

SELF-GUIDED SFUSD SCHOOL GARDEN TOUR
Developed by the San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance
2008

This is a small but representative group of SFUSD school gardens. They have been chosen to give the visitor an understanding of the range of possibilities that exist for urban school gardens. These “outdoor classrooms” may be viewed from the street, and access onto the school grounds is not necessary.

Alice Fong Yu Alternative School Garden: corner of 12th Ave and Lawton. (Inner Sunset)

This sunny sloped garden has year round vegetable production, as well as many edible and ornamental plants, a solar-powered pond recirculation system, an innovative watering feature and model tool shed. Alice Fong Yu Parent Association supports a part-time garden coordinator.

Garden For the Environment: corner of 7th and Lawton (Inner Sunset)

While not a part of SFUSD, this garden has many interesting approaches to raised beds, composting, and sustainable garden design. It is always open and a great place for inspiration and ideas.

Jefferson School: corner of Irving and 19th Ave- entrance on Irving St. (Sunset)

Jefferson started its garden program by removing a rectangular patch of asphalt out of their kindergarten yard. The popularity and success of this small improvement led to a change in their front wall and gate, which allowed for increased gardening space. The site now has an herb spiral, an edible garden, a cobb bench, wattle fence and a capacious digging area.

Ulloa Elementary School: 42nd and Vicente- garden on 42nd st. (Outer Sunset)

Ulloa has one of our finest native plant gardens. The “Coastal Classroom” was built nearly 10 years ago with support and funding from “emeritus” parents and the after-care program on the site. The mature Ceanothus and bush lupines are interspersed with native wildflowers surrounding a dry “creek bed” and a seating area large enough for a full class. Further down 42nd. Ave, and accessible to the neighborhood, is a native plant walk. Around the corner on Wawona Street is a small edible garden.

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Lakeshore Alternative School: Eucalyptus and Middlefield Drive (Outer Sunset)

This vibrant garden has an innovative design and grows ornamentals and vegetables. The visible garden is just one of many gardening sites on this large campus.

Grattan Elementary School: Grattan St. at Schrader (Cole Valley)

This charming garden project is visible along the perimeter of the school, and includes a teaching/gathering area, raised beds with edible plants, and artistic signs painted by the students. The funding for this project is raised by the parent association.

Miraloma School: 175 Omar Way (Miraloma Neighborhood- behind Tower Market)

The Miraloma school garden can be viewed from Omar Street. The asphalt cutouts produce many edible crops, and the area is used as an outdoor classroom.

Sherman School: Franklin Street between Union and Green (Marina District)

Sherman is a 2003 Prop A Bond school. In this design, asphalt from an entire play yard was removed. The landscape was graded with a gentle slope, an ADA accessible path, a waterfall, and an edible garden and a teaching space have been installed. For an understanding of the power of transformation and how far one can go with bond money, this is the schoolyard to see.

San Francisco Community- 125 Excelsior Ave. (Excelsior District)

SF Community developed a master plan for the outdoor space over 10 years ago, and has been steadily refining it. They are a 2003 Prop A Bond school. The different elements of their schoolyard were unified with the bond money, featuring a welcoming entrance with trees and benches. An edible garden, a wonderful greenhouse and tool shed are part of SF Community's garden program.

James Denman – 241 Oneida St.

Denman is a project of Life Frames, A Living Library. The garden, tucked between Denman Middle School and San Miguel Child Development Center is a vibrant space with a water feature, a Josef Norris mural, and

various art works. Edible plants are mixed with ornamentals and flowers for varied color and texture.

Cesar Chavez Elementary School- 825 Shotwell St. at 22nd St.
(Mission Dist.)

A former lawn in front of the school has been transformed into raised beds which overflow with herbs, greens and summer vegetables. This garden is organized and run by the teachers of Cesar Chavez.