School Gardens as a Model for Natural Systems

Presented by Elizabeth Goward and Sarah Wheeler
School Garden Project of Lane County
What we do:

School Garden Project helps Lane County schools create, sustain, and use onsite gardens by providing resources, professional consultation, and educational programming. We are committed to a future in which school garden education helps children become healthy adults who eat their fruits and vegetables, know the basics of growing food, and contribute to a thriving community.

- Utilize school gardens as outdoor classrooms and living laboratories.
- Teach Next Generation Science Aligned curriculum as well as STEM after school programs
- Support over 60 schools annually through our Support Services Program
- Provide opportunities for hands on learning and environmental education without leaving the school
Next Generation Science

Crosscutting Concepts

Science and Engineering Practices

Disciplinary Core Ideas

School Garden Project of Lane County
Inquiry and Project Based Learning

“Instead of presenting facts, use questions, problems and scenarios to have students learn through their own agency and investigation.” — Edutopia

- Students are experts
- Curiosity
- Student driven
- Connect to community
- Reflection and revision
- Relevant topics
Ecosystem Services

The garden provides countless opportunities to explore the concepts of ecosystem services

- **Supporting**
  - Pollination

- **Provisioning**
  - Food Production

- **Regulating**
  - Decomposition
Workshop Outline

- Background Knowledge
- Activity Stations & Rotations
- Soil Inquiry
- Decomposers
- Ideas & Take Aways
- Resources