FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

University of the District of Columbia

College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability, and Environmental Sciences

Agricultural Experiment Station

Maxwell Fairweather

SCBGP-FB-12-25-B-0953

Final Performance Report

12/19/2012

Project Title

Washington Youth Garden

Project Summary

The project was a response to the recognition that many school age children neither had little understanding of the food system nor understood the need for an improved diet. Many of the children were disconnected from their food sources as are many parents. While they may not comprehend the basis for it, they know someone or are afflicted themselves with ailments which are related to poor diet and sedentary lifestyles. In the focus Ward, 88% of residents are Black; 13,223 residents are receiving food stamps; and 28% are impoverished. With the expected high risk of obesity and factors which precipitate poor health, this project offers interventionist methodology. Studies in California, Texas, and Arizona have found that gardening programs improve attitudes toward fruits and vegetables. As well, they also affect increased consumption levels and are more likely to extend the practice outside of the school learning setting.

As literature and national health discussion focuses on the obesity, diabetes, and food consumption issues, this project offers a timely intervention modality and study.

The purposes of the project are to (1) increase organic gardening within the catchment area and focus population; (2) increase the use of good gardening and handling practices; (3) increase child and adult consumption of specialty crops; (4) contribute to crop sustainability by enabling and encouraging community to grow specialty crops in (2-5) schoolyards in Ward 5 of the District of Columbia.

Project Approach

The **Friends of the National Arboretum** proposed to accomplish the objectives by using a schoolyard gardening program as the medium for learning and educating. As a general approach, each program included the

- installation of raised bed gardens;
- the use of barrel planters;
- the delivery of a series of 90 minute Garden Science Classroom Lessons;
- Multi-week planting programs supported through the establishment of garden teams;
- External outreach to involve and educate adults through community events and the use of Master Gardeners.

In addition to the classroom series, the project expanded the student experience through visits to the arboretum and the United States Naval Academy.

In absolute terms, the program reached 714 students through the Garden Science program and 2016 through the three year duration of the Schoolyard gardening projects. The WYG reports that a total of 6436 students/teachers/parents including the total populations of each school were impacted indirectly.

When reviewing specific impacts, the following were affected positively and showed assessed increases from 2% to 65% in the designated categories:

- Feelings about fruit and vegetables
- Servings of fruits and vegetables eaten daily
- Science score

The most significant improvement was in science where pre and post-test scores reported an increase of 37% in 2010 and a 65% increase in 2011. The assessment was based upon a twenty item questionnaire.

The partners contributed to the establishment of distinct programs at EW Stokes Charter School, Center City Public Charter School, Burroughs Education Campus, Bethune Day Academy, Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, and the Inspire Hope School. The latter was discontinued after the initial year due to a lack of administrative support.

Additional partner schools' contributions:

- Classroom space for facilitation of lessons;
- Designated teacher to serve as Garden Science Coordinator and co-manager during each 90 minute lesson;
- Instruction including the classroom growing project in regular, everyday lessons beyond project visits;
- Garden project committee including two teachers, student leaders, two parents, and two members from the community;
- Supplementary funding;

- Scheduling project installation;
- Additional volunteers;
- Establishing maintenance schedule including harvesting; and
- Completion of student assessments and teacher program evaluation.

Goals and Outcomes Achieved

1) 130-390 students will participate in the Garden Science Program; 714 participated
2) 900-1500 students will participate in Schoolyard Gardening Program. 2016 participated

- installation of raised bed gardens;
- the use of barrel planters;
- the delivery of a series of 90 minute Garden Science Classroom Lessons;
- Multi-week planting programs supported through the establishment of garden teams;
- External outreach to involve and educate adults through community events and the use of Master Gardeners.

Performance Measured:
Garden Science classroom instruction taught student participators the following topics: (performance measures relevant course study italicized)

The project achieved its' measurable through the following class program. The number of participants, as aforementioned, exceeded the original goal.

- Week 1- What's the Big Deal about Plants? Students were taught to identify the six plant parts and their functions and *Students will also recognize plants in their daily lives and understand how human society depends on plan materials.*
- Week 2 – Life of a Plant. Students were taught about seeds, germination and the life cycle of a flowing plant.
- Week 3 – Plant Care 101. Students learned basic requirements and care techniques for healthy plants. *Student learned through hands-on activity how to plant vegetables and flowers, and subsequently how to care for them as the plants grow.*
- Week 4 – Composting: Nature's Way of Recycling! *Taught students the importance of healthy soil through an environmentally sound way to recycle waste into nutrient-rich renewable soil.* Students were introduced to worm composting and learn more about the important role that worms play in our environment.
- Week 5 – Pollination Power. Taught students the scientific process of pollination and its place in the life cycle of a plant. *Students learned that pollination is necessary for food production and understand the important role that pollination plays in our food system.*
- Week 6 – A Bugs Life. *Introduced students to inserts so that they may begin on appreciation for the important role they play in the garden and ecological systems.*
- Week 7 – Where Does Our Food come From? *Students gained an appreciation that the closer their food comes from the soil, the healthier it will be.*

Proposed: Evidence: How to grow, creative and healthy ways to prepare selected specialty crops, and role that crops play in food system.

Students will learn (1) how to grow, (2) to prepare and (3) role of specialty crops in food system. The project sought to achieve 100% comprehension of food derivation, 90% trying a new specialty crop, and 95% understanding of the role of these crops in their lives. The final aspect was attaining a 95% comprehension of gardening knowledge by the participants.

The report on impact also indicated increases in daily consumption of 11% (2010) and 7.8% (2011-2012). However, there is an absence of initial or baseline data with which to compare outcomes. Underlying this point is also a lack of data which references new versus past specialty crop exposure.

- Pre-post tests for participating students were supported by photos and testimonials of time in gardens as well as a list of crops grown;
- Garden science curriculum and photos documenting cooking lesson demonstrations, facilitated trips to demonstration gardens, testimonials;

Beneficiaries

The students and residents of Ward 5 in the District of Columbia were the beneficiaries of this project. There was/is a strong established school partnership alliance and support system.

- Participation in regular DC Schoolyard Greening (DCSG) meetings, including planning for Fall School Garden Week (2010-2012)
- DCSG teacher training (2009)
- Active participation in the DC Environmental Education Consortium meetings. (2009-2012)
- An ongoing presence at community events at neighboring gardening organizations such as the Farm at Walker Jones, City Blossoms and Eco City Farms. (2009-2011)
- Collaboration and outreach at the city-wide STEM meeting, which brought together science, math, engineering and math teachers from schools across the city. (2011)

Recruited, communicated with and developed role descriptions for Master Gardeners at all schools (2009-2012

Lessons Learned

When reviewing performance measures, we found that they were well structured and that classroom course material was effective. Further, the hands-on experience supported the conceptual presentation. However, we determined that proposed measures should be less vague and more easily determined.

It was determined that parents, non-participating school students and other extended beneficiaries should be considered in future concept programming and was a weakness in outcomes assessment.

It is important to set realistic goals for a first-year schoolyard program. There tends to be a slower "learning curve" as new relations with schools and communities develop. The establishment of adequate communications, the imparting and modification of expectations and the signing of agreements require time. In particular, the school administrators and responsible faculty must be clear about the specialty crop initiative and expected outputs.

In the future, quantifiable outcomes must be supported by documented baseline data as required in "research" protocol.

Contact Person

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Additional Information

Washington Youth Garden

Garden Science Program
October 2011

Name: _____ School, class and grade: _____

1. **Name three different ways that people use plants in their daily lives.**

2. **Name three things that plants need to grow.**

3. **A seed has everything it needs to grow EXCEPT (Circle One Answer)**

   a) A seed coat
   b) enough water
   c) baby plant
   d) food

4. **What does decompose mean?**

a) to make something bigger
b) to break down into smaller pieces
c) to organize

5. What is NOT in soil (dirt)?

a) water
b) nutrients
c) worms
d) sunlight

6. Almost all food first comes from

a) the supermarket
b) a factory
c) a restaurant
d) the soil

7. Draw a line connecting each vegetable to the part of the plant that we eat.

Vegetable	Plant Part
Carrot	Leaf
Tomato	Stem
Bean	Root
Celery	Flower
Lettuce	Fruit
Broccoli	Seed

8. What part of a plant do you put underneath the soil to make a new plant?

a) the fruit

b) the leaf

c) the stem

d) the seed

9. What is the process in a plant's life when it first starts to change from a seed into a plant?

a) Evaporation

b) Pollination

c) Photosynthesis

d) Germination

10. What is the process that takes place in flowers that plants need to make new seeds? (Hint: bees and butterflies help!)

a) Evaporation

b) Pollination

c) Photosynthesis

d) Germination

11. What is the process in an insect's life called when it changes forms from a young insect to an adult insect?

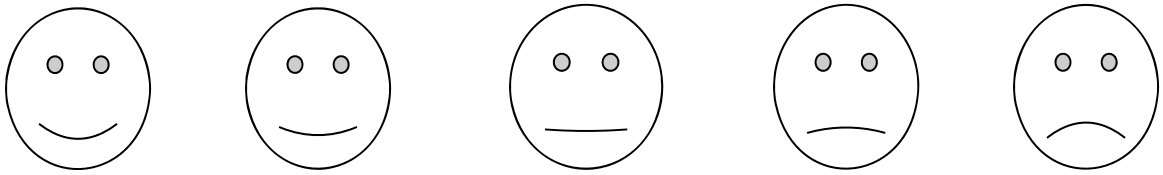
a) Decompose

c) Reproduce

c) Photosynthesis

d) Metamorphosis

12. How do you feel about eating fruits and vegetables?



Love it! Like it Just OK Don't like it Hate it!

13. How many fruits and vegetables do you think you eat every day?

fruits ___ vegetables ___ (Place number amount on the dashed line.)

14. Is there an amount of fruit and vegetables that is recommended we eat every day? (If no, check no. If yes, check yes and circle amount.)

No ___ Yes___ 1-2 3-5 6-8 10 or more

15. Have you done any gardening before? No___ Yes ___

16. If you have gardened before circle where:

home school community garden other

17. **If you have gardened before circle what kind:**

flower gardening fruit & vegetable gardening other

Thank you for completing this survey.

Project Title

Field to Fork Network

Project Summary

Communities were historically linked though a chain of food production, distribution, preservation and preparation. Skills for each element of a "food to fork" network chain were ubiquitous, passed between generations, and served as integral social artifacts of unique cultural identities. Postindustrial periods denoted a shift in the social capitol and economics relationship for a more efficient capital system. Since then, the capacity of citizens to produce and process high quality food has declined along with a concomitant quality of life.

During the recent decade, more attention has been focused upon sustainability and healthy eating. Unfortunately, the ethic evades much of the general public even as they grow and buy local theme continues. Although it is in the neophyte phase, the movement toward growing, distributing, preparing and preserving food is resurgent. The motivation and timeliness for this project is associated with history. The "**America the Beautiful Fund**" believes that informed communities which are equipped with the knowledge of, and access to healthy produce and practices, will integrate more healthy approaches to eating.

Project Approach

Specialty crops are used to encourage the adoption of healthier life choices across diverse cultures in the District of Columbia.

The project sought to achieve its purpose by creating a replicable template to strengthen the linkage between community gardening, food preparation, and nutritional outreach education. The approach used four frameworks.

1) To encourage the use of underutilized green space within the District of Columbia for Agriculture;
2) Support diversity, abundance, affordability and, thus, consumption of specialty crops;
3) Expand health and economic benefits by increasing access to specialty crops; and
4) Focus outreach and educational opportunities on underserved populations.

The activities performed and tasks performed during the granting period included:

- Conducting a census of public-held land within the District of Columbia for prospective production of Specialty Crops;
- Produced a map of community gardens;
- Recruited, hired and trained 30 lead gardeners (trainers) to coordinate the volunteers' activities, to serve as gardening outreach coordinators, and act as "train-the-trainers;
- Created Field-to-Fork log and brand design to marketF2F concept programs;
- Developed new F2F network website that had over 19,000 hits after its launch in 2010;
- Planned, organized, and participated in 2009-9011 Rooting DC Urban Gardening Forums, developed marketing and outreach initiatives targeting underserved communities of the District. During this activity, more than 450 gardeners, farmers, cooks and advocates attended 25 workshop/class sessions each of the three years. Collected and analyzed survey information ;
- Created two "how-to" podcasts on food preparation and posted it on the website which generated over 1000 viewings;
- Published a "Guide to Starting a Community Garden in D.C."
- Cleared ground, prepared site, and actively gardened Fort Totten (Ward 5) site involving more than 286 distinct (new) volunteers or 1,881.25 hours in 2010; 410 new volunteers contributing over 1,700 hours in 2011, and recruited another 252 first-time gardeners and produced 1396.5 volunteer hours in 2012, and expanded the F@F network activities throughout the period to garden demonstrations, educational instruction and "work-day" volunteerism at the annual "Field Day";
- Prepared gardens at Fort Dupont annually and at the Lederer Youth Garden which attracted 35 teens;
- Installed gardens and distributed seeds at four additional sites;
- Sought partnerships with multiple Rock Creek Community Gardens.

As the sponsor of the Neighborhood Farm Initiative, the America the Beautiful Fund provided all liability insurance for the project activities. It further provided oversight for all funds associated with the grant as well as a semi-annual audit. Throughout 2009-2011, ABF also provided office space and the in-kind service of its Program Director who co-coordinated the Rooting D.C. Urban Garden Forum.

The Mamie D. Lee Community Garden Association provided garden plot space for demonstration and workshop/educational programming. Amenities included deer fencing and compost piles and shared access to tools and water.

Goals and Outcomes Achieved

The project sought to:

1. Increase new gardeners by 100;
2. Serve 200 participants at 10 NFI urban field days;
3. Serve 350 participants in each of the three annual Rooting DC forums;
4. Document 2000 volunteer hours for three years; and
5. Provide garden managers with venue to expand the impact of their gardens.

Over the 3 years F2F has successfully grown the Network from a loose collaboration of organizational partners conducting one single one-day event-the annual Rooting DC Urban Garden Forum-to a full-fledged partnership where its 30 organizational members receive monthly e-newsletters highlighting opportunities to attend workshops, volunteer, find a job, fundraise and more.

We reviewed files which are held by F2F which indicated that the 30 lead, community based gardeners, were trained…a total of 100…and they provided the source of leadership for outreach coordinators during the three year period.

Measures Achieved:

(1) Increase new gardeners by 100,
On entering Rooting DC 2010, attendees were asked if they had previously grown their own vegetables, herbs, or fruit at home or at a community garden in the past 3 years, to which 76% answered "yes". At the end of the forum, over 90% of attendees responded that based on their experience at Rooting DC, they planned to grow their own specialty crops in the 2010 growing season!

At Rooting DC 2011, the same questions were asked and the number of attendees who had grown vegetables prior to the day of workshops was 82% whereas after experiencing the workshops, 95% of attendees said they would be planning to use their new skills to grow specialty crops either at their homes or at a community garden.
At Rooting DC 2012, again the same questions were asked and the number of attendees who had grown vegetables prior to the day of workshops was 84% whereas after experiencing the workshops, 92% of attendees said they would be planning to use their new skills to grow specialty crops either at their homes or at a community garden.

Based on the number of participants at each Rooting DC forum, this data shows that 63 new gardeners were formed during RDC 2010, 67 during RDC 2011, and 49 new gardeners formed during RDC 2012. This is a total of 179 new gardeners who responded that they had increased their knowledge about the production of specialty crops past the threshold of planning to take action, just through Rooting DC alone!

(2) Serve 200 participants at 10 NFI Urban Farm "Field Day".

NFI attracted the follow Field Day participation at the Fort Totten (Ward 5) Community Garden:

2010 Field Days total: 64 attendees

2011 Field Days total: 133 attendees
2012 Field Days total: 59 attendees

<u>3-year total at 10 field days: 256 attendees at NFI's field days</u>

More detail on the NFI Fort Totten Field Day(s) activities and Participation can be found in Addendum F.

(3) Serve 350 participants in each of the three (3) yearly, annual Rooting DC forum events,
February 20, 2010: **454** participants attended 25 inspiring & informative sessions to learn about the production, distribution, preparation, and preservation of specialty crops. Photos of Rooting DC 2010 are accessible online here: https://picasaweb.google.com/RootingDCForum/RootingDC2010

February 19, 2011: **513** gardeners, farmers, cooks, and food justice advocates attended Rooting DC 2011 to learn about the production, distribution, preparation, and preservation of specialty crops. We offered a total of 27 workshops, panel discussions, and cooking demonstrations, including a track for hands-on family-oriented activities, two sessions offered in Spanish and one yoga class for gardener's session! We provided free afternoon childcare through partnership with the DC Childcare Collective, and box lunches were catered by Fresh Start Catering. Photos of Rooting DC 2011 are accessible online here: http://www.flickr.com/photos/30682845@N00/

February 18, 2012: **612** participants packed in to attend Rooting DC 2012! We offered a total of 29 workshops, panel discussions, and cooking demonstrations, including a track for hands-on family-oriented activities and youth gardening training for teachers, and live Spanish language translation was available for 4 workshops! We provided free afternoon childcare through partnership with the DC Childcare Collective, and box lunches were catered by Fresh Start Catering. Photos of Rooting DC 2012 are accessible online: https://picasaweb.google.com/RootingDCForum/RootingDC2012

<u>Served a total of 1,579 gardeners, farmer, cooks and other attendees over the 3 years at Rooting DC.</u>

(4) Document 2000 volunteer hours for 3 years
On-site volunteer hours are tracked by keeping a record log on-site in the garden shed where volunteers check in and out and records are kept regarding site activities each day. The logs are taken home monthly and typed up with reports compiled each month by the NFI Volunteer Coordinator. Additional off-site hours are logged individually by staff, volunteers, and interns, but these are not reported as part of this grant project as they are harder to assign to specific activities. The hours reported below are all on-site as part of the NFI demonstration garden in Ward 5.

2010 Growing Season Totals
286 distinct volunteers
1881.25 hands-on gardening hours performed by volunteers

2011 Growing Season Totals
410 distinct volunteers
1703.25 hands-on gardening hours performed by volunteers

2012 Growing Season Totals To-Date
252 distinct volunteers

1396.5 hands-on gardening hours performed by volunteers

3-year total: 948 volunteers served 4,981 hours in support of this project

Beneficiaries

In undertaking the task to build the F2F network in the District of Columbia, NFI has created a lasting network of organizations that now often partner together. Furthermore, they readily share resources and volunteers, co-sponsor events, and generally collaborate. The work of relationship building is difficult to quantify, yet remains one of the most lasting impacts NFI will have through this project.

Attendance at the annual Rooting DC more than tripled over the course of this grant due to the outreach efforts and additional support NFI drew from partners by formalizing the F2F network. Partners/beneficiaries are:

- Latin American Youth Center
- Mt. Pleasant Farmers' Market
- Rock Creek National Park Service/Mamie D. Lee Community Garden
- Trinidad Neighborhood Association
- Trinidad Recreation Association/DC Department of Parks and Recreation
- Ft. Dupont National Park Service/Ft. Dupont Community Garden
- Lederer Youth Garden
- Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan DC, Inc.
- Frederick Douglass Recreation Center
- Ward 8 Farmers' Market

Lessons Learned

The low salaries associated with the project affected stability and precipitated multiple staff turnover during the project life. Thus, volunteer time was important and must be considered in this level program. It is important, as one develops a program, that contingency planning become a significant aspect in the process.

They project conducted and analyzed 2009 baseline and mapping of community gardens. The goal of increasing the percentage of land under cultivation was not met. The project reported an unexpected combination of zoning ordinances, land price increases, and bureaucratic prohibitions and impediments.

http://fieldtoforknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/starting-a-community-garden-in-dc-final-version.

Maintaining regular updates to program documentation is important in order to reduce the impact of staff change. While we know that photos or post-tests were taken or administered, NFI did not receive copies of all associated project data. Similarly, there has to be an understanding that program changes, such as limited classes, changing attitudes of partners, and the impact of new opportunities, will occur.

A project, as this, should not be undertaken unless fully funded from the beginning and without delay in the availability of funds. In particular, the latter is reflected in the credibility with which prospective partners view your operation.

Programs as these will benefit by micro-management.

Contact Person

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Additional Information

All videos produced and associated with this grant are available on YouTube for easy accessibility and to take advantage of social media sharing.

http://fieldtoforknetwork.org/

http://neighborhoodfarm.blogspot.com/

https://www.facebook.com/dcfieldtoforknetwork

http://picasaweb.google.com/neighborhoodfarm

Kristin Georger, Neighborhood Farm Initiative, YouTube

Community Garden Census and location by Ward (2011):

http://fieldtoforknetwork.org/community-gardens/chart

One Yard of Garden

Project Summary

The "One Yard Garden" was a project developed to convert conventional grass lawns into environmentally friendly flowering and edible landscapes by using one square yard at a time. By abandoning traditional "industrial lawns" in favor of a specialty crop garden, participants were,

1. Educated on the existence and cultivation of specialty crops in the Washington metropolitan area;
2. Encouraged to use one square of garden to plant their specialty crops;
3. Trained on how to implement good gardening and handling practices; and
4. Taught to prepare nutritional meals from their own harvest.

The motivation for the project emanated from an awareness of the lack of fresh food availability in many neighborhoods of Washington, DC. The project focus was on Ward 5 as well as Ward 7 of the District of Columbia which is located in the far northeast quadrant. The area still retains some of its' historically rural characteristics.

Implemented by Groundwork Anacostia River, the project was a previously unfunded program of a recently established, and internationally certified, nonprofit organization.

Project Approach

The program negotiated with partners to deliver aspects of the program. Healthy Living, Inc. agreed to conduct the food preparation workshops at Mayfair Community Center, Wheeler Terrace Community Center, the Center for Green Urbanism, and the Fort Dupont activity center.

Summit Health Institute for Research and Education (SHIRE) was engaged, through an agreement, to develop and conduct a gardening workshop series for the residents of "Peoples Co-op". They also reported that the SHIRE proposed to conduct pre and post-tests to determine the participants' food knowledge, eating habits, and level environmental awareness. They were also to conduct an evaluation of the cooking classes.

Teaching participants good gardening and handling practices

Master Gardener Yvette and Common Good Farm were the primary training partners that who worked with participants on good gardening and handling techniques. The good gardening and handling classes were incorporated into the eight month workshop series. The Master Gardener and Common Good Farm also worked with Groundwork Anacostia to develop a fruit and vegetable exchange program in which all participants engaged. The National Park Service garden plots were assisted by the NPS staff and the intern assigned to the community gardens at Fort Dupont Park. The first day in the Fort Dupont gardens for participants was March 17,2011.

Teaching participants how to prepare delicious, healthy meals using their specialty crops

Healthy Living Inc. was the primary training partner to teach participants how to prepare delicious, simple healthy meals using their specialty crops and their *freggie boxes.* The first food preparation workshop/class to place on February 18th at the *Rooting DC Forum* conducted by Healthy Living Inc. The food preparation and storage classes will be incorporated in the eight month workshop series. The workshops/classes were rotated between the Mayfair Community Center, People's Coop Community Center, Center for Green Urbanism and the Fort Dupont Activity Center.

Activities at the farmer's market that benefit solely the specialty crops

Groundwork Anacostia maintained a booth as part of the farmer's market. Participants assisted with the operation of the booth and the facilitation of the farmer's market. Specialty crops that are grown and that are in excess of the participants needs were made available for sale at the farmer's markets with funds from sales going to the participant whose crops are sold. Participants were also able to assist with outreach and engagement with the public about the specialty crops program.

A farmer's market was started in the Parkside neighborhood which is near the Mayfair community in September, 2011. Members of the Mayfair Garden Club participated at the farmer's market.

Preparation and planting of a specialty crop bedding area

Seeds were distributed to participants at the *Rooting DC Garden Forum.* Participants were encouraged to start seed trays on their window sills at home. These seed starter trays plantings will be transferred to the garden early to mid-April. Fall planting beds will be planted near end of summer for fall/winter harvest.

The *Rooting DC Garden Forum* continues to be a resource for seeds, literature and products that support urban gardening and the *Specialty Crops one Yard of Garden Program.* Bedding vegetable plants were acquired from Sharp's Farm in Howard County, Maryland and from Common Good Farm in Washington, DC. Fruit trees were donated by Parson's New School. Hoop houses will be installed on some of the beds at each garden for gardeners to grow bedding plants for use in Spring 2012.

<u>Goals and Outcomes Achieved</u>

In order to accomplish the goals and desired specialty crop outcomes, the organization 1) established relationships with leaders and organizations within the ward, developed an informational packet, conducted information sessions at community locations, advertised through electronic media; and 2)

Conducted a seven week cooking class series for 20 participants while establishing pilot garden programs in 5 neighborhoods.

- Constructed raised beds at multiple sites;
- Installed temporary fencing at several sites;
- Mentored operations for the development of Wangari Garden, a partner in community activities;
- Established ongoing cooperatives with 5 community garden clubs while hiring a certified Master Gardener to train-the-trainers;
- Assigned site managers at each of the community gardening locations.

Activities Performed

Gardens were developed in the Mayfair Mansions community in Ward 7, in the Deanwood neighborhood in Ward 7, at the Center for Green Urbanism in Ward 7 and at the People's Coop in Ward 8.

Mayfair Community Garden and Garden Club
A fence was installed around the Mayfair Community Garden, 8 raised beds were built and planted and gardening workshops and food preparation workshops were conducted. A community harvest and garden day was held on November 19, 2011 that included a potluck meal prepared by the gardeners using produce from the garden and recipes from the cooking classes.

People's Coop Community Garden and Garden Club
6 raised beds beds were built and planted and gardening workshops were conducted. The People's Coop Garden Club participated and presented at the *Building Community Engagement in Underserved Neighborhoods* forum and workshop sponsored by the Summit Health Institute for Research and Education (SHIRE) and held at the Kellogg Conference Center at Galludet University, Wash., DC. on November 18, 2011.

Deanwood Learning Garden
Located in the Deanwood neighborhood in far-northeast Ward 7, the Deanwood Learning Garden is a collaboration between the Deanwood Civic Association, The Empowerhouse Solar Decathlon Team, and the DC Department of Housing and Community Development. The garden is called a learning garden because it can be used as a resource for local teachers and students as well as for local residents. 7 raised planting beds were designed by students from Parson's New School, built and planted by volunteers. This garden was installed in the Summer and planted fall plants in September and October, 2011. Garden policy was being developed and to be fully implemented in early 2012.

Center for Green Urbanism
Located in Ward 7 and serves as a community center that focuses on sustainability and as a "green" demonstration model for the community. 3 raised planting beds were built by volunteers andplanted by high school student members of the Groundwork Green Team. The garden has a variety of vegetables and includes 3 fruit trees and berry bushes. Visitors frequent the Center for Green Urbanism to visit the *Tubman/Mahan Art Gallery* and for workshops and classes. the CGU also has rain barrels and a compost area in the garden area. 2 new beds were built for Spring, 2012 planting.

Beneficiaries

The Peoples Co-op, as a primary partner, was the host of a workshop series and attracted 48 participants from a housing complex. It also recruited 82 first time gardeners. The organization trained and deployed 5 peer educators who introduced gardening to 101 residents.

Over 700 persons were impacted by the Co-op gardens.

Overall, the program beneficiaries were fully focused within Wards 5 and 7. However, the ultimate size of the beneficiary population was less than expected.

Lessons Learned

While their establishment of relationships and supporting associations was significant, the limited experience, staffing, and resources were a detriment. The State award was one of several which the organization sought to implement during the initial years. Unfortunately, the State was unable to provide timely cash availability and Groundwork did not have adequate cash flow with which to implement the first season. The State recognizes the need to conduct prior due diligence for financial stability.

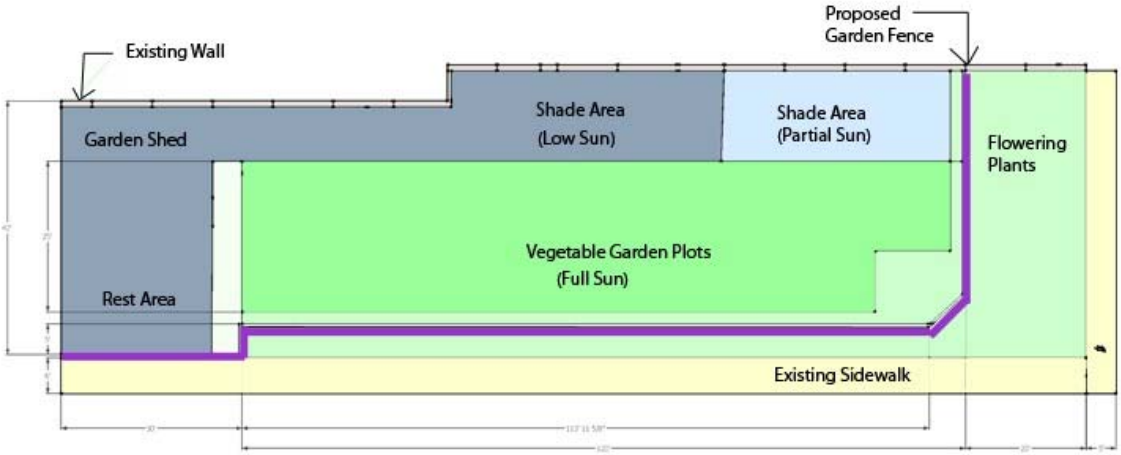
In assessing capability and monitoring project management, it is important to immediately confront any events that may possibly cascade and impact the timelines.

There is a high learning and acceptance curve for organizations that are relatively new to communities. Neophyte nonprofits may tend to extend themselves beyond capacity. The time consumption and level of difficulty was unanticipated for this high-effort, seasonal program.

There must be a more definitive relationship between the proposed goals and the actions reported. Furthermore, the State must require documentation for all reported activities.

Contact Person

Dennis Chestnut, Executive Director: dennis@groundworkdc.org.



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Mayfair Mansions

Community Garden Map

Proposed May 23, 2010