

## **USU Extension Grant – Final Report**

**Project Leader:** Helen Muntz, Extension Professional Practice Assistant Professor, Weber & Morgan Counties

**Collaborator:** Katie Wagner, Extension Associate Professor, Salt Lake County

**Project Title:** Logan Community Garden

**Beginning and End Date:** June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017

**Total Requested:** \$8,000

### **Project Overview:**

The Logan Community Garden turned an abandoned, city owned field into a place for residents to grow their own food. There are 153 mixed residential dwellings within walking distance of the community garden site. According to 2011 Ethnicity information for Logan Elementary Schools, Bridger Elementary (located right next to the community garden site) had a population of 29% Hispanic students, and about 10% non-white ethnic groups. Logan as a whole, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, consisted of 13.9% Hispanic residents in 2010. The Logan Community Garden includes a Demonstration Garden designed for gardening education. Produce from the Demonstration Garden provided fresh food for the local Senior Center, as well as the local “Kid’s Place” program.

### **Project Objectives:**

Goal 1: The Community Garden will serve as an educational resource for the community.

Objective: Create Demonstration Garden to exhibit techniques used in sustainable gardening.

Goal 2: Demonstration Garden Field Days and Volunteer Work Days will be hosted throughout the season.

Objective: Provide opportunities for community members to work and collaborate together.

Goal 3: Partner with local non-profit organizations to provide healthy meals to children and elderly.

Objective: Donate produce from the Demonstration Garden to the Local Senior Center meals program, and the Local Kid’s Place Program.

**Project Results:**

Goal 1: A 1200 square foot demonstration garden was planted to exhibit garden techniques such as utilizing small spaces efficiently, incorporating plants to attract beneficial insects, trellising, mulching, and composting. The Demonstration garden also included an interactive children's garden with a pole bean Teepee.

Goal 2: Field days were held throughout the season, bringing gardeners and Master Gardeners together. The field days were fun, interactive events where participants learned gardening tips including succession plantings, planting for pollinators, summer planting for fall crops, using shade cloth to protect crops from sunburn and heat stress, and sharing garden recipes. Donations from Home Depot allowed us to provide gardeners with seeds and other materials for summer planting.

Goal 3: Cache County Extension collaborated with Logan City Parks Department, local arborists, and the Logan Landfill to develop the garden site, provide compost, and mulch material. Produce grown in the demonstration garden was donated to both The Family Place and the Cache Valley Senior Center. Cache County Food Sense provided kid friendly recipes for the Kids Place Program.

**Outcomes:** Increase environmental awareness, improve health and nutrition, obtain skills and knowledge in gardening and sustainability, and reduce costs of groceries.

**Impacts:**

- Produce Donation
  - \$700 worth of produce donated to The Family Place Kids Place Program, and the Cache Valley Senior Center
- 34 Garden plots rented
  - 82% of Community Garden tenants lived in apartments
  - 36% of Community Garden tenants were first time gardeners
  - 36% of Community Garden tenants had been gardening for 4 or less years
- 30% of the Community Garden tenants attended Field Days

- Gardeners rated their gardening experiences on a scale of 0 to 100 as follows:

Experience	Average Rating
Lower Cost on Groceries	47
Learning Experience	67
More Time Outdoors	67
Improved Physical Health	59
Improved Nutrition	57
Improved Mental Health	79
Built Relationships with Fellow Gardeners in the Community	65

- Field Day experiences were rated on a scale of 0 to 100 as follows:

Experience	Average Rating
Built relationships with other gardeners	87
Gained information that helped me improve my gardening skills	85
Increased fall crop from planting seeds in summer	79

### **Secured Extramural Funds:**

Logan City donated over \$20,000 worth of land, irrigation (water and equipment), and compost for the Logan Community Garden. The City plans to continue to develop the surrounding area into a city park, and honor their initial investment and commitment to continue supporting the Community Garden. Cache County Horticulture will continue to assist in facilitation of the Logan Community Gardens and educational outreach opportunities.