

SELF-GUIDED SFUSD SCHOOL GARDEN TOUR
Developed by the San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance
2010

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

Schools in red indicate a smaller site.

Alice Fong Yu Alternative School: 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.

Bryant Elementary School: 1050 York St. @ 23rd.

(Mission)

Bryant has completed its bond work and has since kept adding features such as a large trellis, fruit trees, and native plants. All work has been done on a very small schoolyard.

Claire Lillienthal 3-8th: 3630 Divisadero St. @ Beach

(Marina)

Claire Lillienthal installed an extensive sidewalk garden due to space constraints on their schoolyard.

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.

Lafayette Elementary School: 4545 Anza St. at 36th

(Outer Richmond)

Lafayette Elementary school received a SF PUC-funded rainwater garden and catchment system (cistern). Their outdoor classroom is well-designed to accommodate a class of 20 and well-situated on the schoolyard. It consists of several raised beds, native planting area, a rainwater runnel, and work tables and benches.

Miraloma Elementary School: 175 Omar Way

(Miraloma Neighborhood- behind Tower Market)

Miraloma Elementary received a SF PUC-funded rainwater garden and catchment system (cisterns) which amplified their garden program. They have an outdoor classroom space, raised beds, and in-ground planting space with an attractive, winding decomposed granite path. Slow Food SF provided them with a beautiful greenhouse, and a chicken coop is awaiting residents.

Alvarado Elementary School: 625 Douglass St. at 22nd
(Noe Valley)

Alvarado Elementary school has completed its Bond work and has a three-tiered garden space divided by an ADA ramp. One tier consists of an outdoor classroom and many perennials, another tier has different student-made projects (currently a lashed-together teepee), and the third level is the edible garden. There is also another classroom space behind the portables on this lowest level, which also includes a rainwater cistern and covered seating space.

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 and new work is funded by Bond money. Look for livestock troughs as planters on the schoolyard, as well.

Sherman Elementary 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 School: 125 Excelsior Ave. at London St.
(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 Middle School: – 241 Oneida St. at Delano
(Excelsior District near City College)

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 District)

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.