

FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

Organization Name:	Bountiful Cities	
Project Name:	Community Garden Network and Edible Park Support	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
	x	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 1500 characters). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

Quarter 1	<p>In the first quarter we assisted in planning and facilitating 4 community work days at George Washington Carver Edible Park and 1 community workday at West Asheville Edible Park; Worked with new neighborhood leaders to plan workday, update site maps, remove invasive vines, harvest fruit, engage neighbors, and promote to neighborhood groups.</p> <p>We also held 3 workshops; Cooking in the Garden with Arturo Carillo at Elder and Sage on July 15(10 participants), Home and Container gardening with Chaka Gordon at Deaverview Community Center on August 19(13 participants), and Edible Plant walk with Mark Williams at Tempe Avery Edible Park on September 15(17 participants). The participants at the Deaverview workshop have had a lot of success growing late summer crops in their new gardens and are looking forward to having fresh greens this winter.</p> <p>We were able to distribute \$425 to each of the 9 Community gardens who participated in the 2023 Urban Garden Tour (Lucy S Herring, Hall Fletcher, Peace Gardens & Market, 12 Baskets, Elder and Sage, West Asheville park, Soutside Community Farm, George Washington Carver Edible Park/East End Valley St. Community Garden, and Pearson Garden). The gardens can use those funds to improve the production of their gardens.</p>
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Quarter 2	<p>A noteworthy development during this quarter was the addition of a new Community Garden Network Co-Coordinator to our team. This strategic hiring aimed to enhance our outreach and support for community gardens in Buncombe County. During the onboarding process, we prioritized building relationships with local garden managers. Visits to several school and community gardens allowed our team to connect with garden managers and understand the unique needs of each community. These visits were instrumental in laying the groundwork for collaborative efforts.</p> <p>We actively participated in the planning and facilitation of community work days at George Washington Carver Edible Park and West Asheville Edible Park. These events served as platforms for removing invasive vines, planning initiatives for 2024, engaging neighbors, and improving communication within neighborhood groups. The success of these workdays was a testament to the dedication and collaboration of community leaders.</p> <p>Two workshops were organized during the quarter to provide valuable knowledge and skills to our community. The first workshop focused on "Greenhouse and Hoop House Growing" with expert Declan King at the Peace Garden & Markets on October 4. The second workshop, held at the Grove Street Community Center on November 4, centered around "Mushroom Log Inoculation" with Chris Parker. These workshops were complemented by a meet-up and potluck, fostering community connections and shared learning experiences.</p>
Quarter 3	<p>During the third quarter we hosted 4 workshops focused on Kudzu removal and uses, Fruit Tree Pruning with Mark Williams, seed starting and spring planting, and restoring the American Chestnut in this region followed by a film screening hosted by the American Chestnut Foundation Asheville Chapter . Winter weather in January forced us to reschedule the Kudzu workshop, in partnership with Kudzu Culture, from Jan for Feb 10 which was the same date as the fruit tree pruning workshop. All of the workshops were well attended and participants enjoyed the hands on portions of the events. We hosted one meetup/potluck with area gardeners where we discussed ideas for upcoming workshops and ways to get involved and connect with other growers.</p> <p>We assisted in planning of 2 workdays at West Asheville park, one in the edible forest and the other in the garden. We helped to connect the folks working in the food forest with the group managing the raised beds and discussed possibility of the group applying for COA neighborhood matching grants. 3 workdays were held at George Washington Carver Edible Park with the regular volunteers but we had a lot of new involvement due to the fruit tree pruning workshop. Discussions continue with community members, volunteers and staff at the Stephens Lee Recreation Center to expand the use of the gardens and edible park to the programming happening at the center.</p> <p>We met with the administration at Johnston Elementary about their pollinator beds and how to best support the continued growth of this new school garden as both a community resource and an educational tool.</p> <p>We continue to increase engagement with students from Warren Wilson College to provide opportunities for volunteers, service projects and education. We hosted students at our school and community gardens during their "spring break trip" They helped establish beds, weeded, mulched, painted signs, and sowed seeds at 4 different gardens (Pearson, Southside, George Washington Carver, and Lucy S. Herring)</p>

<p>Quarter 4</p>	<p>During the 4th quarter Bountiful Cities hosted 3 workshops. In this workshop on April 28th Marc Williams led attendees through the grounds of the Tempie Avery Community Center and identified edible plants. Answered questions and explained the life cycles of plants as well as their importance to the overall ecosystem. This was a very large group and highlighted the interest and importance of this topic. This workshop on June 2nd, focused on Summer Greens; was very interactive and the participants were able to explore their individual interests. In this workshop on June 22nd Chef Jeremy Salig led participants in a demonstration and hands on workshop showing various techniques for preparing seasonal fruits and vegetables.</p> <p>Assisted in the planning of 4 workdays at the Carver Edible Park and West Avl park, that also included a workshop at the Carver Park on pruning fruit trees.</p> <p>We organized with the new Leicester Giving Gardens a seed swap that included multiple gardens supported by the CGN.</p> <p>We continued to support the Woodfin Community Garden in receiving their grant and developing a MOU with the town of Woodfin</p>
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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
# of Garden Managers or key stakeholders who are actively engaged with the CGN	25	13	4	4	4	25
# of gardens receiving grants, obtaining resources, and developing partnerships with	9	9	0	1	1	11
# of workshops, meetups, events the CGN hosts or co-hosts, and number of attendees at each	15	3	3	4	11	21

Comments:

Q4:

- 3 workshops 57 participants: on April 28th Edible Plant Identification there were 40 participants. On June 2nd workshops on Exploring Summer Greens with 2 participants. On June 22nd hosted a workshop on Cooking with the Seasons with 15 participants in attendance.
- organized a seed swap at Leicester Library supporting the new Giving Garden
- supported 7 Edible Parks and Gardens engaged with CGN: Carver Edible Park, West Asheville Garden, UNCA students, Leicester Giving Garden, Tempie Avery, Root Cause and Southside Garden.
- Continued to support the Town of Woodfin Community Garden with MOU and grant requirements.

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel	\$ 16,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
Total	\$ 16,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -

Comments: