

Priority Issue: Healthy Eating					
Goal 2		Increase access to fresh and healthy foods for all. *			
Objective 2.2		Expand community and school garden opportunities targeting high-need geographic areas.			
Key Actions		Timeline	Responsible Partners	Dedicated Resources	Accomplishments
2.2.A	Promote zoning policy changes to allow for more community gardens.	01/2019 - 06/2019	FFC, Urban Agriculture Working Group (UAWG), FFC, AWG, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), VCE, George Mason University (GMU)	VFHY Grant \$60,000 07/2018 – 07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed on proposed changes to Zoning Ordinance. Spoke at Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors' Public Hearings to express Food Council support. Supported the Zoning Ordinance amendment adopted by the County to change policy to allow for front yard edible gardens and more community gardens. Monitored success of changes and conducted informal interviews with local farmers and growers to determine next steps in policy advocacy.
2.2.B	Map existing gardens and identify opportunities for expansion.	01/2019 - 06/2020	FFC, UAWG, FCPS, FFO	VFHY Grant \$60,000 07/2018 - 07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified, verified, and documented all existing community gardens. Worked with County Geographic Information System (GIS) to make an interactive map.
2.2.C	Develop targeted and replicable approaches for community engagement in sustainable garden development.	01/2019 - 12/2024	FFC, UAWG, VCE, SWCD, NCS, FCIA	VFHY Grant \$60,000 07/2018 - 07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned and implemented seven educational gardening workshops with 183 attendees (2019). Planned and implemented four educational gardening workshops with 336 attendees. One workshop was in-person and three were virtual (2020). Produced three videos that provide specific guidance on steps to start a community garden and posted them on the FFC website. Planned and implemented eight educational gardening workshops (six virtual and 2 in person) with 372 attendees (2021). Continued to advise local park authority on how to create a new model of community garden that would better serve a food-insecure neighborhood. <p style="text-align: right;">(more next page)</p>

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2.2.C	Develop targeted and replicable approaches for community engagement in sustainable garden development.	01/2019 – 12/2024	FFC, UAWG, VCE, SWCD, NCS, FCIA	VFHY Grant \$60,000 07/2018 - 07/2020	<p>(cont'd from previous page)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to advise the local park authority as they planned and implemented a new model of community garden. Planned and implemented 4 virtual workshops (2 in English; 2 in Spanish) with format of engaging local gardeners through their input and experience. One in-person workshop led by Arcadia at Rising Hope Mission Church on greenhouse gardening. Total of all workshops was 175 attendees (2022). Planned and implemented 2 virtual workshops led by active members of the Urban Ag Work Group. Both were on the topic of Growing a Diverse Fall & Winter Garden and one was in English and one was in Spanish. A total of 87 people attended. The FFC partnered with VCE who recorded the workshops which are posted on the FFC website.
2.2.D	Explore sustainable garden management models that enable school garden programming maintenance, and support.	09/2020 – 12/2024	FFC UAWG, VCE, FCPS, FNS, Get2Green, Arcadia	None identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2020, annually purchased and donated over 275 seed packets (including cover crops) for edible school gardens to 25 Fairfax County Public Schools (elementary, middle and high schools) Partnered with four FCPS schools with objective to turn learning gardens to production gardens. Assistance included providing seeds, educational materials about cover crops and providing continued gardening guidance. Grant writing assistance was provided to promote self-sustenance on needed resources. Partnered with VCE to assign master gardeners to advise faculty, provide workshops and guide staff and families with these school gardens. Arcadia hosted two teacher workshops on school garden topics that included 35 participants. FCPS Get2Green and FNS distributed 14,972 Grow at Home gardening kits with green bean seeds, soil, and educational booklet to broaden the students understanding of plants and healthy eating. Eliminated unhealthy food from weekend bag programs and school pantries.

Status Legend:

✓ Action Performed

🔄 Action In-Progress

⊘ Action Not Started

Healthy Eating