



October 25, 2017 Hamilton County Garden Network Hasty Notes

Summary Notes by Andrew Fritz

Presentation by MaryEllen St. Angelo, Plots to Plates Community Garden

- The garden consists of different sets of volunteers and leaders – the core committee, regular individual volunteers, Girl and Boy Scouts, Master Gardeners, other community groups (business, etc.)
- Create a plan for your garden with long-term sustainability in mind
- Divvy up responsibilities within leadership team that possess a diversity of skills and abilities
- Core committee each take a turn to be “on-duty” one week at a time to answer emails and address garden happenings
- Challenge: it is difficult to identify a consistent core of volunteers
- Challenge/Solution: The communal areas of the garden were difficult to staff with volunteers. Therefore, as part of their education days, setup a weeding station for students to pull weeds.
- Recruiting Volunteers:
 - If you do not ask, people will assume you have it all together.
 - Place ads in paper to recruit volunteers
- Would like to improve how the core committee shows appreciation for volunteers
- Email is primary mode of communication to volunteers and gardeners. This is not as effective as they would like.
- Offers a “Donuts and Dirt” work day on the second Saturday of the growing months.
- People will come for food and drinks
- As a habit, the core committee is always “thanking”
- Offers gardener and volunteer meetings at the beginning and end of each season
- Offers a monthly newsletter
- They are always learning as a posture/habit

- Questions they ask: “should we make our communications more regular?”
Currently, they communicate as needed.

Presentation by Sara Sterley, formerly Project Eden Gardens

- “One of the most powerful things we can do is grow our own food.”
 - They recruit by inspiring action
- Offer lots of compost to gardeners for free
- Desires to better engage gardeners
- When planning a garden, plan to engage experts and partners on the front end rather than as an afterthought
- Grow the garden slowly with a strong core of support from those who buy into the garden philosophy/vision/mission
- Used activated charcoal to remediate atrazine as the land was previously commercially farmed.
- Offers prayer walks and sign making parties
- Starts recruiting in early February
- Ask for help.