

Glacier Hills Elementary School of Art and Science

3825 Glacier Hills
Eagan, Minnesota 55123



JeffersFoundation.org

Summary

Glacier Hills school garden program was initiated by two parents. The garden is maintained by families in the summer months and they work closely with their local food shelf. The garden has a tall fence around it due to the number of deer in the area. They also have a rain garden and are in the process of developing a school forest.

Photos



left, above, A chain link fence and a gate proved necessary to protect the garden from deer. right, Families maintain plots and share in communal garden needs.



Details

Glacier Hills started their school garden in 2012. Amy Vasterling & Bethanie Miller (school parents) coordinated the program for the 2013 growing season. Their approach to caring for the garden, especially in summer months, is to have families plant and tend individual plots. Each plot user supports the whole garden through watering, seed sharing, compost use and answering garden questions.

Amy Vasterling feels that Glacier Hills Elementary School of Art and Science has a lively learning environment. Teachers meet each child 'where they are,' and infuse the everyday curriculum with a creative blend of art and science. "The immense diversity of programs, people and learning happening at Glacier Hills is astounding for a Midwest suburban school," she says. In a cooperative project between the DNR and the school's science teacher, a rain garden was planted late Sept 2013. Other plans for a school forest are still in the works!

The Dakota County Eagan Resource Center (ERC) has a program that supports school gardens. The ERC food shelf gives community garden reimbursement

grants up to \$250 in exchange for fresh produce throughout the growing season. In the 2013 growing season, the Glacier Hills garden families collectively donated over 170 pounds of fresh produce to this program. The \$250 grant received, supported all operating costs for the garden.

Another grant supplied funds for a fence to keep out deer and other animals. The garden has also been designed to be accessible by wheelchair. Future plans call for simply-built potting tables to make it easier for gardeners to be able to plant.

For more information contact:

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