

October 2018 - September 2019 ANNUAL GARDEN REPORT

10/10/2019 Trudy White, Community Garden Representative, CSFO Board

- Our production continues to be very good and our volunteer base continues to expand with local youth and Scout projects. The Young Men’s Service League and the National Charity League, which are groups of parents and high school students, continue to regularly volunteer at the gardens.

	Oct 2018 - Sept 2019	Oct 2017 - Sept 2018	April 1998 - Sept 2019
Donated Pounds	20,412	18,289	246,983
Volunteer Hours	11,797	12,192	92,320

- We continue to be a Partner Garden with North Texas Food Bank by donating all of our produce to the Metrocrest Services Food Pantry who is currently serving 250 families. Metrocrest offered collapsable bins to package our harvests; these protect the produce and simplify distribution at the Food Pantry.
- We had a total of 110 volunteer gardeners and their families working 157 plots, plus a perennial garden, SmartScape beds, orchards, potager, blackberry patches and our new greenhouse

Location	Address	# Plots	# Gardeners	Manager
Helping Hands	255 Parkway Blvd (next to Town Center)	43	32	Diane Lowe
Ground Delivery	450 S. Denton Tap (next to Post Office)	77	48	Pat Daly
Old Town Coppell	345 W. Bethel Road (next to Senior Center)	37	30	Chris Hanson
Greenhouse	345 W. Bethel Road (next to Senior Center)			Bert Tindall & Marie Luu
	Total	157	110	

- Old Town Garden began with 16 plots in February 2017 and now has 37 plots. Funds from grants and City contributions allowed us to add these plots. It costs approximately \$1,000 to add 3 plots; this includes boards, hardware and soil.

- The greenhouse was operational in June, 2019. Finishing the stone facade and lead walk are the final projects. 2,000+ plants were started in June and distributed in August. The next batch of 3,000+ plants began distribution in late September with 1,000+ designated for the CISD school gardens.
- The annual plant sale was held at the Farmers Market. Earth Fest was cancelled due to weather. Tomato, peppers, and eggplant transplants were grown by Helping Hands and Ground Delivery gardeners.
- Gardens continue to be productive year-round, as gardeners learn how to plant winter tolerant vegetables. The winter adoption process will be offered again to increase the harvest during the coldest months. Having transplants from the greenhouse is expected to increase the harvests and target produce sought by Metrocrest clients.
- Drip irrigation is in use at two of the gardens.
- The gardens continue to be a popular tour location for local citizens, schools and community groups.
- The Harvest Dinner was held November 10, 2018 and approximately 60 people attended. Presentations were made on the Gardens, Farmers Market, and Board. Door prizes were given away. The next Harvest Dinner is scheduled for November 10, 2019.
- We have 513 Facebook likes and 539 Followers. Our Facebook page and the Next Door app were used to announce the greenhouse, solicit bags of brown leaves and fresh green grass clippings for the compost piles, as well as notify residents of plots available for adoption.
- Our Instagram account has 306 followers.
- Encouraged and received donations from gardeners' employers who participate in employer matching programs and employee directed grants to help the local community. Celanese, IBM and TI tend to be our main contributors.
- The annual Adopt a Plot meeting was held on January 26, 2019 at the Life Safety Park. A presentation was made to reinforce the Adopt a Plot Agreement, Gardener Playbook, and to encourage winter gardening. A makeup meeting was held at the Coppell Library on Sunday, February 10, 2019 for those who could not attend on January 26. The next annual meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2020; Heather Rinaldi from the Texas Worm Ranch will make a presentation.
- Latte Da Dairy continues to donate and deliver composted goat manure that is incorporated into compost piles and used as a cover dressing on plots to maintain moisture, nourish the soil and retard weed growth. Expired produce continues to

come from Market Street; coffee grounds from Liberation Coffee and George Coffee and Provisions; pumpkins from the Lutheran Church Pumpkin Patch; bags of leaves are left at the gardens by citizens for making compost piles.

- Bert Tindall and Bob Fleck represented the gardens at the Adult & Youth Volunteer Fair on April 9 at the Coppel Library.
- The CISD Coordinator for 12 school gardens, Larry Thompson, has joined our Community Garden Committee to strengthen the relationship between the community gardens and school gardens. Larry is also a gardener at our Old Town Garden. His CISD position is funded by a second grant submitted by CISD that ends October 2020. The first CISD grant ends December 2019 and is currently directed by Dorothy Thompson.
- Produce and plant theft continue on a smaller scale at Ground Delivery Garden. Old Town Garden has also encountered theft of produce and 2 compost bins.
- Issues raised by the Postmaster and a resident near Ground Delivery were addressed.
- Issues raised by gardeners were addressed.
- Trudy White presented an overview of the gardens to a Women's Group at the United Methodist Church on May 9.
- Chris Hanson improved usage of the garden website in regards to Adopt-a-Plot submissions and spam messaging. He also wrote articles regarding the greenhouse, harvest metrics and others which were published on the website and also used on our Facebook page.
- Trudy White presented the annual report to the City Council on September 24, 2019.
- The CSFO Board voted on September 25th for Scott Warrington to replace Daniel Scott as the Community Garden Representative on the Board. Trudy White served as trainer and backup for the position during on-boarding and position vacancy.