School Garden Design
Finding inspiration and balancing imagination with reality

• Use your imagination to find inspiration!
  - Envisioning your garden – memories, special places
  - In writing, drawing, collage, 3-D models

• Do research
  – Other gardens and designs
  – Web, catalogs, field trip, interviews

• Be realistic
  – Mission and goals of garden
  – Curricular objectives
  – Pre-determined aspects of the site
Steps to a Garden Design

1. Do a site analysis
2. Develop a base map
3. Create design overlays
4. Select plants
5. Create final map and design
Site Analysis

• Water
• Sunlight
• Soil type and quality
• Existing plants
• Underground utilities
• Accessibility
• Security and Safety
• Room to grow
• Availability into future
Create a Base Map

• Measure actual size of site and features
• Use graph paper and a measurement scale
• Map buildings, fences, trees, paths, etc
Create Design Overlay

- Lay tracing paper over base map
- Can do multiple designs this way
- Begin by defining beds and walkways
- Can start with general areas and then fill in more specific details
Plant Selection and Placement

- Research shape, size, requirements
  - Well adapted to location
  - Amount of maintenance
  - Size at maturity
  - Safety

- Plants for purposes – shade, wildlife, themes…
Sample Designs

My idea of the perfect Children's Garden at Barnsdale would look like this (please show your Garden Design here).
Sample Designs
Sample Designs
Sample Designs

THE SENSORY GARDEN

Students came up with their own ideas of what a garden based on the five senses should look like.
Sample Designs
Sample Designs

COURTYARD HABITAT
Lower Southampton Elementary School, Southampton, PA

LEXINGTON CREEK BUTTERFLY GARDEN
Lexington Creek Elementary School, Missouri City, TX
Sample Designs
Sample Gardens
Sample Gardens
Sample Gardens
Questions?