

*“I have witnessed first hand the tremendous impact that the garden has had on students from preschool through the eighth grade. It is rare to find one program that reaches such a diversity of students across so many grade levels.”* Patricia Beggy, Morse School Principal.

CitySprouts is a district-wide school and community program in Cambridge, MA, public schools that integrates academic, health and environmental education in the public schools and in the neighborhood. Our school garden program serves all 12 K-8 schools in the city (a student population of over 4,000 elementary and middle schoolers). Half of the children in Cambridge public schools are from low-income families. CitySprouts partners with the science department to integrate the district science curricula with the garden by ‘exchanging’ and extending lessons into the outdoor classroom garden. With the science department, CitySprouts staff lead professional development workshops for the district’s classroom teachers to help them teach more of their science curricula in the school garden. In Fall 2008, 77% of the teachers in CitySprouts schools (106 teachers) reported using their school garden for teaching at least one time and as many as twenty times for science, math, history and other subjects.

During the school year, CitySprouts Garden Coordinators spend 15 hours in the schools from April – November to oversee garden maintenance, coordinate its use, and to assist teachers who bring their students into the garden for learning.

During the summer, CitySprouts' Youth Internship gives 50 young teens an intensive month growing and harvesting food in an urban garden, expanding their first-hand experience preparing and eating healthy food and fostering a strong connection to their natural urban environment.

CitySprouts provides environmental education and food education to children and their families after school through weekly Open Garden drop-in at all of our sites. In 2008, more than 2,900 visits were made to our gardens after school and in the summer.

The CitySprouts mission is to develop, implement and maintain beautiful, resource-rich school gardens in collaboration with public school communities. Integrated into the curriculum, CitySprouts gardens inspire teachers, students, and families with a deep, hands-on connection to the food cycle, sustainable agriculture, and the natural environment. CitySprouts began in 2000 through the efforts of educators, parents and community members.



