

Pollinator Equity Project - Progress Report

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Project Manager Name

Lauren Jankowski and Katie Perotti

Requested Metrics

Plants Donated: We have only donated 10 plants so far due to the delay of irrigation. This has created a delay on the entire project and therefore distribution of plants.

Organizations we have partnered with:

Community Gardens of Tucson: When the time comes, they have agreed to lend us some pots to use for the project, as well as help to distribute the plants once they are ready.

Iskashitaa Refugee Network: We will be donating to them in the upcoming months.

Tucson Audubon Society: We will be donating to them in the upcoming months.

Tucson Organic Gardeners (TOG): We have sold plants at their plant sale, as well as tabled at their event held at the RHCG.

Rincon Heights Community Garden (RHCG): The project is based at the RHCG. They have provided us with a lot of learning opportunities and helped us find many of our organizations.

Student Volunteers throughout the Project: Around 50 students have volunteered at garden workdays, tabling events, or the first of many “dig days”.

Number of people reached out during tabling events: Once again, we did not specifically record the number of people we have interacted with. In total, we have interacted with at least 200 people at this point in regards to talking about the project and its intended impact.

Core Team: Our core team is made up of Lauren Jankowski and Katie Perotti as the grant co-managers. Melody Peters, the Rincon Heights Community Garden manager, is also a huge part of this project. The president and vice president of the Ecological Restoration Club, Daniel Donohoe and Caleb Fetveit respectively, have been a huge help at tabling events and at garden workdays.

Number of Hours: 150, which includes meetings, garden work days, tabling events, buying materials and creating educational materials.

Project Accomplishments

To start, we have definitely seen an increase in the community involvement in the project. This includes the student volunteers at our garden work days and trench digging day, conversations with members of the RHCG, and interactions with the gardening community at the tabling events and plant sales we have been a part of. Word has continued to be spread about the project, and with this has come growing interest from the community which has been incredible to see. In addition to this, we have finally started using the money provided for the project. So far, we have spent \$243.35 on gardening supplies for the most part. This includes bags of mulch to use for the walkways throughout the nursery and fence row of plants, perlite and coir to use as mix-ins for the soil, weed barrier fabric and ¼ inch lines to use as emitter lines. We also bought a few snacks from Costco for our volunteers on the trench digging day we had on February 25th. In addition to these purchases, we are anticipating a bill from FM for the irrigation system.

As for meetings, Katie and I have met several times to plan out next steps and details. Along with this, we have met with Melody Peters to discuss aspects of the grant that she understands a bit better than us, such as which type of perlite and coir work best for the organic standards of the RHCG and the desert in general.

Next Steps

Our priority for the next two weeks is to dig two more trenches for the plants to eventually be placed in. This will require us to have at least two more volunteer days. While this is getting done, we need to decide on how we will be adding switches on the valves to easily turn the water on and off, as well as installing the emitter lines on the hubs that FM installed for us. Once this is all completed, the plants can be transferred into the garden. From there, we can begin propagating from plant clippings. As the plants grow, we will be able to officially start the donation process! While we are waiting for them to grow, we will be solidifying who will be on the receiving end of the distribution process in more detail.

Challenges Faced

Most of the challenges we have encountered this far have been related to the installation of the irrigation system in the garden. We finally have irrigation installed, but we are working through struggles in trying to figure out how to add a switch to the valves that house the emitter lines. Another related challenge is the digging of the trenches that will house the plants. The soil is hard, so it takes a lot of hands and a lot of time to dig a single trench. We are hoping to have 2 more work days, in which we will be able to finish the digging and finally be able to bring the plants in. If we could do something differently, we would have had FM dig the trenches when they installed the irrigation system, as this would have accelerated our timeline. Our next challenge we faced was maintaining the plants while we waited for the irrigation to be installed. One member of this project was in charge of monitoring and taking care of over 50 plants, which is very time consuming and

tedious. Because of this, we have lost about 20 plants, decreasing our total number so far. We are hoping that by propagating and taking clippings of the plants that are doing well, we will be able to replace the ones that have been lost.

Project Support

In the near months, we think CSF can help us when it comes to the documentation side of things and expanding how far word about our project is spreading. Additionally, CSF can help us by checking in to make sure we are on schedule. It can get hectic as we are two busy seniors co-managing this grant, so it helps to have someone else on the same page as us.

Photo Link

https://docs.google.com/document/d/18nVrN-kCNRxmsvQq_pcRZ99Ut9wixutXiyIDwJoUOz0/edit?usp=sharing

Media/Links