
**STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
2020 INITIATIVES PROJECT**

PROJECT LEADER(S):	Joseph Rubenstein
PROJECT TITLE:	Stockton Community Garden
DATE:	July 2017
CC:	

- *The boxes below expand as needed to accommodate your notes. You may also include/submit appendices or attachments, if needed.*
- *Email a copy of this completed form to Jessica Kay, Data Analyst & Assistant to the Chief Planning Officer at: jessica.kay@stockton.edu*

Please provide a summary of the project and your experience.

The community garden project has been a great collaboration with numerous constituencies both on and off the University campus. Starting from a drainage field and then moved to our present community garden site students, staff, faculty, and community volunteers have worked to develop an unattractive and unused plot of land into a community garden that will be available to the University in fall 2017.

The project could not have been developed without the extraordinary advice and support of the Division of Facilities and Management. Stockton students from the Community Garden Club designed, built, and are maintaining the garden. And the project has received advice and support from Stockton's Organic Farm staff and students. Finally, outside volunteers have advised the project regarding building techniques and native planting.

All this is to say that with a project of this scope we have learned that "it takes a village to raise a garden." And hopefully, when students return in the fall....to maintain it as well. Especially important will be the relationship with housing staff to develop freshmen interest in the garden just outside their windows. And the original project impacts remain our focus:

- Promote sustainable horticultural opportunities that are accessible for all students on campus.
- Beautify what is now an unused public space
- Develop a common, outdoor space for students and faculty that provides interdisciplinary learning opportunities for projects, demonstrations, installations, and collaborations, while remaining open and inviting to all.
- Increase opportunities for engagement between internal and external communities.
 - Provide a site for tours and admissions that is an example of a thriving and functional human-influenced ecosystem.

Please attach a copy of your original proposal or list your stated objectives and expected outcomes.

In the fall 2015 term the Sociology/Anthropology Senior Seminar was organized around sustainability and engagement. In particular students read about community gardens and farm markets.

In addition, students “got their hands dirty.” With the permission and help of Facilities Management & Plant Operations, the seminar began to clean up and clear the freshman parking lot drainage field which had a number of raised garden beds that had fallen into disuse. After a literature review the students developed a design and plan for the public space that included beautification, cultivation of organic produce, and an area for learning and community engagement. Surrounded by the New Jersey Pinelands, the Stockton Community Garden seemed an opportunity to showcase an example of the transition from a native wooded ecosystem to an open space for human congregation.

The best of intentions, however, could not overcome the site limitations. The drainage recharge area enabled no pervious materials and an engineering survey determined the space too fragile for the design worked out by the seminar students.

All was not lost. In fact, across from the drainage field was a public space even more suitable to the goals of the senior seminar. After a number of meetings with Facilities Management & Plant Operations, and especially the Project Director, permission for this new space (contiguous to J/K dorms) was secured. Following the Stockton 2020 Strategy Map, the Stockton Community Garden is projected to meet Learning, Engagement, and Sustainability themes. There are three major goals: cultivation of organic produce, beautification of the space, and the creation of a site for community events. Below are some examples of the campus-wide impacts:

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Please describe the results of your project and compare them to your original expectations. Elaborate on how well your objectives were met and how they might have changed. Note any particular obstacles that may have prevented your achieving full satisfaction on desired outcomes.

1. Raised beds built and planted
2. Orchard fruit trees planted
3. Ground cover seeded
4. Pergola built and ready for poetry reading and music presentations, Fall 2017
5. Chairs and benches built for community, Fall 2017
6. Perimeter fence ordered, installation summer 2017
7. Storage shed ordered, installation summer 2017
8. Strategy for community participation developed for academic year 2017-2018

While the initiative was conceived as a two-year project, the community garden club expected a full harvest in summer 2017. The magnitude of the project, and some particular obstacles prevented a full harvest. Specifically, the ground was exceedingly difficult to work with and required numerous efforts at grading by Facilities. We believe 95% of this problem has been solved. In addition, we underestimated the extent to which deer would feed on our crops. With a reduced range and food supply deer have had to enter the human preserve. This, of course, is not their fault, and the fence should solve the problem. Finally, the perennial problem of “summer gardening” and the student academic calendar which leaves a skeleton crew to maintain the garden. This summer, thankfully, two students (one from Sustainability, one from Sociology/Anthropology) served as community garden interns. The project could not have gone forth without their help, along with that of Facilities.

Please list any follow-up actions (publications, presentation venues, etc.)

1. An article is planned to describe the design, building, and maintain of a university community garden. This should serve as a template for others considering such a project.
2. Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year external constituencies will be invited to the garden. In addition, we hope the garden will be included in open house tours.
3. The community Garden Club will work with Housing to develop a relationship with Freshmen in the dorms contiguous to the garden.
4. A full fall 2017 planting is expected after the fence is installed.

Are you recommending the continuation of this project? If so:

- **What are the next action steps you foresee or recommend?**
- **What are the expected budget requirements going forward?**
- **Please identify the program, department, or division to which the continuation proposal should be forwarded.**

[Note: continuation proposals must be approved and incorporated into the appropriate budget process.]

1. Re-convening the Community Garden Club to develop a strategy for academic year 2017-2018.
2. Submitting a continuation 2020 proposal for continued maintenance of the community garden. **First** on the budget list is a request for a greenhouse to stand next to the equipment shed. **Second**, whether in-kind from the University, or a 2020 budget expenditure, picnic tables and furniture for the “grove” area next to the garden should further beautify and expand use of the area. **Third**, rather than hourly wages, a request for a “staff” or student worker (much like our current organic farm manager) to oversee the development of the community garden. This would include not only the day-to-day requirements, but community outreach to both internal and external constituencies to insure full usage of the garden.
3. In addition to the continuation 2020 proposal, I would hope that there could be a collaboration between NAMS, SOBL, Housing, Admissions, and Facilities to fully integrate the garden into the life of the University.

FINANCES: Based on your proposal, please outline below how the award has been spent.		
	Amount	Notes/Comments
Beginning Budget Balance as of:	\$	
Salary Expenditures		
• Stipends	\$	
• Full-time staff salaries	\$	
• Full-time faculty salaries	\$	
• TES salaries	\$ 830.00	
• Fringe Benefits	\$	
Total Salary and Fringe Expenditures	\$	
Non-Salary Expenditures (<i>supplies, travel, etc.</i>)		
• Garden Supplies	\$ 9870.00	
• Official Reception/	\$ 62.00	
•	\$	
•	\$	
•	\$	
•	\$	
Total Non-Salary Expenditures	\$	
Total Salary + Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ 9,988.52	
Ending Budget Balance as of:	\$ 711.48	

If there are remaining expenditures required to complete the project, please itemize them with expected amounts and timing for payment.

IMPORTANT: *Unused funds will revert to the general 2020 Initiative Fund at the end of the fiscal year if not approved and encumbered for project costs.*

Item	Expected Amount	Expected Timing for Payment
Total		