The Garden Classroom
“Where nature and knowledge grow together”
College Mission Statement
The St. Louis Community College is committed to expanding minds and changing lives every day.

Program Vision
We prepare students for careers in horticulture through an advanced curriculum taught by industry leaders in state-of-the-art facilities. Our comprehensive approach includes traditional classroom instruction, laboratory science, and hands-on-learning.

Key Elements of Program
- knowledge of applied horticulture
- hands-on experience
- plant production and management
  (natives, ornamental plants, fruits, vegetables)
- environmental stewardship
- industry best practices
- leading edge technical data
- dynamic and sustainable program
- recognized internally and externally as a valuable resource for students, professionals, public
The Gardens at Meramec
Master Plan

THE SWAMP
THE BOG
VIBURNUM BED

COUCH AVE
BIG BEND RD

NORTH
WEST BED
SOUTH
The Gardens at Meramec
Master Plan

- Greenhouse
- Polyhouse
- Compost piles
- Gulliver Garden
- Gers Garden
- Service area
- Big Bend Rd
- P-K Crabapple boxes
78 Acres Total

18% Canopy Cover

11 Acres Managed by Horticulture Program

3.5 Acres of Turf Managed by Horticulture

100% of that Turf is Irrigated
Flow and connection is important. Bring people in, organize service, learning circles connected by paths. Rain gardens tie into green storm infrastructure. Embrace the sunny side, tree plan.
Garden Classroom Objectives

• Establish the Garden Classroom at Meramec as the premier training ground in the St. Louis region by exemplifying excellence in horticulture.

• Align development of the Garden Classroom with STLCC’s Strategic Vision by demonstrating leading edge technologies, innovative techniques, and best management practices in a hands-on learning environment for students.

• Improve accessibility and visibility to the Garden Classroom in order to better connect students, staff, the community, and the green industry to the Garden Classroom at STLCC.

• Provide connections for students to natural, unbuilt spaces, that will improve academic performance, increase focus and physical activity, and reduce stress.

• Improve STLCC’s environmental footprint by reducing turf and increasing canopy cover, by stewarding landscapes that require fewer resources and provide more environmental benefits.
The Garden Classroom at Meramec Master Plan
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Master Plan

- Ramps
- Trial Plantings
- Outdoor Classroom
- BioSwale

Bermed Lawn
Working Garden
The Garden Classroom at Meramec
Master Plan

- Lawn
- Boardwalk
- Gathering Node
- Native Meadow
- Cross Walk
- Stormwater Management Plantings
- Cross Walk
The Garden Classroom at Meramec
Master Plan
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Garden Entrance
Diblik Garden
Lawn
Garden Overlook

Gathering Node
Bins & Washdown Area
Meadow
Pavilion with Storage & Wash Station

The Garden Classroom at Meramec
Master Plan
The Garden Classroom at Meramec
Master Plan

Main Entrance

Working Garden

Trial Gardens

Display Gardens

Rain Garden

Main Entrance

Science West

Lecture Hall

Service Area

Science South

Library

The Meadow

Big Bend Rd.

Couch Ave.

The Garden Classroom at Meramec
Master Plan
STORMWATER DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
MEADOW
Stormwater Demonstration Garden

Goals for Garden
• Engage students in best management/maintenance practices of green infrastructure systems in hands-on setting
• Educate students and community about purpose and importance of stormwater management
• Improve the environmental footprint of the Program

Key Elements of the Garden
• Vegetated swales
• Rain garden
• Native plantings
• Right plant, right place
• Lawn alternatives
• Water quality/quantity
• Tree canopy
• Habitat enhancement
The Garden Classroom

Master Plan

- Drainage Area: 1.5 Acres
- Demonstration Garden: 1.75 Acres
- Rain Garden: 0.25 Ac
- Inlet
- Headwall
- Headwall Outlet
- Big Bend Rd.
- Couch Ave.

+672 HP
+660.5 LP
The Garden Classroom Master Plan

Meadow Enlargement
N.T.S.

Proposed Phase One Meadow Installation
N.T.S.