

FY2024 Buncombe County Tipping Point Grant Report

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| Organization Name: | Botanical Gardens at Asheville |
| Project Name: | Southern Appalachian Cultural Heritage Gardens Project - Cherokee Special Plants |

| Activities Accomplished | Annual Goal | Amount Completed |
|---|-------------|------------------|
| % of garden created and plants in place | 100% | 90% |
| % of plants with labels including name and usage | 100% | 0% |
| # of interpretive panels in place explaining the garden | 2 | 0% |

| Expenses (please list <u>all</u> grant related expenses) | Amount Spent |
|--|-----------------|
| Tree Removal | \$ 1,700.00 |
| Site Prep Materials (fabric, soil, mulch, etc) | \$ 502.03 |
| Plants | \$ 660.65 |
| | |
| TOTAL: | \$ 2,863 |

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Between July and December 2023, the BGA Garden Crew had a number of email communications and several meetings with staff and partners of the Cherokee Natural Resources Dept, who have provided wonderful guidance on this project. With sources they recommended to us, we created a list of plants to include in the garden, along with the traditional Cherokee usages of each. We also conducted a full plant inventory of the site where the Cherokee Special Plants Garden would be installed, and found many plants of interest already existing in this space. During the spring and summer, we prepped the new garden site, which included removing unwanted plants and trees, smothering existing turf and creating new garden beds in its place. During this time, we also sourced and purchased plants.

In October 2023 we finished prepping the new beds and planted most of the plants, with the help of many garden volunteers. 200 plants have been installed so far, with a few more species to be sourced in the Spring of 2024. We are currently awaiting Cherokee name translations from the Cherokee Speakers Council before we can create our plant labels, and seeking a Cherokee graphic designer to help create interpretive signage.