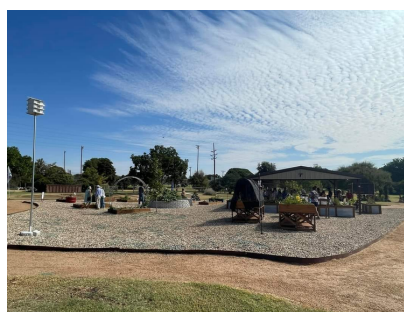


RELEVANCE

The Lubbock Master Gardener Association (LMGA) Demonstration Garden, adult educational programming, adds additional deliveries and outreach in the areas of adult and public Horticulture education. Planned programs focus on the identified and emerging needs outside of the in-depth educational efforts in Lubbock County. The LMGA Demonstration Garden is used as an outdoor learning classroom to host public gardening programs. This style of education gets participants out of chairs and on their feet, hands in the dirt, and will be easier for them to replicate in their own home settings. The high prevalence of obesity in Texas is cause for concern because it is linked to negative health consequences for humans. For example, vegetable exposure plus hands on gardening has been shown to improve consumption of fruits and vegetables. Adding more frequent and more vigorous physical activities during your day has been shown to improve fitness and weight. Water conservation is also a major concern in Lubbock County. Unique gardening techniques that are proven to save water will be instituted in the garden.



VALUE STATEMENT

Texas Master Gardener

The Texas Master Gardener Program is an educational volunteer organization which is part of Texas A&M University's AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener Programs are designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and extend horticultural projects throughout the community. The programs provide invaluable training and educational opportunities. Persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their AgriLife Extension office to provide horticultural-related information in various ways to their communities.

\$37,000

IN GRANT FUNDING
 FOR THE LMGA
 DEMONSTRATION
 GARDEN



RESPONSE

The process of garden planning, design, financial management, resource acquisition, construction, project management, and installation all provide unique educational opportunities for the LMGA demonstration garden committee to undertake. Once the demonstration garden project is complete, then LMGA hosted public educational programs can begin. To participate in the LMGA demonstration garden committee, individuals must (1) be a LMGA member in good standing and (2) attend demonstration garden committee meetings.

RESPONSE cont'd.

Partnerships & Collaborators

- The Lubbock Memorial Arboretum provided the land for this project.
- The City of Lubbock provided grant funding and countless labor hours during construction.
- The High Plains Water District provided grant funding for this project.
- The LMGA worked tirelessly volunteering to bring this project to completion.



Evaluation Strategy

This project was proposed in December of 2022 and phase one the "Raised Bed Gardens" was completed in August of 2023. A pre-post evaluation was administered on landscape design and raised bed gardening at the conclusion of each session. A total of 12 of 19 graduates returned the evaluation instrument for a response rate of 63%.

RESULTS

Extension Agent Reid and LMGA volunteers taught the taught landscape design and raised bed gardening techniques. \$37,000 and additional in-kind donations were secured from community supporters. Pre- and post-surveys indicate participants had a statistically different positive change as a result in the following areas:

Knowledge Gained

- 97% fully understand plant needs
- 75% understand water movement techniques
- 94% can utilize landscape design principles
- 39% understand ADA regulations for public spaces

Perceived Changes

- 48% increase in consumption of water once a day
- 99% learned a new raised bed technique
- 100% have a new respect for public spaces



Summary

The value of the LMGA demonstration garden program in Lubbock County is empowering adults with the knowledge and support for large-scale project management and new gardening techniques used for public educational purposes. It also provides an example for replication in other public spaces.



Future Programming

The LMGA demonstration garden program will continue to provide an outdoor living classroom for horticultural programs. Expansion areas include new construction phases as finances allow.



"I have never been more proud while giving back to my community"



For more information:

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