

# Byron Elementary School

501 10th Ave. NE  
Byron, Minnesota 55920



## Summary

- 'Mariposa' style garden
- Located on school grounds
- Raised bed gardens with trellises
- Staff developed garden curriculum
- Garden part of a community service activity
- Volunteers maintain garden in summer
- Have both edible and butterfly gardens
- Uses project based learning

## Photos



Byron Elementary draws students from Byron and surrounding towns including Rochester.



The school's raised bed vegetable garden uses soaker hoses for watering.

The 'Little Mariposa' prairie restoration garden on the school property teems with natural prairie plantings and is a real show-stopper.



## Details

### General Information:

After learning more about the benefits of an edible garden Byron Elementary chose to develop an edible garden within an already established butterfly garden. It was felt that through project based learning and adding an edible garden to their curriculum it would open a lot of opportunities for students to get involved in many topics. They have a "Mariposa Garden" on the school grounds that contains many varieties of prairie grasses and wild flowers. The garden attracts songbirds, butterflies, and serves as a pollinator habitat and an outdoor classroom.

### Garden Site:

The garden consists of three raised garden boxes that measure 8' x 4'. One has root veggies, one has herbs and lettuce and another has peppers & tomatoes. A trellis was installed on one side of each bed to provide vertical growing space. Crops that could quickly be harvested within the short spring growing season were chosen. For water, there is a spigot on a timer set to water at night and adjusted

weekly depending on rain fall. They used soaker hoses in the vegetable boxes to reduce the amount of water used.

### Garden Product:

Crops that could quickly be harvested within the short spring growing season were chosen. Some of the plants included lettuce and cabbage, cucumbers, beans, corn and herbs. The produce is used to teach students about the healthy benefits of plants that you can grow yourself, and to use in classrooms during simple kitchen activities while cooking.

### Education:

Some of the uses of the garden area were to show the relationship between pollinators and the plants, the different parts of edible plants, how soil affects plant growth, water conservation, as well as composting. Curriculum was developed for use during student visits to the garden area. Student Involvement: Third and fourth grade students outlined some potential ideas for the

garden space. Building the garden was a part of a community service activity. Training opportunities were offered to students and adults on how to use the garden for educational purposes. Through training, teachers found ways in which to involve all of the students, including those with special learning needs.

**Supervision and Maintenance:**

A staff member organized a group of volunteers to maintain the garden during the summer months. Vandalism was not a problem.

**Sources of Funds and Assistance:**

The Jeffers grant was used to purchase enough cedar boards to build two raised garden beds as well as the material needed to fill the boxes. It also helped cover the costs of any small hand tools needed to maintain the garden

**Sustainability:**

The "Mariposa Garden" is well established and the edible garden serves as a compliment to the area. The garden program has full support from both the administration and staff.

**For more information contact:**

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