



# North Dakota Junior Master Gardener Program Grants

## 2020 Grant Application

Project name: Oakes Public School Sensory Garden

County: Dickey

Project Coordinator: Danielle Dinger

Lead Organization: NDSU Extension – Dickey County

Address: 804 Main Ave  
Oakes, ND 58474

Telephone: 701.742.3234 Email: [danielle.dinger@ndsu.edu](mailto:danielle.dinger@ndsu.edu)

Location of Garden: Oakes Public School

**1. Briefly describe your garden project including its major goals. Please include a description of activities. (150 words or less)**

The Sensory Garden located at the entrance to the school was established in 2016 by Danielle Dinger and her Nuts about Nature class. Since its inception, teachers have been able to take their class to the garden for fresh air, students have been able to be hands-on with pertinent instruction and teachers/staff/community members have been able to amble through looking for peace and relaxation. The garden also offers edible plants that anyone can help themselves to. The garden could use a tune up and many trees planted did not survive.

**2. How will your project make a difference to its children? (150 words or less)**

One cannot enter through these school doors without a little piece of nature flowing through them. The easy access for teachers and students allows for quick outdoor instruction. The sensory garden allows for visitors to smell, see, touch, hear and even taste a bit of nature of their way by. The idea is to expand upon the current space by adding additional plants and trees perhaps fruit bearing trees. Children are continually exposed to the garden space as it resides at the entrance to the school. Even if

vicariously, children are subjected to nature as they pass by; the hope that I have is that children may recognize this space as safe, peaceful and valuable. Both students in the Nuts about Nature class as well as various classes within the school have contributed to the beauty of the garden and will continue to do so in the future. Students within the school have contributed by preening plants, picking up litter, thinning the produce and by dressing up the garden after a long winter. In the future, I hope to involve the youth in 4H in Dickey County. Children will be active in the selecting of and planting of both the plants and trees.

**3. How will your project make a difference in your community? (150 words or less)**

Outdoor greenspaces are limited these days to official parks. The sensory garden at Oakes Public School allows staff/students/community members the quick, easy access to the great outdoors. Education will continue in the garden with the simple numbered stepping stones, education on edible plants and how to grow them and relaxation for anyone who stops by. I am the creator of the Sensory Garden at Oakes Public School. I was allotted funds from Modern Woodmen to begin the project with the approval of Oakes Public School. My Nuts about Nature class did the work to remove the weeds and grass that had filled the area prior. We then set about selecting and planting trees, plants and creating the space into a useable greenspace. The taste portion of the sensory garden includes edible plants such as asparagus, rhubarb, dill and chives. I hope to enhance the edible plants portion of the garden by adding additional plants and thus produce. Since inception, the garden has received commendation from both the community and the school. The school welcomes any improvements or changes to the garden that I see fit.

**4. Please estimate the number of participants directly involved in the project:**

Young children (3–12 years old): 232

Teens (13–17 years old): 262

Adults: 1,500

**5. Briefly list any partners (such as 4-H, FFA, school, church, garden center, parks department) that are involved. Briefly describe their roles in the project. Be very brief.**

Oakes Public School, Nuts about Nature, B & B Gardens

**6. Budget**

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Flowers	\$300
Trees	200
Bench	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700</b>