

Merrimac Juvenile Detention Center
New Project
2009

Project: Horticulture Skills Program

Project Chairs: Helen Kidder and Minouche Robinson

Phone and email: greengounds@earthlink.net (Helen)
757-566-8285
Minouche@cox.net (Minouche)
757-258-3467

Location of Project: Merrimac Center
9300 Merrimac Trail
Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-888-2529

Initiation Date: January 2005 Duration – 10 weeks
Contact Person: Carol Tolbert

Resource Needs:

Volunteers: 3-6 plus 2 coordinators

Volunteer hours: coordinators approximately 50 hours, plus class time
MG speakers 2 hours per class (including drive time)

Interns –never worked up to now

When volunteers will be needed: Winter/Spring – one day a week

Project Cost - \$50.00

Project Description: To teach basic horticulture skills to sentenced juvenile offenders – ages 14-17.

Goals of the project:

- Helps the student earn credits towards a GED
- Expose student to community business leaders and Master Gardeners
- Give realistic, practical knowledge about horticulture
- Help student develop a horticultural portfolio and earn a skills certificate

How will they be measured? Due to confidentiality issues relating to the students, our only measurement, other than questions and answer periods during class time, is feedback from the transition teacher regarding the student after he or she has left the facility.

How does project support VCE or JCC/WG goals? The project stresses environmentally sound horticultural practices. Using a specific curriculum developed by Master Gardeners, the program endeavors to educate the student in sustainable landscape management practices.

This project was instituted and sponsored by a former extension agent under VEC Projects.

Project Implementation:

People needed other than MG/interns are: Area extension agents and various people involved in the landscape industry.

Project marketing strategy: non applicable

Impact: The feedback from the center's director, staff, and the transitional teacher, and most of all, the students' interest and participation, as well as their notes of appreciation.

Risk Management Plan: We ask that master gardeners review our risk management practices. The center does not require any formal training, however, each speaker is provided with a visitation "guidelines and procedures" handout prior to their visit.