

Anderson Heights Elementary School Garden

The Anderson Heights Elementary School Garden began during the 2000-2001 school year with the help of dedicated children, school staff, and community members. Mary Casady, a third grade teacher, led the project. Parents, students, and staff designed and built 17 raised beds on the school grounds. Start-up activities included a Saturday work day and BBQ for school staff and interested community members.

The garden is presently used to enhance the math, science, nutrition, art, and language arts curricula using the UC Davis Extension curriculum “garden to table.” The garden also provides students with physical activity in the form of weeding, raking and hauling.

Master gardeners and planting experts helped staff and volunteers to overcome weeds, pests and watering problems. The garden has yielded a bountiful harvest of tomatoes, zucchini, melons, pumpkins, peppers, sunflowers and potatoes. Tomatoes were so plentiful that they were included in school lunch salads.

Garden volunteers plan to expand the garden with assistance from Shasta County Public Health, a landscape designer, and local master gardeners. Future plans include the addition of a labyrinth with two theme gardens (such as a sensory garden and a native edible medicinal plant garden), water features (such as fountains and ponds) and irrigation, a polymeric area with balance beams, and physical fitness areas. Today there are 18 raised beds with vegetables and flowers.

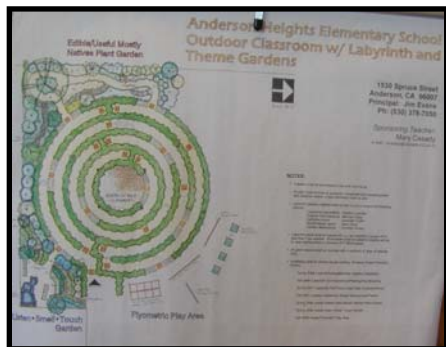


Diagram of Labyrinth

