

THE ARLINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Benefits of Community Gardens and Keeping Them Sustainable

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The Importance of Community Gardens

- Community gardens can serve as a food resource for their communities, helping alleviate food insecurity.
- Community gardens allow participants to experience nature firsthand.
- Community gardens help promote a sense of community among participants.



Common Issues Facing Community Gardens

- Lack of a sufficient, continuous workforce.
- Lack of funding.

The Arlington Community Garden

The Arlington Community Garden, located on the grounds of the Tree Hill Nature Center is dedicated to growing food for the food pantry at Arlington Community Services with the goal of enhancing environmental justice by providing healthy food for those who do not have access to it. Through this, the garden also provides opportunities for people to learn about gardening, environmental stewardship, and healthier lifestyles.

Goal

Support the garden's continuous operation by engaging in sustainable gardening practices, enlisting volunteers to ensure a viable long-term workforce, and arranging funding options.

Method

- We enlisted more volunteers by word-of-mouth, as well as producing flyers to be distributed around the community.
- To get volunteers excited about working in and improving the garden we arranged a Zen garden and mosaic project.
- I also created a list of possible grants and funding sources for the garden to refer to as necessary in the future.

Results

- New volunteers enlisted: 4 (along with additional student volunteers from Jacksonville University)
 - This has allowed the garden to grow and harvest dozens of pounds of food and explore new options for improving the garden.
- Created a list of possible funding sources for the garden.



Zen Garden

This was a collaborative project among the volunteers. People could bring in their own stones, shells, and other items to create this corner of the garden that is meant to be calming and beautiful. This was also an activity to allow volunteers to create and get excited about working in the garden.



Mosaic Stepping-Stones

This was another activity to get volunteers engaged in garden activities and the beautification of the garden. Reusing old ceramics, and bought materials, volunteers could create a mosaic stepping-stone to be placed in the Zen garden area, as well as around the garden to mark walking areas.



Flyer created for distribution.

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Environmental Center

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