

### **Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers**

The mission of Harvest Moon is to strengthen the Twin Cities local foods ecosystem by transforming landscapes into tasty, beautiful and sustainable mini-farms through which eaters connect directly with their farmers, food and land.

<http://harvestmoonfarmers.blogspot.com>

### **Midwest Food Connection**

The Midwest Food Connection empowers and inspires elementary school children to want to make healthy and responsible food choices through hands-on, interactive lessons that harness the power of storytelling, song, art, games and in-classroom cooking. The program sends educators into K-6 classrooms and schoolyard gardens to teach about the benefits of local food, organic agriculture, and city gardening and is sponsored by several co-ops in the Twin Cities.

**Midwest Food Connection website:**

<http://www.midwestfoodconnection.org>

### **For more information contact:**

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