

Lena Lin

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Bloomington High School South

### Day 8 Greenest

Above all, this experience helped make me realize how lucky I am to be living in a town that is very aware of the current environmental crisis because I had trouble finding a garden that I thought would not already have implemented regenerative organic practices. I ended up meeting with a woman from Hilltop Garden and Nature Center. I printed a document I made (below), a Climate Victory Gardening 101 Infographic from Green America (included in sources), and went over each practice and talked about if the garden implemented them yet. Hilltop Garden was already pretty regeneratively organic except that because it is a community garden on a school campus, large animals cannot be integrated into the garden. Additionally, chemicals are used occasionally if pest problems get out of control, although they are used quite sparingly. Overall, we agreed that the best way for the garden to improve was not to implement more practices (because they already implemented as many as possible) but to spread awareness about regenerative organic agriculture. I left the printed sheets at the garden, and agreed to email my teaching tool from today (a crossword puzzle) to her. Overall, I would say the meeting was extremely successful because now, those coming to and from the garden will be able to acquire a basic understanding of regenerative organic practices, and may even implement them in their own gardens at home!

## Regenerative Organic Practices

**Definition** → Utilizes the power of photosynthesis in plants to absorb carbon from the atmosphere and sequester it in the soil (not the same as organic)

**Benefits** → improves soil (especially topsoil) health, crop yields, water resilience, nutrient density

### Sources

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| Regenerative Organic Agriculture 101 | <a href="https://www.greenamerica.org/healthy-soil-cool-climate/regenerative-agriculture-101">https://www.greenamerica.org/healthy-soil-cool-climate/regenerative-agriculture-101</a>  |
| Climate Victory Gardening 101        | <a href="https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardening-101">https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardening-101</a>  |
| 10 Carbon Capturing Practices        | <a href="https://www.greenamerica.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/10%20Carbon-Capturing%20Practices.pdf">https://www.greenamerica.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/10%20Carbon-Capturing%20Practices.pdf</a><br><br>OR<br><a href="https://www.greenamerica.org/food-climate/climate-victory-gardens/climate-victory-garden-commitments">https://www.greenamerica.org/food-climate/climate-victory-gardens/climate-victory-garden-commitments</a> |
| Climate Victory Garden Homepage      | <a href="https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens">https://www.greenamerica.org/climate-victory-gardens</a>  |



The garden using mulch and compost to cover their soil



Where the edible plants are planted



An example of plants that have seeds that attract birds



The garden's compost piles! (left: raw materials, right: composted, ready to be used in garden)



A part of the land that is relatively empty (the trail by the trees) where more perennials can/will be planted



An insect hotel!





A bookshelf (with books that people often ignore) that we agreed can be replaced with an educational board with topics such as regenerative organic agriculture

## Thank You!

**You've officially registered your Climate Victory Garden and it has been added to the map.**

Thank you for committing your garden to be a part of the climate change solution. We are grateful to people like you who are making a difference in the world.

We're building an international movement of climate gardeners, and we want you to be an active part of this community!

Join the [Climate Victory Garden Facebook Group](#) to connect and share resources with other gardeners. Let your friends and families know that you have joined the Climate Victory Garden movement and get them involved in fighting climate change. Make sure to follow Green America on social media and use the hashtag [#ClimateVictoryGarden](#) when sharing about your garden.



