

UNTHSC Community Garden 2017 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 fourth year in operation. Since the garden does not have space to add more plots, we concentrated on beautifying the common areas of the garden by adding native plants that attract pollinators (thanks to one of our gardeners, Laura Penn, for her guidance). We also added 6 fruit trees, and a local Eagle Scout built and installed a Little Free Library for the garden. This year we participated in many educational opportunities on campus and regionally with events like the Dig Deep Conference. We met our 400 lb. donation goal in the fall, and next year, our goal is to donate 500 lbs.



FOOD BANK DONATIONS:

Last year the UNTHSC Student Food Pantry was founded on campus for students in need of food and supplies. The garden donated 71.5 lbs. of produce last year, and this year almost doubled that number to 135.5 lbs. Total donations of 480.75 lbs. went to both the North Intercommunity Agency (NICA) and the student pantry. A summary of the garden’s donations to date is below. Since 2014, we have donated 991.75 lbs., and we aim to donate over 500 lbs. in 2018.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
NICA	75.25	121	243.25	345.25
UNTHSC Student Pantry	N/A	N/A	71.5	135.5
Total	75.25	121	314.75	480.75

GRAND TOTAL 991.75

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

The UNTHSC Community Garden provided several opportunities throughout the year to volunteer whether through Work Days (scheduled general garden maintenance), harvesting for the food bank, and special events. In fact, 547 volunteer hours were logged in 2017!





COMPOST BINS = WASTE DIVERSION

For the second year now, we had 3 compost bins in operation and a fourth for finished compost. The bins and maintenance are overseen by a team of volunteers, and we have continued collecting food waste from the neighboring restaurant, Saint-Emilion Restaurant. Volunteers pick up pre-consumer kitchen scraps 5 days a week. An estimated 3,120 lbs. of food waste has been diverted from the landfill and added to our compost bins this year alone! This will produce rich, nourishing compost for our gardeners. A special thanks to community member, Jim Atteberry, for organizing the compost team volunteers!



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The UNTHSC Community Garden is committed to providing educational opportunities for our gardeners, campus, and larger community. The garden hosted its annual Planting Day in April where 2 experts guided our gardeners about how best to maximize space, organic pest management, etc. This year, we also participated in FitFest, the Earth Day Event, and a Lunch & Learn on composting in small spaces. Also, we were happy to collaborate with the Tarrant Area Food Bank again this year to host the Dig Deep Conference, an educational conference for North Texas farmers, gardeners, and enthusiasts to learn from each other. The conference will be hosted at UNTHSC in 2018 as well. 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 partners for their generous donations to our garden over the last 4 years. 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
- UNTHSC Sustainability Committee



CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions? Please contact Sandy Bauman, UNTHSC's Sustainability Coordinator, at sandy.bauman@unthsc.edu or Shelly Borders, our volunteer Garden Coordinator at shelly.borders@unthsc.edu.

Website: unthsc.edu/communitygarden

Garden Brochure: <https://www.unthsc.edu/operations/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/UNTHSC-Community-Garden-2016-share.pdf>