

IDEA

A Publication of the Bellevue College Teaching Gardens

New Name, New

There's something new east of the greenhouse (K100). A garden. And not just any garden. A garden that breaks down the barriers that needlessly separate people from each other and access to green spaces.

In honor of this new garden, *The Urban Homesteader* newsletter has changed its name to the *IDEA Garden*.

The Bellevue College IDEA Garden, funded by a grant from the Student Environmental Sustainability Fund and private donors, opened spring quarter. Created using principles of universal design, the garden models planting systems for people with limited mobility, visual impairment, and limited access to land.



The garden includes:

- Raised beds and planters
- Vertical gardening systems
- Braille labeling systems
- Visual impairment navigation systems
- Sensory features
- Accessible passageways
- Accessible watering systems
- Intensive planting methods

Half hour gardening seminars are held in the garden every Tuesday at noon and Thursday at 11:45. Everyone is welcome! Come, as you are.

Gardening Seminar Topics for Spring Quarter

4/29 & 5/1 – Planning for the Summer Garden

5/6 & 5/8 – Self-Watering Containers

5/13 & 5/15 – Just Grow Up!

5/20 & 5/22 – Patio Gardening

5/27 & 5/29 – Watering Systems

I. D. E. A. Garden

The purpose of the IDEA Garden is to provide Bellevue College with a universally designed outdoor laboratory where students, faculty, staff, and the community can connect to share ideas about food production, therapeutic gardening, and sustainable living for everyone.

The acronym IDEA stands for:

Inspire through demonstration, education, and community outreach;



Twenty-two strawberries in 1 square foot of ground space.

Develop local and sustainable food sources, one garden at a time;

Empower people with the skills of self-sufficiency and proper nutrition; and provide

Access to therapeutic gardening methods and affordable universal design methods to promote gardening for all.

Nutrition Gets an IDEA Boost

Mix 36 chilled students, 1 box latex gloves, 10 packages of cool-weather seeds, and 28 square feet of soil. Add water (or wait for the next rain shower). Let sit for 7 days. What cooks up?

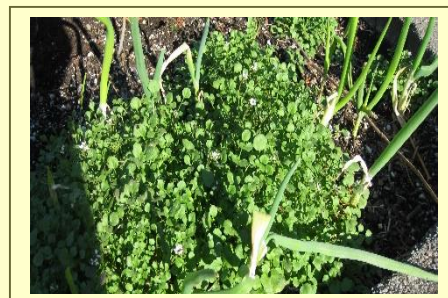
A hands-on lesson in nutrition that no textbook can begin to provide.

Jaime Holthuysen's nutrition class planted spring greens in the IDEA Garden with the help of urban homesteader, Karrin Peterson. The sprouts are already leaping from the soil.

"I had the student's use poly-cultural planting," says Peterson. "What that really means is we have no idea what was planted where. It was raining, and we just wanted to get the job done fast. But that's OK. Most plants do their work peaceably together, just like gardeners."

The final project will be a blind-fold taste test: fresh garden produce against store bought. "I'm betting the students will taste the difference. What they'll be tasting is better nutrition," says Peterson.

"Most plants do their work peaceably together, just like gardeners."



Poly-cultural mix of micro-greens and over-wintered onions.