

The WestShore Teaching Garden is a place where school age youth and community members of all ages can learn sustainable gardening practices through hands-on lessons and projects, throughout the year.

Projects based at the Teaching Garden integrate a blend of learning opportunities and interests including organic gardening, landscape



design, carpentry, media arts and fine arts for youth and adults. By involving various WestShore community organizations and businesses committed to sustainability, the Teaching Garden has become a venue to educate and involve both the local community and our youth in sustainable practices.

The first Year at the Teaching Garden

The WestShore Teaching Garden started September 2008 as a barren patch of school yard. Thanks to the many volunteers and supporters, one year later, the Teaching Garden has an orchard of heritage apple trees, six large raised garden beds for school and youth groups to learn about vegetable and herb gardening, a three bin composter, a propagation cupboard to start flower and vegetable seedlings, herb beds, a large and flourishing perennial garden, a potting bench, a welcoming cedar garden entrance and gates and a productive vegetable garden. Things do not stop in the Teaching Garden once school's out in June. This past summer 3 young people learned about growing, harvesting, packaging and selling food. Every Wednesday they harvested the food started by the school groups and sold it at the Colwood Farmer's Market and to Smoked Bones Cookshack.

In the spring of 2010, children and youth from ten different school and youth groups will be involved at the Teaching Garden, growing their own food and plants.

Our community helpers and supporters are important. Without community support and involvement, the Westshore Teaching Garden would still be a barren piece of school yard.

How can you get involved in the Teaching Garden?

Become part of the Community Garden Group

Grow your own food. Learn organic gardening practices. Spend some time helping in the garden.

As a member of the Community Garden Group at the Teaching Garden, you will have access for one year to a raised garden box located at the Teaching Garden. In exchange, you will spend a minimum of 8 hours per month, helping to maintain the main teaching garden including weeding, trimming, mulching and other garden tasks. Limited spaces are available. If interested, please call or email the garden coordinator to request an application.

Become a Teaching Garden Youth Mentor

Share your experience and knowledge with a class, youth group or young families.

As a mentor you would be available as a resource person to educators, youth groups and community garden groups seeking help, guidance and advice on growing vegetables, fruits and flowers as well as harvesting and preserving. And in the summer, the youth gardeners require guidance. Youth mentors will be required to complete an application and provide a criminal record check. Contact the garden coordinator for an application.

Become a Community Garden Helper

Lend a helping hand. Help to keep the Teaching Garden a beautiful and restful place to come.

A garden needs regular care. Grass and shrubs needs trimming. Weeds need to be plucked. And in the summer, once classes are out, the grass and weeds continue to grow.

Find some peaceful time working alone, or gather a group of friends or family to work together. And be sure to take a few moments to enjoy sitting on the tree bench beneath the oak tree. Check out the Information board on what tasks and assistance is required. Contact the garden coordinator to become a Community Garden Helper.

It takes a community to grow our garden.

As a Garden Helper you have the opportunity to

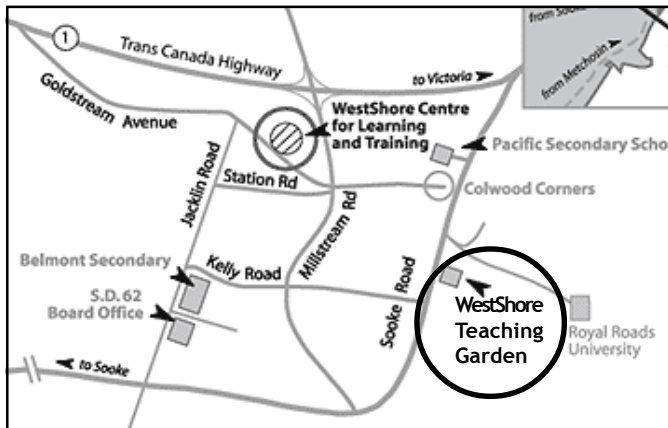
- grow your own food
- share your knowledge and love of gardening with youth and other members of the community
- learn about organic gardening practices
- pick up some useful tips on food growing
- spend some time with others who enjoy gardening and growing food
- help the Teaching Garden develop into a place where community, families and youth can gather



Connecting Community Youth Environments



Become a Community Helper at the WestShore Teaching Garden



WestShore Teaching Garden is located at 2139 Sooke Road in Colwood,
across from the Church of the Advent

Call 250-391-9002 for more information or email
learnforlife@sd62.bc.ca

Learn
Grow
Inspire



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