



Client: The Food Project
Lincoln, MA

Designer: Jan Childs
Brookline, MA

Completion: April, 1999

The Food Project is dedicated to developing youth leadership, feeding hungry people, and caring for the land. Each year teens and adults throughout Greater Boston grow and distribute fresh organic vegetables to those in need at a farmers' market. In the process the teens gain the skills and knowledge needed to become community leaders.

A half-acre lot in Roxbury is used by the Food Project to grow crops. They wanted to reevaluate the layout of the garden and redesign the under-utilized areas. A group of teens were involved, the garden was the classroom, and a COG designer became the teacher. The challenge was

teaching 16 students with no design experience or vocabulary how to design the site to meet the agricultural needs of the project as well as provide an aesthetic neighborhood resource. On three Saturdays in late winter the group considered various design elements: open space needs, neighborhood architecture, circulation and traffic, pathways, transitions, rooms, walls and ceilings, and gathering places. As the group came to consensus, all the research and concepts were incorporated into a site plan. The designer translated all the material into a final master plan drawing which will be used for renovation and expansion and as a tool for neighborhood involvement.

