

## Pollinator Equity Project - Progress Report

### Email

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### Project Manager Name

Lauren Jankowski & 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:** Already donated 10 plants to them. However, these plants were not planted through the Pollinator Equity Project. We dug these plants up from the Rincon Heights Community Garden in order to make space for the plants for our project.

**Iskashitaa Refugee Network:** We will be donating to them in the spring.

**Tucson Audubon Society:** We will be donating to them in the spring, or possibly earlier depending on their needs.

**Tucson Clean & Beautiful:** They have assisted in our irrigation development plan. We are also planning to donate to them in the spring.

**Tucson Organic Gardeners (TOG):** We sold plants at the TOG plant sale. We also work with them to schedule educational opportunities. On December 9th we are planning to host an event at RHCG where we are teaching adults and children about making seedballs, and local gardening.

**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 20-25 from work days in the garden and tabling events we have participated in. We are expecting this number to increase in the spring when the project gets more along the way.

**Number of people reached out during tabling events:** Although we didn't track our interactions at the TOG Plant Sale, we had a lot of great interactions with TOG and community members. We must have interacted with at least 150 people at that event through sales or just general conversation about the project.

**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:** 60, from meetings, garden work days, tabling events, and creating educational materials.

## **Project Accomplishments**

To start, we have had several workdays in the RHCG in order to prepare the space for our plants to eventually go in. This has included club volunteers primarily digging up plants and getting some hands-on experience in a garden. Along with this, we have had bi-weekly meetings with Melody Peters for planning purposes. We have also had a handful of meetings with our amazing CSF coordinators in order to discuss the project's timeline, as well as ask for their help with our irrigation system. Most of the time spent on this project so far has been in meetings for planning purposes and making collaborative decisions. On September 28th, we attended the Desert Survivors plant sale to purchase plants for the project. We used funds that the RHCG had made from a previous plant sale, with the intention of using it for this project. We bought 20 plants and have been storing them at our homes until the irrigation is ready. On October 21st, we had a booth selling plants at the Tucson Organic Gardeners (TOG) Plant Sale in order to raise additional funds for the project. We sold plants that had been dug up on previous workdays. At this event, we created connections with Community Gardens of Tucson and Iskashitaa Refugee Network. In addition to this, we have had site visits with Tucson Clean & Beautiful, as they assisted us in drawing up an irrigation plan that would align with our project. We needed their help since neither of us grant managers have had much experience in designing an irrigation system.

## **Next Steps**

Our first priority is getting the irrigation installed. We are currently in contact with Andrew Barna of Facilities Management. We have opted for paying FM to do the installation of the two valve boxes and the PVC pipe that will go to the nursery area, as well as along the west fence. After this is done, we will be installing emitter lines that go directly to the plants. We are hoping to get this done as soon as possible, especially within the next three weeks, but are ultimately waiting until FM has the availability to do it. In the meantime, we are going to continue creating educational materials that can be shared to the groups/individuals that receive plants during the donation process, as well as to share throughout the Tucson community. We will be using Fast Copy on campus to create these. In addition to this, on December 9th we are hosting an event with TOG and RHCG in order to teach children and adults about making seed balls, local gardening, and the importance of pollinator plants, especially in urban areas.

## **Challenges Faced**

One major challenge we faced was, and still is, the irrigation installation. We first encountered difficulty when a lot of the verbal commitments (Engineers Without Borders and Tucson Clean & Beautiful) for the installation did not follow through. We now know that in addition to verbal commitments, we need to receive written commitments. Once we met with our grant coordinators, they informed us about facility management (FM). We then contacted FM and didn't hear back for a little bit, delaying the installation further. We are now at a point when we have contacted FM, and they agreed to install the irrigation for us. Here, we faced the challenge that the FM quote was much higher than we expected for irrigation costs. It was four hundred dollars over budget. Due to this

challenge, we decided that we will have to pull funding from other sections of our grant in order to cover the fees. We pulled funding from food (\$200) for our volunteers for the irrigation, since FM will now be taking care of that. We also will be pulling some funds from the potting table section of the budget (\$140), since we can supplement with already existing picnic tables in the garden. The rest will be taken out of our educational materials, which is doable since we accounted for \$400 but could definitely work with \$340 instead for this. While FM did quote us higher than we expected, we have decided to follow through with them for the irrigation, as they seem the most reliable option.

## **Project Support**

The campus of sustainability coordinators have helped us understand how to run a grant. They have also given us a lot of support in reaching FM and getting the irrigation set up. In the future, we plan to have the campus of sustainability assist us on spreading the word about the project, as well as make sure that we are on track for success.

## **Photo Link**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Ddmnpj\\_t15e7masrnPnDSafDPmWI9AyI1Vv7IwEVCo/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Ddmnpj_t15e7masrnPnDSafDPmWI9AyI1Vv7IwEVCo/edit?usp=sharing)

## **Media/Links**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cyq0ILWxSSQ/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==> (a post from our TOG Fair Plant Sale on our club's instagram)