

# 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



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



We asked our garden community and SHA for support



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



Continuously MPFS trainings have kept garden communities engaged.



As the season progresses, new goals are identified.



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



We will recognized the coordinators and their contributions



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



#### GARDENER AT BRUSH COLLEGE

Veteran Gardener



#### GARDENER AT MEADOWLARK

Third 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."

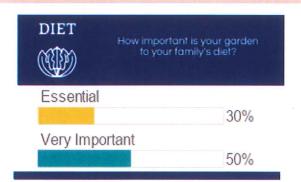
"My garden is essential to my families diet. I wish there was a way to limit kids playing in the garden. I'd like for SHA to consider insecticides."

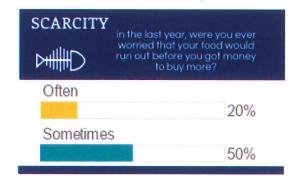
"Our garden is the opportunity to have fresh vegetables. Thank you so much for your help. The new dirt and the help of the volunteers was amazing."



### WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

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









4 people per household / 3 children in a household







### **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.