

## Captain Planet Learning Gardens

*Our program encourages the idea that the school garden is an extension of the traditional classroom rather than an extracurricular activity.*

After 20 years of funding school gardens, a grant from Kaiser Permanente and Georgia Power allowed the Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) to develop a turn-key program for installing learning gardens as a vital part of our youths' education. Not only do CPF Learning Gardens teach our youth about their natural world and their relationship to the environment, it connects them to the foods that nourish them and provides an early introduction to the flavors of fresh vegetables and fruits.



The gardens provide an occasion for learning in every discipline including math, science, social studies, health and language arts. CPF has developed garden-based curriculum tied to Common Core Standards for each grade (K-5); which is being piloted in 12 Cobb County Schools this year.

Program partners include: Cobb County School District, Atlanta Public Schools, Ford Elementary Foundation, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Truly Living Well, Cloud Institute, Sustenance Design, University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Georgia Organics, Keep Cobb Beautiful, US Forest Service and EPA Region 4.

Each Captain Planet Learning Garden can be installed for a cost of \$2,500\*

### **Each Learning Garden Includes:**

- ✓ Three 8' x 4' Learning Spaces as selected by school (*Growing Garden, Salsa Garden, Math Garden, Astronomy Garden, Natives Garden, etc.*).
- ✓ Garden tool kit w/ required tools, seeds, plants and other planting supplies
- ✓ Garden lessons tied to common core standards, teacher training and coordination of CPF Learning Garden tubs which hold teaching supplies for at least 3 standards-based lessons per (K-5) grade.
- ✓ Cooking cart with materials to teach students lessons in chemistry and cooking fresh vegetables for a healthier diet and lifestyle. CPF will also do its best to pair schools with local chefs to do demonstrations with students.
- ✓ Facilitation of Corporate Volunteer Day to install and prepare garden for students to plant.
- ✓ Facilitation of partnership to manage gardens with Food Bank partners during summer months.
- ✓ Access to Best Practices, Resources and other materials for best garden management processes.

\* Captain Planet Foundation requires a match of \$1,000 in cash or in-kind for soil and mulch from each school. This is the amount it costs annually to maintain a garden, and we work with our partner schools to help them develop their fundraising resources to ensure long-term garden sustainability. CPF is working with Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper to install their rain barrel program for garden irrigation – at no cost to the schools.