

THE BLOOMINGTON YOUTH GARDEN-NATURE CENTER & THE REGIONAL CIVIC GARDEN CENTER

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTERS

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

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History and purposes and the functional units of the Garden Centers are considered in the following outlines. Also, importantly the outlines include their basic contributions to society.

THE BLOOMINGTON YOUTH GARDEN-NATURE CENTER- ITS ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTION:-

Our Youth Garden-Nature Center called HILLTOP, an urban nature center-garden oriented is noted for its leadership training program in a university-based outdoor science education project. It receives the continuing support of the Indiana University Department of Biology, the Bloomington Department of Parks & Recreation and the Bloomington Garden Club. Competent and responsible leadership is provided for the nation's schools and municipal recreation centers.

History & Purposes: The historical perspective of youth gardens, the garden-oriented outdoor laboratory for science education

- a. Their form- function within the educational systems of the countries
- b. Their founders and leaders
- c. Their basic contributions to society

Leadership Training: Nature and development of leadership

- a. Patterns of leadership
- b. Process of leadership
- c. Dynamics of organization..methods of leadership development

The functional units of the Garden Center: The Executive Faculty & Staff (spring & summer staff) Director of the Center (Faculty, Dept. of Biology)

- a. Instruction- curriculums; instructional materials; crop production; gardens, their management
- b. Library
- c. Audio-Visual Materials- film; photo library; graphic arts
- d. Business management
- e. Public Relations- maintenance of the information center (services for adults & youth); calendar of events (weekly; monthly)
- f. Research- elementary science curriculum studies; leadership development studies; crop production studies

DECADES OF GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT..THE CENTER'S CURRENT PATTERNS OF OPERATION

Environmental Education: We must be quite clear in our minds as to what we are seeking to establish; there is quite a difference in a gardener being able to grow a crop of vegetables and the gardener actively engaged in organizing and managing his garden in context with his surrounding environment, conscious of the social consequences of his actions. Confidence in one's own resources is a powerful social instrument for good. Horticulture as an intellectual and a practical process can serve as a dynamic bridge to environmental awareness.

Environmental awareness: Environmental awareness and mankind's survival..to reach this goal we must start with youth.

The Urban Child: Yesterday's children grew up in villages and small towns, today in suburbia and in cities. With the disappearance of neighborhoods, youth lost significant human contacts, the adults. Today he is with his peers.

Psychology and Leadership Training: The leaders' task is essentially training and guiding the learners to behavior.

- a. Basic principles of conducts for effective teaching: reaction; native and acquired reactions; interest; attention; memory
- B. Curiosity, an instinct to improve perception
- c. The imitative impulse
- d. Spontaneous interest
- e. Ownership instinct f. Constructiveness, another great instinct

FACILITIES OF THE GARDEN CENTER: The 1-acre is enclosed within an 8-ft high chain link fence enabling 150 children and their leaders in-training to learn the art and science of growing plants. 1/4 acre is laid out into ninety plots (9'x9'); many small special gardens (fruit..herb..rose..flower, etc.). There is a garden house and all the necessary aspects for a fully functional Center.

THE OUTDOOR SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM: A full season (4 seasons) of gardening & nature study

- a. The spring program, its organization & administration
- b. The summer program, its organization & administration
- c. The fall & winter program, its organization & administration

FUNDING OF THE CENTER

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTER: In its dual role the Center fulfills the following functions:

- a. FOR THE UNIVERSITY: It is an outdoor science education project providing students with first-hand experiences in the organization and administration of HILLTOP. Faculty and students are also engaged in research projects to find out how best to teach science to youth in a garden environment.
- b. FOR THE COMMUNITY: It is leisure science program for youth- a link with the idea of social concern. As a community-supported project, it provides the public a chance to develop the program into a powerful social instrument for good. Equally vital is its link with adult education; a cultural center for all and recognized as a way of life in Bloomington.

THE REGIONAL CIVIC GARDEN CENTER: We are in the process of developing this Center. It will be of considerable interest to all how we are organized to reach this wonderful goal. As part of the National Civic Garden Centers movement in U. S. A. the objective is to promote the development of other Civic Garden Centers and their advancement as educational institutions and cultural centers. A Garden Center is defined as an area of operation with many interests, operated for the benefit of individuals, groups, or municipality, and operated at the expense of either governmental agencies or by private enterprise or a combination of financial supporters for the express concern of those interested or involve in phases of horticulture or allied fields. The Centers sponsor symposiums, discussions, publications, speaker's lists, and various other media of communication as well as to encourage interest in gardening, horticulture, civic beautification, and all related environmental endeavors.

Thank you,

Barbara Shalucha