

1 **[A Garden in Every School]**

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3 **Resolution urging the Mayor's Office to work with San Francisco Green**
4 **Schoolyard Alliance (SFGSA) and San Francisco Unified School District to**
5 **create a garden in every school.**

6 WHEREAS, School gardens can enhance student learning in math,
7 science, social studies, reading, writing, and nutrition¹; and,

8 WHEREAS, Many school sites—with paved yards, fences, and block-like
9 buildings—are unwelcoming and uninteresting play areas; and,

10 WHEREAS, Research shows that employing the environment as an
11 integrating context for learning in K-12 education increases performance on
12 standardized measures of academic achievement²; and,

13 WHEREAS, Students in outdoor classrooms exhibit improved behavior
14 and interpersonal relationships³; and,

15 WHEREAS, In urban areas, well-designed school gardens may provide a
16 child's most formative, sometimes only, experience with the natural environment;
17 and,

18 WHEREAS, School gardens provide students the opportunity for hands-
19 on, inquiry based learning, which is essential to model environmental

¹ Gaining Ground: The Power and Potential of School Ground Greening in the Toronto District School Board, Evergreen, [http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/gaining_ground.pdf]

² Closing the Achievement Gap: Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning, State Education and Environmental Roundtable, [http://www.seer.org/extras/execsum.pdf]

³ Gaining Ground: The Power and Potential of School Ground Greening in the Toronto District School Board, Evergreen, [http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/gaining_ground.pdf]

1 stewardship and provide the skills and reinforcement that will bridge the gap
2 between environmental knowledge and action⁴; and,

3 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that when kids garden their attitudes
4 towards vegetables improve, as well as their preference for healthier fruit and
5 vegetable snacks⁵; and,

6 WHEREAS, School gardens help filter dust and pollutants and provide shade,
7 thus lowering children's exposure to toxins⁶; and,

8 WHEREAS, The presence of trees and gardens has been linked to the extent
9 to which residents feel satisfied with their community and where they live⁷; and,

10 WHEREAS, Gardens enhance school grounds and provide additional green
11 space to communities; and,

12 WHEREAS, Many city departments and community groups are interested in
13 developing and maintaining green space, including gardens, in San Francisco;
14 and,

15 WHEREAS, On November 4, 2003, San Francisco voters approved
16 Proposition A: School Bond, which allocated \$2.0 million of bond proceeds to the
17 greening of schoolyards at certain District schools⁸; and,

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance (SFGSA) is a
19 coalition of Bay Area civic organizations whose work supports schoolyard

⁴ Schoolyard Learning: The Impact of School Grounds, Education Development Center, Inc.,
[<http://www.edc.org/GLG/schoolyard.pdf>]

⁵ Research Support for Kid's Gardening, National Gardening Association,
[<http://www.kidsgardening.com/2005.kids.garden.news/research.pdf>]

⁶ Nature Nurtures: Investigating the Potential of School Grounds, Evergreen, [<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/nurtures-en.pdf>]

⁷ Nature Nurtures: Investigating the Potential of School Grounds, Evergreen, [<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/lg/nurtures-en.pdf>]

⁸ Voter Information Pamphlet, Department of Elections: City & County of San Francisco,
[http://sfpl4.sfpl.org/pdf/files/November4_2003.pdf]

1 transformations from ordinary asphalt yards into ecologically rich green spaces
2 for learning; and,

3 WHEREAS, SFGSA provides technical assistance and resources to the thirty-
4 plus schools that have schoolyard garden programs; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, The Commission on the Environment supports the efforts of the
6 San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance and urges the Mayor's Office to work
7 with SFGSA and the San Francisco Unified School District to create a garden in
8 every school.

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10 *I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment*
11 *at its special meeting on December 5, 2005.*

12

13 Monica Fish

14 *Monica Fish, Commission Secretary*

15

16 Vote: Approved (6-0) (1 Absent)

17 Ayes: Commissioners Crowder, Pelosi Jr., Desser, Mok, Rodriguez, and Wald

18 Noes: None

19 Absent: Commissioner King

