

Vanier Gardens Guide for Teachers & Staff

August 2017



Note: this document is to be revised, improved, and added to on an ongoing basis. Please regularly consult the Vanier Garden website for the most recent version:

<http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/sustainability-major/collective-gardens/>

The Vanier Gardens' Locations

The gardens are dispersed around the Vanier campus. **View:** [Virtual Tour](#) (P.S. to be updated)

The “**Open Garden**” is located on the path between D and N buildings and is the main garden area. It is comprised of the garden shed, compost bins, a work-table, an outdoor sink and counter, a water outlet with hoses, 8 low planting boxes and one elevated planting box for wheel chair access. The Open Garden has three large billboards with informative posters and a small chalkboard and pin board on the side of the shed. **View:** [The New Open Garden](#)

Two planters are located in front of the Sports Complex: the “**Plastic G-planter**” named for the plasticulture technique used in growing this vegetable patch and the “**Perennial G-planter**” which has undergone a weed removal process to eliminate bindweed, and will be replanted soon with a variety of perennials.

Behind the K wing is the “**Permaculture K-planter**” consisting of a variety of medicinal and culinary herbs, both perennials and annuals. **Audio file:** [Permaculture and Perennials with Mark Reynolds – workshop in the K planter, May 2017](#)

The “**N building gardens**” are wall-side edges comprising a large variety of flowering perennials, annuals, herbs and some edibles. Since 2009, our own pioneer in campus gardening, Evelynne Barten, has worked with volunteers to transform plain lawn into lively biodiverse ecosystems attracting numerous pollinators, birds and other wild creatures.

The Gardens as An Academic Tool

The Gardens are open to the entire Vanier Community and can be used in multiple ways for academic purposes. A key to the shed is available at Security and can be borrowed by anyone with a valid Vanier ID card.

A **formal class tour and hands-on activities** can be organized with the Coordinator and can be customized based on the course and the teacher’s specific needs. A 45-60 min session involves a garden tour and brief explanation of the purpose of each planter. Staying at one specific garden location is also an option. To allow for hands-on participation, at least 90 minutes are necessary.

Teachers can also take their group on their own at anytime. The Garden coordinator can meet the teachers beforehand at their convenience to brief them on the gardens so they can prepare their own tour and/or activities.

Sending students on their own as part of a project. The Garden Coordinator can assist teachers willing to integrate the gardens into their course and to propose related activities.

Online Resources: The Vanier Garden website also serves as a bank of educational material available to anyone. These include Garden Composting systems, Edible Plants on campus, Benefits of Herbs, to name a few. Teachers are encouraged to make use of them in their teaching.

Themes that the Gardens can prompt include (this list is not exhaustive!):

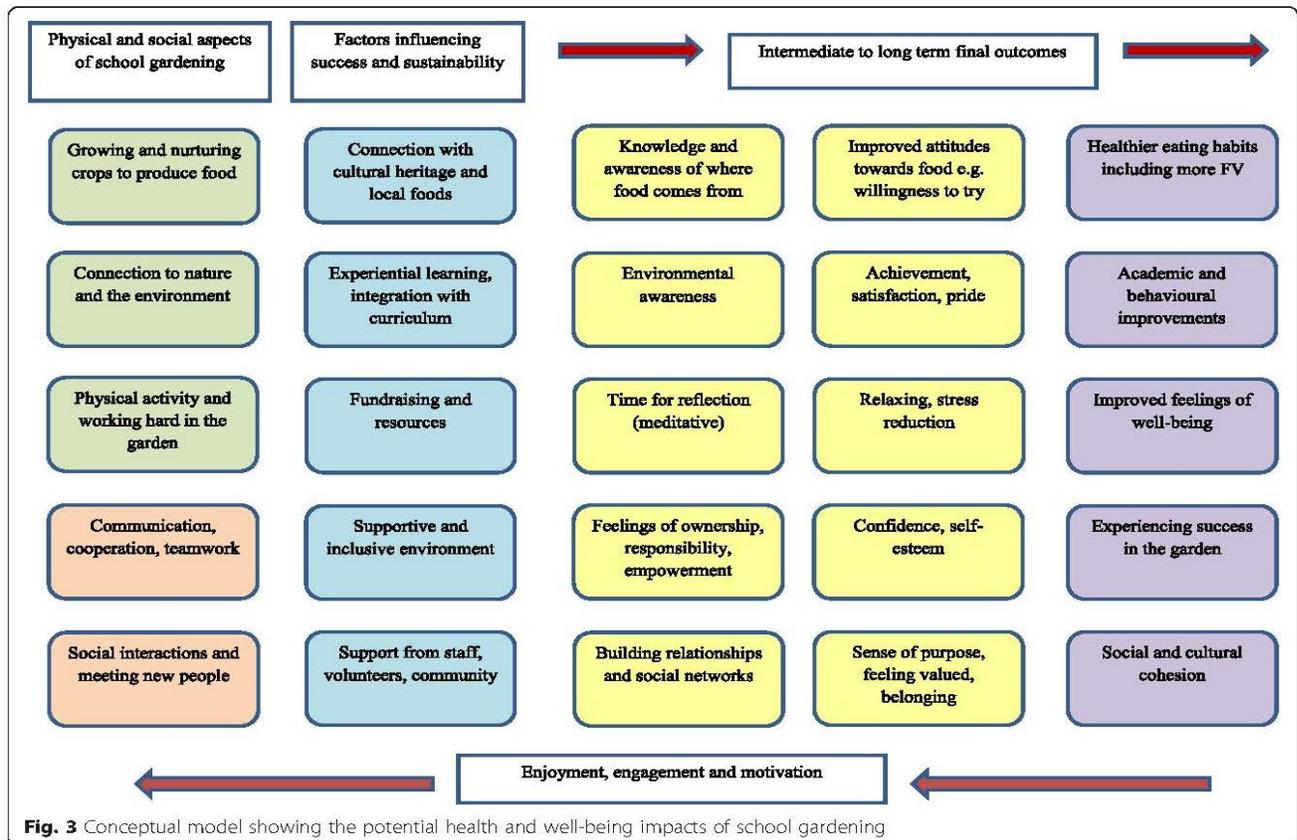
- Biodiversity
- Economy
- Composting
- Sustainability
- Ecosystem
- Technology
- Culture
- Food issue
- Life skills & self-reliance
- Food sovereignty
- Heathy & Wellbeing
- Urban agriculture
- Societal issues - social justice
- Entrepreneurship
- Arts and nature
- Human-Environment relationships

Gardening as a hobby, a stress release, a source of personal knowledge and even of food!

As previously mentioned, the Gardens are open to the entire Vanier Community and not necessarily for academic purposes. Since their creation many employees and students have volunteered for a variety of non-academic reasons. Volunteering in the gardens also qualify for the Sustainability Major and the S.T.A.R. program. Encourage students to join and be our guests as well!

Potential benefits of School Gardens:

Source: Ohly, H., Gentry, S., Wigglesworth, R., Bethel, A., Lowell, R., & Garside, R. (2016). A systematic review of the health and well-being impacts of school gardening: synthesis of quantitative and qualitative evidence. BMC Public Health, 16(1), 1-36. doi: 1186/s12889-016-2941-0



Keeping informed or getting involved

The Gardens cannot be sustained without people. An important ongoing goal is to spread the word about this valuable resource provided on campus and encourage members of the Vanier community to find out more about it and get involved. To stay tuned with the Gardens' progress as well as with gardening sessions, workshops, and other related events see below:

- **Garden Coordinator: Myriam Mansour:** mansourm@vaniercollege.qc.ca
- Sign up on **Mail Chimp (email)** to receive regular updates and gardening schedule: <http://eepurl.com/b7vStn>
- Join us on **FB: Vanier College Collective Gardens:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/956934947670755>



Notes: