



**green
our
planet**

Creators of
America's Largest
School Garden
Program

School Gardens & The Wellness Policy

About me: Emily Litz

- ❖ Originally from the east coast
- ❖ Completed my M.Ed. in Community Engagement at Merrimack College
 - ❖ Focused on K-12, masters research on Nature Schools in the U.S.
- ❖ Married my husband Simon on July 4
- ❖ My background is in event planning and operations
 - ❖ Nonprofit, health & wellness club, higher education
 - ❖ Finally made my way to Green Our Planet in 2018 when I moved out to Las Vegas



Who Is Green Our Planet?

Founded in 2013 by Kim MacQuarrie & Ciara Byrne, Green Our Planet is a Las Vegas based non-profit conservation organization.

Our mission is to help conserve, protect, and improve the environment through education, which includes building outdoor and indoor gardens in schools.

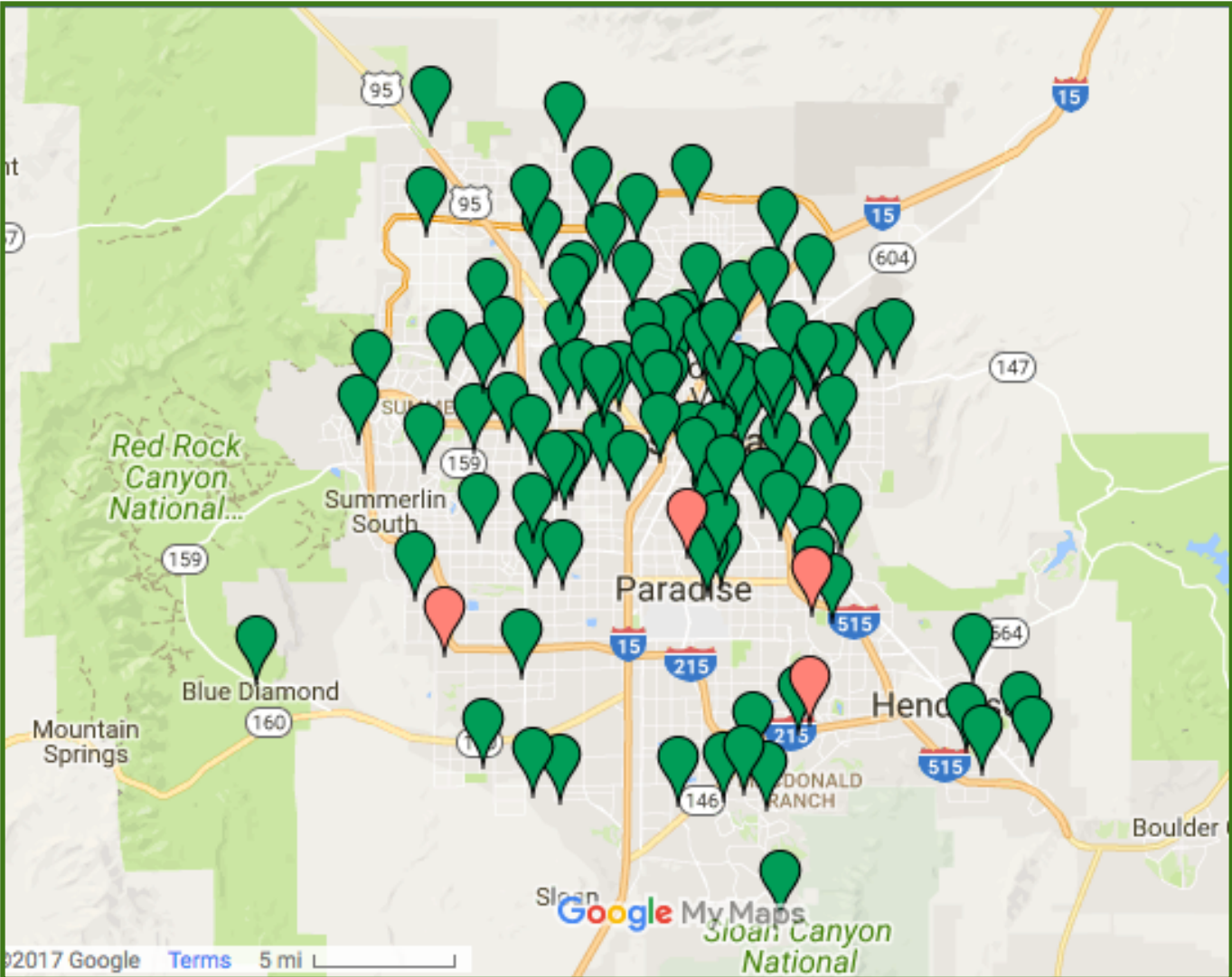
Our Goals:

- ❖ A garden for every school that wants one... over 300
- ❖ Increase student academic achievement in STEAM education
- ❖ Improve student health
- ❖ Increase community engagement
- ❖ Educate the next generation of conservationists



2018: Largest school garden program in the US

150+ gardens serving 100,000+ students



What We Offer:

- ❖ School Garden Programming & STEAM Curriculum
- ❖ Dedicated Farmer and Garden Coordinator
- ❖ Chef to School Program
- ❖ Hydroponics Curriculum
- ❖ Teacher Training Sessions
- ❖ Financial Literacy Training
- ❖ School Garden Conference
- ❖ Fundraising Opportunities via Farmers Markets



Nevada's Biggest Challenges

- ❖ Students have **high obesity and diabetes rates**, and rank 45/50 in overall childhood health (Kids Count 2017)
- ❖ Students live in food deserts, with **little or no access to fresh foods** (USDA 2011)
- ❖ 94% of Nevadans live in an urban area, **limiting children's contact with nature** (US Census Bureau 2010)

The Wellness Policy

Goal: To improve healthy food choices and promote nutrition education and physical activity

How does a school garden help meet this goal?

Students are more likely to eat new and more vegetables when they grow them themselves!

Fundraising: Puts restrictions on what snacks are able to be sold on campus to consume and to sell as a fundraiser

Your garden can provide an EASY way to fundraise on school property by selling nutritious fruits and veggies!

Starting a Farmers Market at your school is EASY!



Game Plan

- ❖ Who
- ❖ Why
- ❖ What
- ❖ When
- ❖ Where
- ❖ How

WHO

- ❖ Who is involved?
- ❖ Who is your target audience?
- ❖ Who is fronting the money?
- ❖ Who are your resources (i.e. parents, GoP Farmer, administrators, garden club, etc.)?

WHY

- ❖ Why do you want to hold a market?
- ❖ Goal Setting!



WHAT

- ❖ Set-up
- ❖ Supplies
- ❖ Staffing
- ❖ Harvesting & Displaying Produce
- ❖ Produce Pricing



WHEN, WHERE & HOW

- ❖ When should you hold the market? What day and time would be best for your targeted audience?
- ❖ Where should you hold the market? What space works best for your school and target audience?
- ❖ How often should you hold a market? Once a year, twice a month, four times a year, once a week?

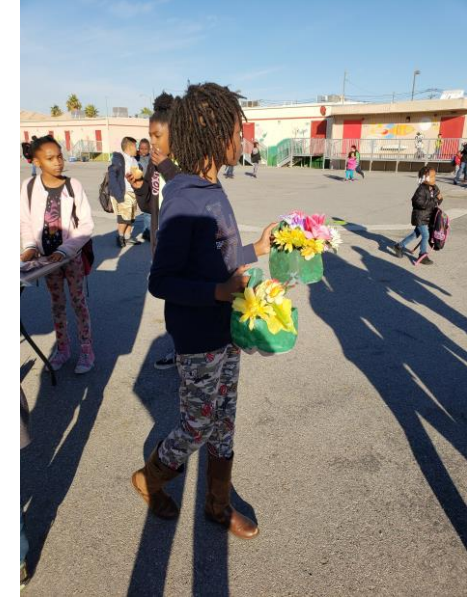
Success Stories: Rundle Elementary School

How long have they been in operation & how often do they run markets? About mid year they began to hold “First Friday” every month if there is a surplus of produce they will hold push their produce out on any Friday morning.

Where do you host “First Fridays”? Our school has Friday morning ceremonies outside on the blacktop every Friday from about 8:25 - 8:50am.

What does it look like? We (our Garden Club students/teachers) set up a 4x8 table right on the black top in an area visible to families walking in to watch our ceremony. We tape a kid made sign on the fence to announce market day.

What does it cost you? Not much more than time! All they have to purchase is baggies for the produce (Rundle uses ziplock bags), but they are considering asking for donations of baggies from garden club parents





THANK YOU!