

## Pollinator Equity Project - Progress Report

### Email

danieldonohoe@arizona.edu

### Project Manager Name

Daniel Donohoe

### Requested Metrics

Throughout this semester since the previous progress report this project has primarily worked to complete the construction of the pollinator garden. This is being done in order to begin donating pollinator plants to local organizations, while also providing educational opportunities. We have hosted numerous working days (at least 2 per week), where members of ERC have attended the Rincon heights community garden, both gaining practical experience in horticulture, while also learning about the construction and maintenance of a garden. Along with this we have attended and hosted 2 plant sale and exchange events where we worked to gain external funding for this project while also completing our goal of donating plants to the community, working to offset Tucson's loss of habitat due to climate change as well as other related factors. We have already donated about 175 plants, and we donated plants to two community gardens in the past year.

### Project Accomplishments

1. Finished digging trenches for nursery pot stabilization and insulation. As well as continued to pot plants and add mulch to existing walkways. Volunteers recruited from nearby neighborhoods, RH Community Garden and Sustainable Tucson.
2. Obtained donations of nursery pots, mostly from Carianne Funicelli but also from Rena Cooke (Body, Mind and spirit) and Elise Gornish.
3. Sifted caliche from about a cubic yard of removed soil to use in potting mix. Caliche was hauled away by volunteers from Campus apartments on the company's National Day of Community Service, October 10.
4. Continued to propagate native pollinator plants, mostly off-site, throughout summer and early fall.
5. Paid a handyman to build storage benches for materials such as pots and potting medium. (Not paid for by grant.)
6. Paid handyman to install a shade structure over nursery area for hot time of year.
7. Held about a dozen volunteer work sessions attended by members of Rincon Heights Community Garden, Rincon Heights and Pie Allen Neighborhoods, UA Ecological Restoration Club, Tucson

Organic Gardeners, Sustainable Tucson. (Two members of Sam Hughes Neighborhood Association helped with the west fencerow and 8 th St. plantings on April 12).

8. New solitary bee nesting box donated to the garden by EcoGro installed in the Herb and Pollinator Garden.

9. Elise Gornish donated a Little Free Seed Library to the project/community garden which was installed outside the garden for access by the public.

10. Native pollinator plants sold at Nov. 2 Tucson Organic Gardeners Fair raised \$280 which was turned over to the garden to help defray the cost of water used by the project.

11. Two events on November 12 th:

a. 1:30 to 3:30pm Angel Breault from Tucson Clean and Beautiful will bring his urban forestry class to Community Garden to practice native plant identification.

b. 6pm Lauren Janowski representing PEP on panel discussion titled "Insect Apocalypse" hosted by Sustainable

## **Next Steps**

a. Producing interactive signage and educational materials to help visitors to our project learn about the native pollinator plants we grow.

b. Continuing to serve our partners.

c. Learning new propagation techniques and expanding the diversity of plants we can give away.

d. Working with a UA student group to install a much-needed shade structure at the garden. Such a structure would enable our project volunteers to do their propagation work in comfort and could also be used by groups using the facility as an outdoor classroom.

E. Begin further donating pollinator plants creating new partnerships with organizations in Tucson that will install plants

## **Challenges Faced**

Through this current progress period the main challenge that we have faced is coordinating to obtain educational materials. As well obtaining a sufficient workforce in order to complete goals. Although these challenges have been combated by first just hosting more meeting with volunteers previously listed, as well we have found a source to obtain educational materials and have already installed seed library

## **Project Support**

CSF has been very helpful through this progress period although the only roadblock that they can help to support would be to provide an extension for advertisement of future events.

## **Photo Link**

provided in drop box

## **Media/Links**

none currently