Darcie Anderson

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February 18, 2012

Unit Outcomes

Course I: Leadership training (4-5 sessions)

This course will outline the requirements and responsibilities of leaders and organize participant/volunteer opportunities. The leaders will determine dates and timeline of volunteer courses. Leaders will also create a commitment contract for garden participants (Bloom’s taxonomy: synthesis).

Course II: Understanding garden benefits (1-2 sessions)

This course will outline research-based arguments of the many potential benefits of developing a community garden in the local community. Participants will recognize the benefits of community garden spaces and will develop a deeper understanding of the garden as a living being (Bloom’s taxonomy: knowledge). They will be introduced to leaders and will sign commitment contract. Introduction to the course and timeline for the garden project will be presented.

Course III: Seed and plant selection (2-3 sessions)

This course will present information on proper seed selection, plant nutritional needs, proper spacing and yields. Participants will identify and create potential seed/plant lists based on presented information to determine what types of plants/produce will be included in the garden space (Bloom’s taxonomy: analysis & synthesis). Timeline information from the previous course will be used in the development of these lists as maturity dates will need to be linked to the allotted time frame.

Course IV: Garden space & structures (2-3 sessions)

This course will provide participants many options for garden space layout. Participants will use seed/plant lists developed in the previous course to select which layout will best suit the selected plants (Bloom’s taxonomy: analysis). Participants will be presented with many options for garden structures to support plant growth and will select appropriate structures for the allotted garden dimensions and layout (Bloom’s taxonomy: analysis).

Course V: Composting techniques & good/bad organisms (1-2 sessions)

This course will outline step-by-step the correct way to compost waste products. Participants will be presented with several compost structure options and will select a structure that will fit the space provided (Bloom’s taxonomy: analysis). Based on previously discussed plant nutritional needs, participants will create a list of items that can and cannot be included in the compost (Bloom’s taxonomy: synthesis). This list will be posted near the project compost site for community members to bring items for the compost. This course will also discuss good and bad organisms including some of the most common garden pests and their damaging effects. Participants will be provided a comprehensive list of the garden pests for use at the project garden site. Participants will then look for and identify any garden pests found at the project site (Bloom’s taxonomy: knowledge). Participants will then take steps to eradicate pests to maintain proper plant nutrition.

Course VI: Planting techniques (2-3 sessions)

This course will discuss a variety of planting techniques for seeds, seedlings, and transplants. Participants in this course will practice different planting techniques in the project garden. Participants will identify their preferred method and complete the planting phase of the garden (Bloom’s taxonomy: knowledge).

Course VII: Watering/weeding techniques (1-2 sessions & ongoing practice in project garden)

This course will introduce several watering techniques and participants will identify the water requirements of the garden plants to select appropriate technique(s) for use in the project garden (Bloom’s taxonomy: knowledge). Weeding techniques will be introduced and participants will try each technique to determine the best technique for their personal ability level. Weeding techniques will then be used in the project garden for the duration of the growing season.

Course VIII: Harvesting techniques (1-2 sessions & ongoing practice in project garden)

This course will discuss harvest dates based on the project timeline and plant maturation as well as how to determine ripeness of selected garden plants. Participants will recognize and harvest ripe produce on an ongoing basis from the project garden once the course is complete (Bloom’s taxonomy: analysis).

Course IX: Preservation (3-4 sessions)

This course is designed to provide participants a variety of options for preserving harvested produce for later use. This course will outline and demonstrate blanching, canning, freezing, and juicing produce for preservation. Participants will use produce harvested from the project garden to follow learned techniques and will be able to take the preserved produce with them (Bloom’s taxonomy: guided response).