

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER COMMUNITY GARDEN

2020 A Year in Review



COMMITTED GARDENERS

Despite the challenges of 2020, gardeners kept growing.

ABUNDANT HARVESTS

We had a successful year of harvests. We donated 386 lbs of food to the community!

OUTDOOR OASIS

Our garden was a place of solace and respite for gardeners and community members.

SOWING SEEDS FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Since the garden's inception, we have prioritized providing fresh harvest donations to the community. COVID-19 increased food insecurity throughout Fort Worth and we were motivated to increase our donations during the pandemic. For 2020, we set a goal to donate 300 lb of our garden harvest to the community. This year we exceeded our goal and **donated 386 lb of food!** Harvests went primarily to the North Intercommunity Agency (NICA) food pantry.





Waste Diversion aka Composting

A special thanks to community member, Sally Dieb, for her ongoing commitment to composting. Through our collaboration with Tarrant County Food Policy Council (TCFPC) and the City of Fort Worth, we continued collecting coffee grounds from local coffee shops, Ampersand and Starbucks. However, the program was on hiatus from May to September. This Fall, we started collecting food scraps from Snappy Salads as well. We have diverted an estimated 423 lb of coffee grounds and 170 lb of food scraps from the landfill this year alone!

KEEP THE GARDEN GROWING

The HSC Community Garden continues to thrive due to volunteer support. Our volunteers learn more about growing and sustainable practices, offer their expertise and guidance, and have a hands-on experience beautifying the garden for many to enjoy. This year we relied heavily on existing gardeners to volunteer their time to maintain the overall garden, keep plants watered, and harvest. Even though we cancelled our typical work days throughout the year, we were approached by HSC groups and students to support our efforts to keep the garden growing. Celina led the Women's Health and Pediatrics program on a tour in January and they helped to harvest this summer. TCU and HSC MD students volunteered to tidy up the garden at the end of the summer. This fall, a few student volunteers helped out on small cleanup projects and planting throughout the season. Despite limited volunteer opportunities, we estimated **200 volunteer hours** for the year!

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*“I like knowing
that I’m helping
those who may
not have easy
access to
food.”*

*-Sherry Burton,
Garden Steering
Committee member*



Community Engagement

We participated in:

- HSC Earth Day
- Dig Deep: A Conference for Growers
- Tarrant County Food Policy Council, Community Garden/Urban Agriculture working group



NEWS FEATURES AND AWARDS

The garden was recognized for our efforts to support food access and gardening. We were featured in a variety of news outlets including NBC 5, 360 West, GreenSourceDFW, and Telemundo. We also received the Innovation Award from the City of Fort Worth for Land Redevelopment.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

As 2020 comes to a close, we are looking forward to some exciting projects and new opportunities to engage in community. To ensure consistent food donations, one garden plot is dedicated for demonstration purposes and the food growing in large planters throughout the garden will be donated or accessed by people in need who visit the garden. There are also plans to transition the Lena Pope plot to a sensory garden for the children to enjoy. We will participate in virtual events and use social media to generate awareness about gardening and promote sustainable and regenerative practices.

We have experienced many accomplishments over the years. The garden continues to be a space to connect with others and support people's health and well-being thanks to the gardeners and supporters.

*"The garden's lessons are not only about sustainable food production. They're about grassroots food justice."
-Betsy Friauf, Garden Founder*

SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank the Facilities Management team for valuing the garden and helping to maintain the garden grounds. We also appreciate the Sustainability Committee and Garden Steering Committee for offering a range of support throughout the year. A special thank you to Tarrant Area Food Bank Community Garden, Archie's Gardenland, and Seed Savers Exchange for donating seeds, plants, compost, and fertilizer this year!

Additional Partners and Supporters:

- Calloway's Nursery
- Four Star Café
- Freehling's Tree Service
- Silver Creek Materials
- Saint-Emilion Restaurant
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Tarrant County

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