

UNTHSC Community Garden 2015 Annual Summary

Mission: To enhance university and community engagement, promote sustainable food production, and educate on health and nutrition, environmental stewardship, and organic gardening techniques.

GENERAL SUMMARY:

The UNTHSC Community Garden completed its second full year in operation. We founded the garden in February 2014 with 16 (12'x4') plots which were only available to UNTHSC students and employees in 2014. The garden was founded with funds from the Sustainability Committee on campus and more than \$5700 in cash and in-kind donations from our donors. In February 2015, we added 11 more plots and opened the garden up to the community. Then in September 2015, we added the remaining 8 plots for a total of 35 plots at the garden managed by UNTHSC students, employees, and community members.



FOOD BANK DONATIONS:

In 2014, the garden donated 75.25 lbs. of fresh produce to the Northside Intercommunity Agency (NICA) food pantry. This year, we donated 121 lbs. of produce to NICA which translates to approximately 485 servings of fruits, vegetables, and herbs!

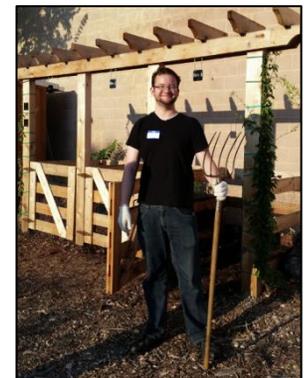


VOLUNTEER HOURS:

The UNTHSC Community Garden provided several opportunities throughout the year to volunteer whether through the Build Days (days where plots were added), Work Days (general garden maintenance), harvesting for the food bank, events, etc. In fact, 613.5 volunteer hours were accounted for in 2015!

COMPOST BINS = WASTE DIVERSION

In early summer, the garden added 3 compost bins to the garden's space. The bins and maintenance are overseen by a committee of volunteers, and we are collecting food waste from the café on campus, Four Star Café, and the neighboring restaurant, Saint-Emilion Restaurant. Total, 1320 lbs. of food waste have been diverted from the landfill and added to our compost bins! This will produce rich, nourishing compost for our gardeners.



ADDITIONS TO THE GARDEN

Native Plants: In February, the garden welcomed community member and member of the Native Plant Society, Laura Penn, to garden in one of our plots. Laura grows native plants, and her donation to the garden is to beautify some of the common areas with native plants in order to optimize the garden's and our community's native habitat. We are also looking for ways to incorporate this in to the educational outreach efforts of the garden.



Wall Mural: In October, thirteen volunteers came together to paint a mural on the side of a building at the community garden. We consulted with a local artist, Pam Robbins, to complete the work, and the design was completed by the UNTHSC Office of Sustainability intern, Rebekah Downing. Facilities Management was crucial in prepping the wall, and stenciling the letters. See [the time-lapse video here!](#)

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The UNTHSC Community Garden is committed to providing educational opportunities for our gardeners, campus, and larger community. The garden hosted a Planting Day in March where a speaker came from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Tarrant County, to speak with our gardeners about how best to maximize space, organic pest management, etc. Then in April, we hosted a compost class taught by a Tarrant County Master Composter. Both Build Days incorporated a stretching routine to talk about preparing for gardening, and we hosted a booth at the Food Day Event at UNTHSC in October. The garden is continually looking for ways to expand our educational outreach, and we have plans to do so in the future especially with an on-campus daycare center adjacent to the garden coming next year.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Thank you to the following for their generous donations to our garden. Your support has positively impacted our community and helped us to fulfill our university's mission to create solutions for healthier community!

- Archie's Gardenland
- Calloway's Nursery
- Four Star Café
- Freehling's Tree Service
- Marshall Grain Co.
- Silver Creek Materials
- Saint-Emilion Restaurant
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Tarrant County
- UNTHSC Facilities Management



CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions? Please contact Sandy Bauman, UNTHSC's Sustainability Coordinator, at sandy.bauman@unthsc.edu or Betsy Friauf, our volunteer Garden Coordinator at Elizabeth.friauf@unthsc.edu.

Website: unthsc.edu/communitygarden