

Client: Driscoll Elementary School
Brookline, MA

Designer: Eunice Knight
Carlisle, MA

Completion: October, 2000



Mulch and lumpy lawn in the entry of the Driscoll School provided a most unwelcoming message to the school community, the neighbors, and passersby. The PTO wanted to change this first impression of the school with a garden. They turned to COG for design help.

The Driscoll School has a history of garden success and several parent-initiated gardens beautify the school. The designer continued this

tradition with an innovative plan using native wildflowers which would provide both an unusual landscape for the community and give the teachers a powerful teaching tool.

On planting day a first grade class came out to watch while other students observed from the windows. The next day these children were sprawled on the sidewalk in front of the garden observing and documenting their thoughts on paper. The

children's drawings included sketches of the process as well as visual predictions of what the garden would look like as it matures.

Planting day is always a glorious occasion with all participants sharing in the culmination of many, many hours of design and planning. The inward-directed school community is now connected to the surrounding community. And the children received their first lesson in how to read the landscape.

