

2018 Garden Season Summary

Public Housing



SEASON JOURNEY

We started the year by connecting with last years co-coordinators and engaging the public housing community and prepare for a successful year ahead.

March

May

July



In early March I took the coordinators to MPFS training



Plans came together in April to bring out volunteers out to assist.



July showed a lot of promise with our outreach & improvements efforts.



We set up pre-season goals including capital and outreach improvements



Continuously MPFS trainings have kept garden communities engaged.



We will recognize the coordinators and their contributions



We asked our garden community and SHA for support



As the season progresses, new goals are identified.



We're preparing to end the season strong and limit the extra work at next season's start



TESTIMONIALS

Feedback and Praise

GARDENER AT GLEN CREEK

First year gardener



"I am so thankful for our garden. It helps save money, encourages my family to eat healthy. It helps ground me and teach my kids patience and handwork."

GARDENER AT BRUSH COLLEGE

Veteran Gardener



"My garden is essential to my families diet. I wish there was a way to limit kids playing in the garden. I'd like for SHA to consider insecticides."

GARDENER AT MEADOWLARK

Third year gardener



"Our garden is the opportunity to have fresh vegetables. Thank you so much for your help. The new dirt and the help of the volunteers was amazing."



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

The gardens are important and worth while investment in our public housing communities.

DIET



How important is your garden to your family's diet?

Essential



Very Important



SCARCITY



In the last year, were you ever worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more?

Often



Sometimes



IMPACT



Number of people in your household, who eat from your garden?

Children in your household?



4 people per household / 3 children in a household

OUTREACH



What percentage of participants were new to the gardens?

Newbies



FSS PROGRAM



What percentage of participants are in FSS?

Active Participants



GROWING POINTS / HIGHLIGHTS

How might we encourage the current growth in the gardens and continue to empower individuals to set themselves up for a healthy and self-sufficient future?

Our continued alliance with Marion Polk Food Share is manifesting in powerful ways, Public Housing clients are getting educated about food, preventing their own crisis, and taking opportunities to connect with their children in healthy, productive ways.

- Complexes that have FSS clients in a formal role with the gardeners serve as ambassadors for the program. I think we can create an ambassador program and incentivize participants to sell the program to garner a more diverse client participation.
- Folks in our units are experiencing food scarcity. The gardens are providing an avenue to connect clients to resources. Growing season ends in September, we should have coordinate a food drop mid-winter for folks who are used to eating out of the gardens.
- Our outreach efforts are working. We need to figure out how to engage every tenant. Next year, I'd like to offer a bucket garden clinic, in cooperation with MPFS. So, that folks that don't sign up in time or want a whole garden plot, can have a small one on their patios.