

## Pollinator Equity Project - Progress Report

### Email

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### Project Manager Name

Kaitlyn Perotti

### Requested Metrics

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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 55 students have volunteered at garden workdays, tabling events, "dig days", and planting events.

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 220 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. Daniel Donohoe will be taking over this project as we are leaving, and he has been to all of the work days, and feels confident in managing this project.

Number of Hours: Approximately 500 work hours, which includes meetings, garden work days,

tabling events, buying materials and creating educational materials.

## **Project Accomplishments**

Since March, we have seen a lot of advancements with the project. To start, we have planted 28 parent plants along the west fence row which will be used for propagation in late summer. These plants are all native pollinators and are set up along the irrigation. We also installed the emitter lines with end valves that go directly to each plant to help regulate the flow since some plants need higher flow rates than others do during the summer. Along with this, we have most of the nursery set up and ready for the propagated plants to reside in.

## **Next Steps**

The next steps of this project will be falling under the responsibility of Daniel Donohoe, UAERC's president this last year and the grant manager for this project for next year. However, he will be out of town this summer, so Melody Peters, the Rincon Heights Community Garden Manager, will be tending to the plants in the garden. She will be spending the summer watering the plants using the irrigation we had installed, as well as beginning the propagation process of the parent plants once they are ready towards the end of the summer. Once Daniel returns, he will be helping with the propagation process, which will eventually turn into the donation process! As the propagation plants are growing in the nursery, Daniel will be contacting the organization we have already collaborated with to prepare for donation. We have already created a list of said organizations that we have shared with him as reference. Even though Katie and myself will have graduated and be in Phoenix at that point, we will be available for him to contact if any questions, problems or concerns come up next semester. We were just granted a project alteration request, so the project will be completed in the upcoming months. This will also include the creation of educational materials and a seed library next semester.

## **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, and have begun the planting process. At this point all of the parent plants have been planted and connected to irrigation, and the nursery area is almost fully completed. With the project coming to fruition at the end of the school year, we did have some difficulties getting volunteers for the multiple work days. Many of the work days it was just Lauren, Katie, Danny and a couple of the RHCG volunteers at the work days. While this was a challenge, and a learning experience, we were able to manage the project and get all the planting and final digging done in a timely manner. Because we did not have many volunteers near the end, we had to work at the garden multiple times a week, adding to the many hours spent on this project that we mentioned earlier.

## **Project Support**

We think that CSF can be a huge help in aiding Daniel's transition into the new project manager. He has been a big part of the project already, but it will be good for him to have CSF as someone to rely on when needed. We think that this will definitely be needed during the distribution process.

## **Photo Link**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xe5O5UtJ5U0WDK157Eo3dkuL-Z-W9Q481nv4rEqo1fc/edit?usp=sharing>

## **Media/Links**