

City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260*



Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Prosperity and Livability Committee

*Wesley Hudson - Chair
Michael Holmes
Cyril Jefferson
Monica Peters
Jay Wagner, Mayor (Alternate)
Britt Moore, Mayor Pro Tem (Alternate)*

As part of the city of High Point's on-going COVID-19 mitigation efforts, in-person attendance will not be allowed at this meeting. Instead, the meeting will be live-streamed and the public can listen to the meeting as it is being live-streamed by clicking on the following link www.HighPointNC.gov/VirtualPublicMeeting.

**Prosperity and Livability Committee - Council Member Wesley Hudson,
Chair**

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

[2021-90](#)

Update-Community Gardens; and Assistance Grant Report FY 2019

Quina Weber-Shirk, Community & School Garden Agent will provide an update on Community Gardens; and the Assistance Grant Report FY 2019.

Attachments: [High Point Community Garden Assistance Grant Report FY2019](#)

ADJOURNMENT



High Point Community Garden Assistance Grant Report FY 2019

Grant Activities

Between July 2019 and June 2020, the City of High Point provided assistance to 12 community gardens and urban farms through the Community Garden Assistance Grant. **87.12 tons** of material (top soil, compost, and mulch) were granted to 12 community gardens and urban farms in High Point, with a cost to the city of **\$1,867.99** (Attachment A). In March 2020, the High Point City Council amended the grant to include reimbursement for delivery charges. Between March and June 2020, the city reimbursed delivery costs of **\$435.06**. For FY 2019, the total cost to the City of High Point was **\$2,303.05**.

Community Gardens Receiving Assistance:

- **Bountiful Harvest Community Garden**, 1000 English Road, High Point, NC 27262
- **East Avenue Community Garden**, 1506 East Avenue, High Point, NC 27260
- **Beeson Community Garden**, 2215 Geddie Place, High Point, NC 27260
- **Southside Community Garden**, 506 Vail Avenue, High Point, NC 27260
- **Burns Hill Community Garden**, 208 Olga Avenue, High Point, NC 27260
- **Cedar Street Community Garden**, 313 Cedar Street, High Point, NC 27260
- **Howard Street Community Garden**, 900 Howard Place, High Point, NC 27262

Urban Farms Receiving Assistance:

- **Drozik's Urban Farm**, 1700 East Green Drive, High Point, NC 27260
- **Twin Oaks Urban Farm**, 502 White Oak Street, High Point, NC 27260
- **Walnut Urban Farm/ Sweet Seed Farm**, 505 Walnut Street, High Point, NC 27260
- **Thissell Grow Garden**, 505 Thissell Street, High Point, NC 27260

- **Pershing Street Urban Farm**, 1300 Pershing Street, High Point, NC 27260

Outcomes & Impact

Community Involvement

Despite the closures and limitations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, **68 adults and 42 youth** (younger than age 18) were actively involved in the 12 community gardens and urban farms this past year. These 110 individuals were from the following groups in High Point:

- Boy Scouts
- Youth from the surrounding neighborhood
- Neighbors (families, seniors, individuals) joining a community garden
- Burns Hill Neighborhood Association
- Local church groups
- Volunteers through Growing High Point
- Volunteers through High Point University, organized by HPU AmeriCorps VISTAs



Burns Hill Community Garden received funding for new tools through the Greater High Point Food Alliance's Food Security Fund.



A seed library for High Point community gardeners, set up in the City's Community & Neighborhood Development Office (pre-COVID).

Estimated Harvest

Urban agriculture yields from community gardens can be estimated at 1.2 pounds and \$3 per square foot (Gittlement et al., 2012). The 12 community gardens and urban farms actively cultivate a total of **38,448 square feet**, about 0.88 of an acre.



For High Point, this means that the 12 community gardens and urban gardens can be estimated to produce **46,137 pounds** of fresh produce each year, with a value of **\$115,344**.

The 10 most common vegetables grown in community gardens and urban farms were:

Cool-Season Crops (Spring/ Fall)

- Collard greens
- Beets
- Mixed greens
- Lettuce

Warm-Season Crops (Summer)

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Okra
- Beans
- Summer Squash/ Zucchini
- Cucumbers

Gardens in High Point are extremely diversified -- community gardens and urban farms also grew broccoli, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, corn, eggplant, kale, microgreens, mustard greens, peas, radishes, rutabagas, spinach, swiss chard, turnips, watermelon, blackberries, raspberries, figs, strawberries, herbs, and cut flowers.

Use of Harvest

Donated to Local Families or Food Pantries

All of the community gardens and urban farms donated at least a portion of their produce.

3 community gardens -- Bountiful Harvest, Beeson, and Burns Hill -- donate 100% of their total harvest. Fresh produce was donated to community members in High Point the following ways:

- Growing High Point Food Hub -- delivered weekly fresh produce boxes to senior citizens in the Burns Hill neighborhood
- Rev. Clarinda Crawford -- distributes fresh produce to seniors in the Highland Mills neighborhood
- Open Door Ministries
- Burns Hill Food Pantry
- Ward Street Food Pantry
- Other families in need through personal networks



Katie Tylman, HPU AmeriCorps VISTA, and Victoria Hensley, Executive Director of Growing High Point, with a carload of donated greens from Beeson Community Garden.

Personal or Household Meals

4 of the community gardens are neighborhood allotment gardens -- Southside, East Ave, Cedar Street, and Howard Street. In these gardens, garden leaders reported that between 25%-99% the harvest is used by gardeners for personal or household meals.



Howard Community Garden offers raised beds for neighbors to grow their own vegetables.

Sold at Farmers Market or Stand

The 5 urban farms that received assistance all sell between 50-90% of their harvest, and donate the remaining harvest. Produce was sold either at the High Point Farmers Market or through the Growing High Point Food Hub. These urban farms provide increased access to fresh, local produce in High Point, and an additional source of income for the urban farmers.

Garden Updates: Successes & Challenges

Bountiful Harvest

“Graden was very productive this year even though there was a slow start. We harvested over 100 lbs of produce. Produce including cabbage, squash, corn, tomatoes, and okra. Watermelons and cantaloupe are still to go. Have started fall planting of beans. Will add greens and cabbage and collards later. Blackberry and blueberries are soon to be planted in fall also.” - *David Marsh*



A spring workday at Bountiful Harvest Community Garden. A new raised bed is surrounded by mulch from the City of High Point.



Volunteers at Bountiful Harvest Community Garden move the last of the soil and mulch from the City of High Point!

Burns Hill Community Garden

“The biggest challenge we've faced so far has been the weather -- all the rain that we've been getting lately. We haven't had challenges as far as the garden. We put wire mesh around the beds, and we haven't had problems with the rabbits. Members of the Burns Hill Neighborhood Association are harvesting the garden regularly and donating all produce to the Burns Hill Food Pantry and the Growing High Point Food Hub for distribution. Mr. Mingo would like to add cut outs of creatures (squirrels, toads, ladybugs, etc.) to make the garden children-friendly. He hopes that if kids stop, it will engage their parents to work in the garden as well. They are getting ready for a fall planting -- collard greens, etc.” - *Jerry Mingo (interviewed by Quina Weber-Shirk)*



Spring cool-season crop at Burns Hill Community Garden, before installing the wire fence to keep rabbits and other wildlife out. Gardeners had a sense of humor about who they were sharing the bounty with -- note the “Rabbits Eat Free” sign.

East Avenue

“More plots were planted; produce was bountiful. Despite the pandemic, gardeners returned except 1 lady. 5 people participated. A variety of seeds were planted instead of buying a variety of plants that had already grown to re-planting size. Gardeners initially weeded the garden regularly. Gardeners did not continuously keep plots weeded; however, the plants still produced abundantly. The VISTA worker Katie assisted East Ave. tremendously: helped repair plots, provided a plethora of seeds, worked on getting a watering system; however, securing the system was unreliable; contacted the agency to deliver mulch/wood chips, provided updates on a regular basis. One of Katie's co-workers [Victoria Hensley] helped tremendously when garden plots needed repairing. The Master Gardener [Iya Chavis] provided helpful tips. Initially, a dozen+ jugs of water had to be filled at the Hub and transported to the garden for watering plants. We had to water the garden. The pandemic kept us from hosting a program "Meet in the Garden" for children attending a local daycare center down the street from the garden. Entrance to the garden was overgrown with a bunch of dead tree limbs. It was not only an eye sore, but also critters made it their home. The boy scouts mowed regularly.” - *Avys Massey*

Drozik's Urban Farm

“During the summer Andre has grown a wide variety of herbs, okra, beans, peppers, blackberries, squash and tomatoes. This winter will be growing collards, broccoli, cabbage, mixed greens, and beets. Because of COVID-19, we did not have a lot of participants in that garden during the spring and summer. There were 3 adult volunteers and Andre consistently has around 5-7 kids from the neighborhood helping out in his gardens. His garden sits on one vacant lot and is just under 5,000sqft. Around 90% of the harvest is sold at the High Point Farmers Market or directly to the community surrounding the urban farm. Andre donates around 10% to the Growing High Point food hub to be packed in senior produce boxes every week.” - *Victoria Hensley from Growing High Point, reporting for Andre Davis*

Pershing Street Urban Farm

“At the Pershing Street Urban Farm, Iya Chavis grows food in the Greenhouse and the container garden and Jose Abreu grows in the high tunnel. Each structure is 30'x70' which is 4,200 sq ft and the container garden is under 500sqft. So around 4,700 sq ft of growing space at the Pershing Street Urban Farm. Iya grows heirloom tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, lettuce, mixed greens, cucumbers and squash. Jose grows cucumbers, tomatoes, beets, and micro greens. We haven't had any engagement from the community this year at the Pershing Street Urban Farm because of COVID. This year we built a greenhouse in our greenhouse so we could start our own transplants. Iya and Jose have experienced a lot of problems with rats and mice and other pests

which has impacted the harvest. Iya sells a majority of his harvest through the GHP food hub and the High Point Farmers Market (70%) and donates the rest to Ward Street and the senior produce donation boxes (30%).” - *Victoria Hensley from Growing High Point, reporting for Jose Abreu and Iya Chavis*

Southside Community Garden

“This year we got the grant from [Greater High Point Food Alliance Food Security Fund] and we built and rebuilt all our beds. We also got the soil and mulch and put it down, we got it a little later than we wanted but we still got it down so we had to start a little later than we wanted. Due to the [COVID-19] it was a little harder to get people to join but we did manage to recruit 2 new members to our southside garden crew. We did manage to move one bed to get our shed inside our fence, we are still working to do this, we feel next year we will be more prepared. We also had work days that Miss Katie [HPU AmeriCorps VISTA] put together and the boy scouts helped and Mrs Victoria and people from HPU, also my family and friends. This year we have grown tomatoes, peppers that are hot and some not hot, radish, cucumbers, peas, sunflowers, orka, squash, zucchini, basil, beets, spinach, swiss chard, lettuce, we also have flowers and banana trees just for the looks. We have two new members and sometimes they bring their kids to teach them and we also bring our kids and grands to teach them; it's a total of 6 adults and about 6 kids that are actively working our garden this year but some said they wanted to start in the fall but i haven't seen them come back and start. The size of our beds that we have veggies in are 11 beds that are 4 feet wide by 12 feet long, this is the square feet that we have for veggies only. we are using 25% of the food that we grow to eat at home, and 75% we are donating it to the people on the southside that stop by the garden and ask for veggies that are ready we also give to our family and friends.” - *Johnny Horne*



Garden leader Johnny Horne with volunteers at Southside Community Garden in February.



Preparation for new raised beds at Southside Community Garden in May.

Thissell Grow Garden

“During the summer Andre has grown a wide variety of herbs, okra, beans, peppers, blackberries and raspberries, figs, squash and tomatoes. This winter will be growing collards, broccoli, cabbage, mixed greens, and beets. Because of COVID-19, we did not have a lot of participants in that garden during the spring and summer. There were no adult volunteers at Thissell this season, however Andre consistently has around 5-7 kids from the neighborhood helping out in his gardens. Thissell Grow Garden has 10 beds that are 4x16’ totalling 640 sq ft of growing space and he is expanding to add 10 more raised beds. Around 90% of the harvest is sold at the High Point Farmers Market, the GHP Food HUB, and directly to the community surrounding the urban farm. Andre donates around 10% to the Growing High Point food hub to be packed in senior produce boxes every week.” - *Victoria Hensley from Growing High Point, reporting for Andre Davis*

Twin Oaks Urban Farm

“This year Jose added two caterpillar tunnels and has increased his growing space in some parts of the urban farm. Unfortunately, Jose has experienced a lot of theft and vandalism this year from people digging up transplants, stealing an expensive silage tarp, and pulling the fencing from the wood posts to break into the garden. Aside from the challenges, Jose has successfully grown mixed greens, collards, tomatoes, squash, peppers, strawberries, herbs, radish, lettuce, and okra at Twin Oaks Urban Farm. At Twin Oaks Urban Farm, Jose has seen around 5 adult volunteers and regularly has his 2 children helping out on the farm. His total growing space is on 4 vacant lots and is well over 10,000+sqft. Jose sells 90% of the harvest through multiple avenues (High Point Farmers Market, Growing High Point Food Hub, and the Budding Artichoke) however he donates 10% of his harvest to the senior produce boxes or other families in need when he has excess.” - *Victoria Hensley from Growing High Point, reporting for Jose Abreu*

Walnut Urban Farm/ Sweet Seed Farm

“The Sweet Seed Farm, or Walnut Urban Farm is a cut-flower and vegetable farm located at 505 Walnut Street. This is Margaret's first year urban farming, so this Spring she focused on cleaning out the beds from the previous farmer and planted a wide variety of flowers. She also grew some tomatoes. Margaret has been selling bouquets at the High Point Farmers Market and has also been giving vegetables and flowers away to the local community- I would guess it is around 50-50%. She is growing in just under 1000 sq ft right now in raised beds.” - *Victoria Hensley from Growing High Point, reporting for Margaret Spencer*

Citations

Gittleman, Mara; Jordan, Kelli; and Brelsford, Eric (2012) "Using Citizen Science to Quantify Community Garden Crop Yields," Cities and the Environment (CATE): Vol. 5: Iss. 1, Article 4. Available at: <http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cate/vol5/iss1/4>

Attachments

A: [FY 2019-2020 Receipt from Ingleside Compost Facility](#)

B: [Grant Procedure](#)

C: [Grant Application Form](#)

D: [Grant Report Form](#)