

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022



November 2022

The UVic Campus Community Garden (CCG) is a 93 plot allotment garden for students, staff and faculty members located on campus, outside of Ring Road, at 2100 McKenzie Ave. In 2008, the CCG was relocated from its original site in the Technology Enterprise Facility (TEF) parking lot, where it was first created in 1998. Since its relocation to the 1.58 acre garden site, the CCG has seen an incredible surge in engagement with new students, educational projects, and food growth on campus.

**The purpose of the Campus Community Garden is to:**

- a) enhance the built environment of the University of Victoria;
- b) provide allotment garden space for students, staff, and faculty of the University of Victoria;
- c) increase opportunities for students to access food and the process of food production;
- d) provide volunteer opportunities for members of the campus;
- e) provide an inclusive space for engagement, education and research on topics related to sustainable urban agriculture such as food security, permaculture, composting, organic gardening, native plant and perennial propagation, and healthy living.

The garden is committed to promoting an accessible community space for educational, agricultural and cultural purposes.

## **Campus and Community Engagement**

- UVIC Student Internship Program
- Clubs days (in person Jan 2022 and Sept 2022)
- Social media engagement
- Email newsletters are being sent out frequently

This year garden staff engaged with community members, plot renters, and Uvic students and faculty through garden tours, workshops, and community events. Garden staff updated the community library, which includes a variety of books and seeds which can be shared. We continue to engage with people through social media, workshops, and events. We hope to have more workshops run in the future by Uvic students. Our video tutorials continue to be a valuable resource, and we hope to create more tutorials in the years to come.

## **Social Media Outreach**

- All of our new video tutorials have been posted on our website, instagram and youtube.
- The UVSS facebook and instagram accounts have been featuring us in their posts and stories which has greatly increased our following
- Instagram stories and highlights have been a useful tool for engagement. The Clubs Days table was a great way to gain instagram followers (we received over 200 followers from clubs days alone).
- Our main Facebook page continues to be an extremely valuable location for keeping information about our events and workshops in one localized place. Many attendees mention Facebook to be one of the places they found out info about our events and workshops.

## **Events and Workshops Overview**

- Harvest party
- Poetry in the garden
- Pollination and honey
- Edible flower stroll series
- Beeswax wrap making
- Homemade paint making
- Good Food gathering art in the garden

This year, we found workshops to be difficult, as in person workshops were not possible, and zoom fatigue was very prevalent. We hosted two zoom workshops and there was no attendance by undergrad students (although attendance from non-UVic community members was high). We decided not to have any other in person events such as the harvest parties or farm crawls due to COVID-19. Garden work parties were well attended over the winter and into the early spring, and were kept to a maximum of 10 people. Work Parties were canceled for the month of August 2021 due to low staff capacity to facilitate. As of the middle of September, work parties resumed with a capacity of 20 volunteers and have been going swimmingly.

## **Infrastructure & Site**

- Two new orchard trees
- New deer netting
- New irrigation line and gravel paths
- Yellow wooden pergola
- Drip irrigation installed in orchard
- The welcome sign fell over and is still in need of replacement

The sprinkle campaign generously donated a pergola to the garden that was professionally installed by the carpentry shop. The Pergola was painted and we have hopes of planting kiwis at two of the four posts next spring.

Unfortunately, the farm stand was knocked over and damaged in a windstorm, and has yet to be repaired.

Gravel paths and an accessible gravel pad were implemented as part of the gardens accessibility plan. Underneath the gravel paths a new irrigation line was installed and eventually, over summer 2022, that line allowed the implementation of drip irrigation around all four orchard trees and a capped junction for a potential fifth tree.

The Composting Toilet is moving forward, even if at a very slow pace. The project has been assigned a project manager and initial stakeholder meetings have been conducted. The project package is being put together in order to go to bid, and the goal is that construction be completed by the end of summer 2023. The biggest hold up at the moment is the long line of special projects ahead of the composting toilet in the queue. There are hopes for an engineering class to assist with construction in summer 2023.

## **Work Parties**

### Work Party Times

On-site work parties are/were held every Friday from 3-5pm throughout the year, weather permitting and no longer require signing up. Friday work parties will continue through this fall, although still subject to weather. Special safety protocols are strictly adhered to at each work party in order to maintain the safety of everyone involved.

### Work Party Volunteer Statistics

Work party statistics were lost this year due to staff turnover.

### Work Party Tasks

Work party tasks varied weekly depending on the priority of tasks set by staff in weekly staff meetings. Most work parties offered a variety of tasks in different areas of the garden, but consisted mainly of tending to plants in the greenhouse, giving gardens, weeding hedgerows, planting seedlings, and turning the compost.

### Work Party Morale Initiatives

Due to COVID-19 we switched to individually wrapped pre-packaged snacks for volunteers. We had granola bars available at the end of every work party as well as fresh produce from the garden. We brought a speaker to play music during work-parties (weather-permitting) and began with a territory acknowledgement and check-in with all volunteers before starting work.

## **FOOD PRODUCTION**

Increasing student's opportunities and access to local food, as well as increasing their awareness of the process of food production, is one of our priorities. From October 2021 to November 4 2022, 443 pounds of food was grown and donated, however numbers from late spring and early summer were lost due to staffing transitions. We believe the lost harvest numbers would have amounted to at least another 50 pounds of food. This is down a bit from last year, in which we recorded 559 pounds despite cold snap losses and club root. This difference may be due to the unexpected staffing transitions resulting in overall reduced capacity during critical seeding and harvest times.

The berry bushes and other fruits around the site were plentiful during the summer. The elderberries, goji berries, strawberries, blueberries, and goumi berries produced a large number of fruits, while the raspberries did not have as much of a yield as they were not pruned in time. Plot renters harvested most of the blueberries and enjoyed blackberries and raspberries that were accessible. It was a great year for squash, with consistent yields from late June to early September. The grapes produced a number of bunches this year which we gave to volunteers after work parties.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The wait list time is around 8-12 months for students, and is longer for staff being at approximately 3 years, which is significantly longer than last year's 2 year wait. This is a large jump, and a likely cause of this is a greater turnover with students so the waitlist moves more quickly due to graduating, co-op, etc. So, less turnover with staff waitlists means longer waitlist time.

We have been making an effort to balance out plot renter ratios and have now reached a point where Undergrad and Graduate numbers are equivalent. Although, we still have a much higher number of staff renters due to the fact that there is much less turnover of staff plots.

We also began the process of extending three plots in rows K, L, and M in order to add 3 half plots to help move the waitlist time down.

Student groups that gardened with us this year included Environmental Restoration Club, Uni 101, Aboriginal Coalition to end Homelessness, and newly, the Horticulture Club. Both Daycare groups gave up their garden plots over summer 2022.

## **FISCAL YEAR FINANCES May 2021 -May 2022**

### **Major Expenses:**

See Budget Expenses spreadsheet Finances 2020/2021 in Google Drive.

### **Sources of Income:**

Due to our referendum in February 2018, the garden funding doubled. The garden previously received \$1.50 per full-time student, and \$0.75 per part-time student from UVSS Student fees, and now receives **\$3.00 per full-time student**, and **\$1.50 per part-time student**. This gives the Campus Community Garden its main source of revenue at approximately \$110,00 per year, up from previously \$60,000 per year.

Plot renters will continue to pay a \$30.00 membership fee to rent a garden plot or \$15 for half a plot, and pay for subsidized site materials for their individual plots (e.g. compost and straw bales @ \$5-10/wheelbarrow).

Plot renters helped with cost recovery from subsidized materials delivered to the site such as fish mulch, horse manure, leaf mulch, wood chips, sawdust, compost and straw bales. This is categorized under miscellaneous income for 2020/21.

## **2021-2022 STAFF**

**Garden Coordinator:** Syd Welsh replaced Stephanie Enevoldsen as of January 2022

**Assistant Coordinator:** Jen Chanette (New position ratified by union in August 2022)

**Work study Project Assistants:** Roya Alipour, Ajah Newsome

**Outreach Officer:** Jen Chanette >> Juls Macdonel

**Site Officers:** Lyndsay Silvestre, Saraf Nawar

## **2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Undergraduate Members:** Alistair Knox, Eve Kenny, Rylie Cameron, Christine Constable, Ray Buendia, Bronte Elphik-Miner, Cass Strain, Emma Creasy