

Collective Roots Garden Project

Our Mission

The mission of Collective Roots Garden Project (CRGP) is to develop young urban leaders who understand where their food comes from and how their actions impact human and environmental health.

Collective Roots Garden Project is based at East Palo Alto Charter School, a year round public school that serves 400 K-8 students in the Ravenswood City School District.



Collective Roots
Garden Project

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www.collectiveroots.org



Collective Roots Garden Project ... Helping Our Students Grow

It's 11:00 and a group of second graders play "roots, stems, and leaves" in the garden. Serina yells out "flower" and all the children race to find one. Then "roots" and Maria rushes to harvest yacon, an ancient Andean plant. These second graders spend their morning lesson planting, harvesting, eating. Without even realizing it, they are learning important lessons about nutrition and science.

Later that day, Tyrica and Ovi-er pull weeds taller than themselves. They grasp the bottom, pry and shake the plants so that as much precious soil remains in the garden as possible. They are Junior Instructors, serving as role models and mentors for younger students in the after school Garden Club.

On the weekend, Miguel brings his mother to the garden for a special workday, where community members transplant raspberries, bok choy and celery. Parents and students alike

sample organically grown food, eat plant part snacks, and help to grow a learning community.

Late in the spring, a killdeer lays its eggs in the garden, just outside the Baylands. And a pheasant struts through the garden paths, looking for seeds.

These snapshots highlight the everyday life of Collective Roots Garden Project (CRGP), a non-profit organization dedicated to integrating

garden learning into the school curriculum. Our focal areas are nutrition, environmental science, and leadership. CRGP currently partners with East Palo Alto Charter School to increase students' knowledge and appreciation for nature by teaching environmental science and nutrition through hands-on lessons in a garden classroom. Our organic garden learning center spans more than 12,500 square feet and provides endless opportunities for students of all ages to learn first-hand about science and nutrition in their surrounding environment. We directly serve these students through four core programs:

- Garden-Based Lessons for grades K-6
- Middle School Garden Elective
- After school Garden Club, and
- Community Garden Workdays and Events.

Our board and staff are working to create a model of garden learning that can be replicated in other schools serving under resourced youth in the next few years.

If you are interested in volunteering with CRGP or would like to learn more about our work, please visit www.collectiveroots.org or contact Tori Derr, Executive Director, at tori@collectiveroots.org or (650) 283-7530.

"Integrating garden-enhanced nutrition education with parental and community involvement can increase students' preferences for vegetables and increase their nutrition knowledge"

Staff

Tori Derr, Executive Director
Serina Eichelberger, Garden Learning Coordinator
Holly Taylor, Nutrition Education Coordinator



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