The Brooklyn New School (BNS)/Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies (BCS) Vision for the Cole Street Triangle

Our Track Record: BNS/BCS has been farming at our school for over 10 years using our own composting and rain watering harvesting system and other sustainable practices. Our produce is eaten by our students regularly including at formal events such as Farm to Cafeteria Day and our Earth Day Celebration. We are a Green Flag school that has won numerous other awards for our environmental work. All of our gardening work is closely connected to our science and social studies curriculum. For details please visit: http://bnsecorama.blogspot.com/

We have been farming at BNS/BCS

We envision:

- A fenced-in area that contains native plants that attract pollinators such as the endangered monarch—a butterfly sanctuary. (No edibles.)
- Benches for residents to use to sit and enjoy nature because the highway sounds and sights are muted or blocked.
- High school and middle school students eating lunch there with adult supervision.
- First graders hunting for insects there as part of their science work.
- Fifth graders cultivating and watering milkweed plants.
- A green welcome to foot traffic coming from Red Hook, our sister neighborhood.
- A rain barrel and self-irrigating planters making watering more sustainable.

The process will involve the school and wider community. We will involve neighbors, staff, and students from our Pre-K through 12th grade school population.

Here are potential steps:

- Meet with the BNS/BCS Green committee to draft hopes and dreams for types of fencing, beds, irrigation system, and so on.
- Consult with parent landscape designer and other experts.
- Hold meeting with local business owners, neighbors, staff, custodian, students, and Green committee to review plans.
- Submit initial plan to DOT. Revise and resubmit plans if necessary.
- Submit final plan to local businesses owners, neighbors, staff, custodian, students, and Green committee.
- Contact organizations such as Green Thumb, Build-it-Green to get materials and funding.
- Fundraise for other monies by holding bake sale, writing grant proposals.
- Break project into phases. For example: 1. Security issues such as signage and fencing first. 2. Build beds.
- Hold a build day on a weekend. Try to get volunteers from New York Cares as well as neighbors, students, and their families.
- Grand opening celebration.