

Truman Public Schools

401 E. 1st St. South
Truman, MN 56088



JeffersFoundation.org

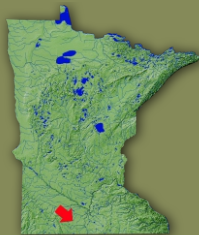
Summary

■ Garden located on the grounds of a Senior Living Center ■ Students and senior citizens learned from each other ■ Garden supervised by a parent volunteer ■ Produce was served in lunchroom and donated to the Truman Senior Living Center kitchen ■ Used garden for science and agriculture education

Photos



Truman Senior Living facility - site of the school garden



While most school gardens are on school property, Truman Elementary has taken community involvement to a new level. The garden is actually a few blocks away, where both students and seniors can benefit.



While students bear the main responsibility for their own garden, residents maintain flower beds and share gardening know-how.

Details

General Information:

Truman is a rural area in southwest central Minnesota centered on agriculture. The residents feel it is important for everyone to learn to be self-sufficient and how to grow your own food. This school garden is unique in that it is not located on the school grounds but rather about four blocks away on the Truman Senior Living Center property.

Garden Site:

The garden is located on the grounds of a local Senior Living Center where there is plenty of room, a nearby water source and shelter from the wind. The garden is about 30' X 30'. The soil is very tillable and with plenty of sun, it is a prime spot for a garden.

Garden Product:

Many different types of vegetables are grown using both seeds and plants. Some of the vegetables are: carrots, onions, tomatoes, peppers, squash, broccoli, potatoes and herbs. All produce was donated to the Truman Senior Living Center kitchen and the Truman Public School Cafeteria.

Education:

Truman elementary students are involved in every step of the process including: planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and fall clean up. The high school FFA also grew produce and delivered it to the local food shelf and the younger students admired the older students and what they were doing to help support the food shelf. School staff integrates the garden into the class curriculum for science and agriculture education, and the garden is an excellent tool to teach students about healthy eating and where food comes from. The location of the garden provides an opportunity for senior and young citizens to work together for a common cause. They learned from each other and enjoyed each other's company while doing something that benefits the community.

Student Involvement:

Students were able to help plant the garden while school was still in session. A summer watering and weeding schedule was set up with volunteers in charge each week to make sure the schedule was followed. In the fall students recruited help to

harvest produce in the garden as well as pull up roots and remove markers and tiles when harvest was complete. The garden is in a flat easily accessible area. Students with special learning needs are provided the opportunity to work in smaller groups or alone with staff or volunteer supervisors as needed.

Supervision and Maintenance:

A parent volunteer supervised the project taking responsibility for ensuring the garden was cared for properly. The garden is located close by making it easy for her to visit frequently. Having the garden on the same grounds as the Senior Living Center also helped in overseeing the garden.

Sources of Funds and Assistance:

The grant from Jeffers Foundation was used to purchase the needed seeds and plants for the garden as well as the different garden tools. Donations from citizens within the Truman community helped with other needed items.

Sustainability:

There is support from the Truman Senior Living Center which has agreed to provide land every year for a garden and a water source at no charge. This is a big part of ensuring that it become a continuing project. There is also support from the school staff in the form of volunteer time. The local newspaper agreed to run weekly articles on the garden, which helps keep the community informed and involved. Many students have also offered their time to make the garden program a continued success.

For More Information contact:

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