

The Giving Garden

Growing Food and Community

& Meeting Needs of UWT

INTRODUCTION

Research has shown that community gardens do meet community needs, but how is the question. Fall of 2017, a group of students and I, examined four uniquely different, and successful community gardens. It was also discovered, that there are many different benefits of community gardens. However, before the Giving Garden can reap the benefits of what these other successful gardens had; the UWT community needs had to be defined.

Inspired by William Whyte's article, "The Design of Spaces," I applied Whyte's concept of identifying what attracts people to a place, to help identify what attracts people to the garden. By evaluating what attracts people to the garden, it's possible to identify what the UWT community needs are.

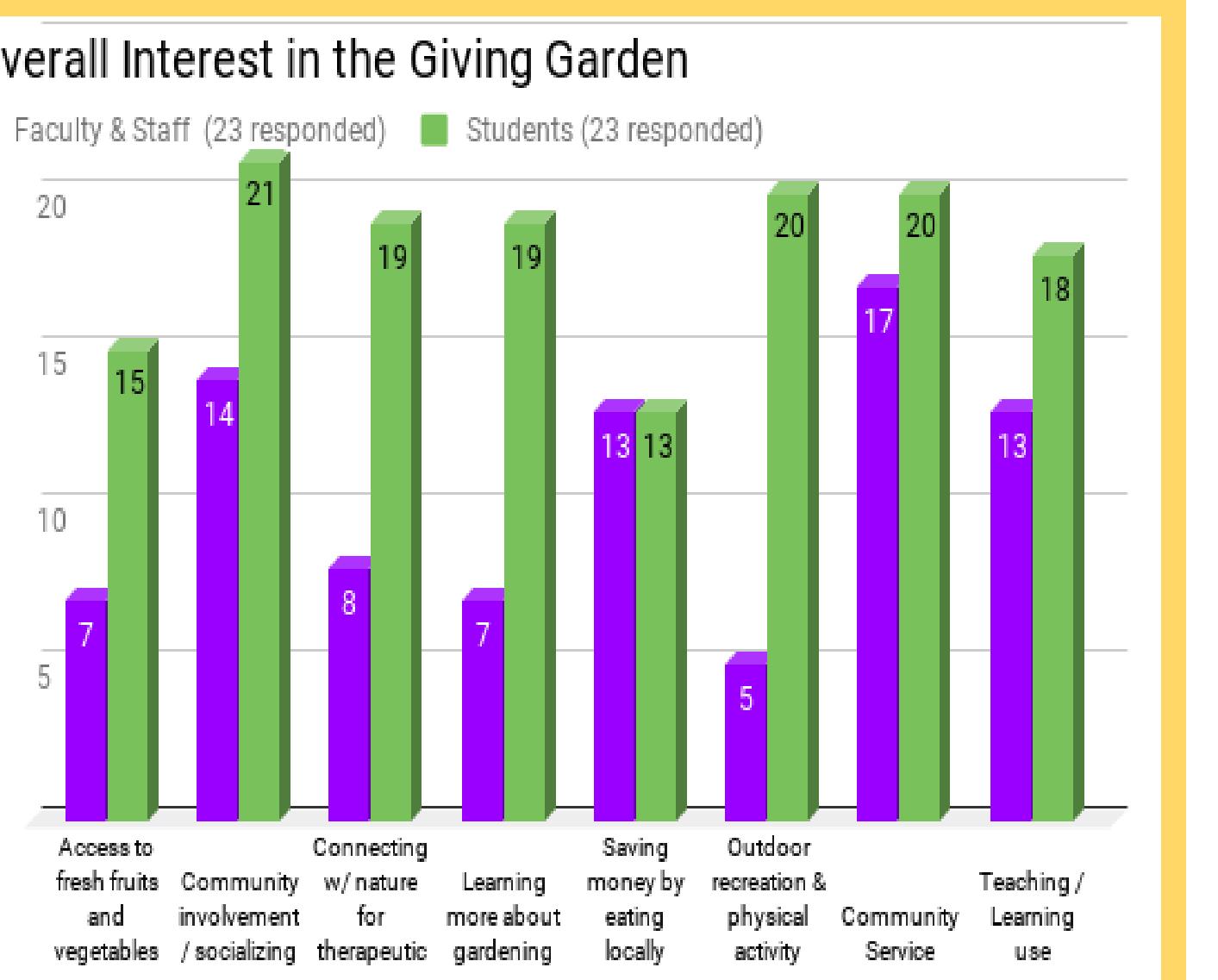
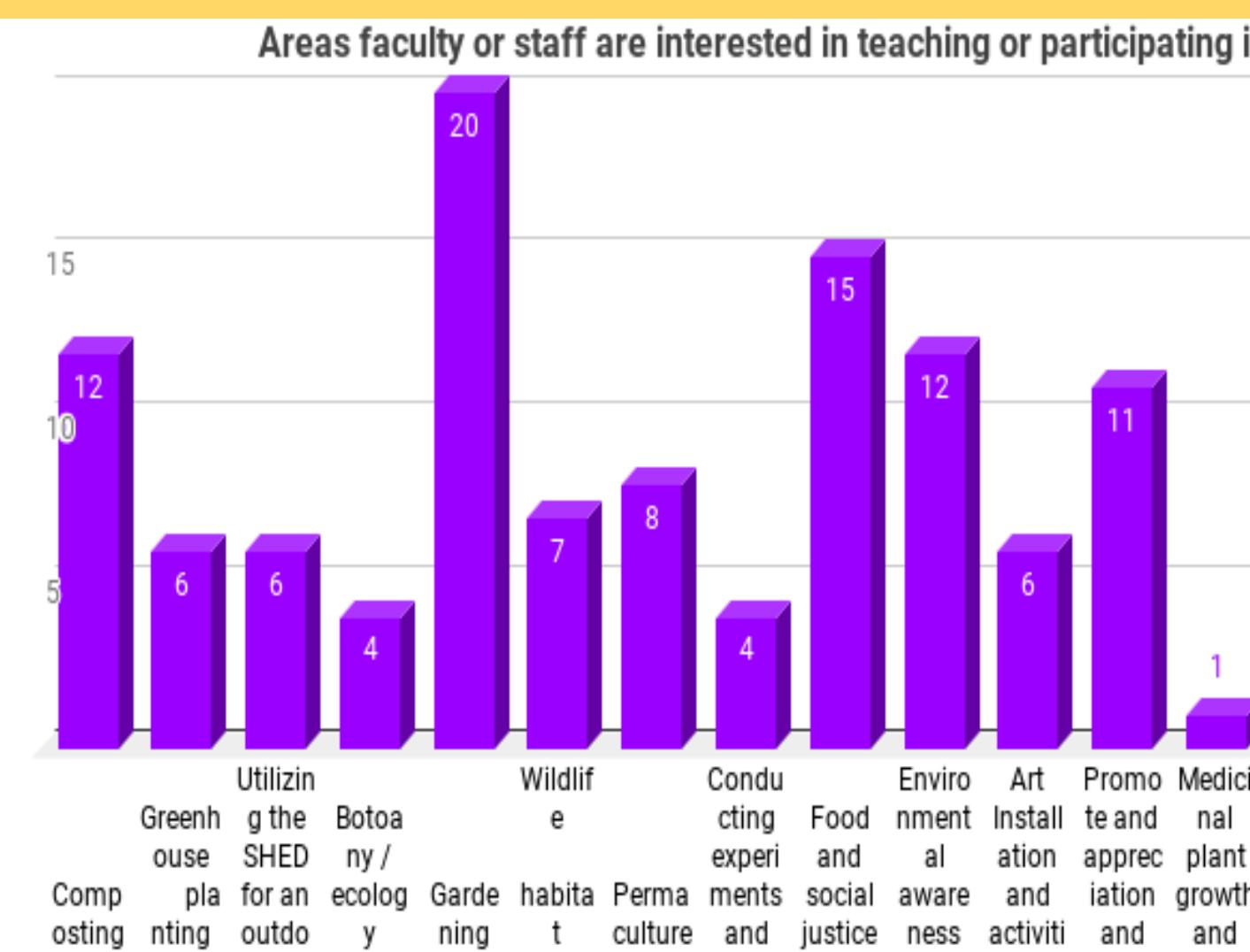
SURVEY RESULTS

Student Survey: 53 students responded. 49 students said they have not participated in the garden, 19 students were interested in participating in the garden, 10 students were not interested, and 20 students said maybe. What attracts students to the garden is: connecting to community, getting outdoors, being of service, learning about gardens, and connecting to

nature for healing. Knowing this, the Giving Garden can target their efforts in these areas to meet the needs of the students.

Faculty and Staff Survey: 40 responded, 88% (35 people) have not participated in the garden and 13% (5) had participated.

What attracts people to the garden is: supplying a service learning opportunity, building community partnerships, using the garden space to engage their students with opportunities to work with outside organization such as a local elementary school, or Tacoma Rescue Mission and the Peace Com-



URBAN AGRICULTURE & EDUCATION

* Spring quarter, Cynthia Upgrave teaches, TEST 495- Giving Garden Capstone. Principle of agroecology are taught to consider our relationship to the food systems in the Puyallup Watershed and beyond; and ways that the garden contributes ecosystem services and enhances human wellbeing in our community.

* Eco-Poetry class had a lesson in the garden and left an offering of poetry in the tree.

* Students can utilize the garden to conduct research in various disciplines of academia. Some courses have included politics, business, sociology, biology, environmental studies, art, religious studies, geology, and math (Pomona, ND).

COMMUNITY WELLNESS & CONNECTION

* Benefits of the garden include physical, social, and mental health benefits such as access to fresh fruits and vegetables. As well as, engaging in physical activity, skill building, creating green space, beautifying neighborhood, revitalizing communities in industrial areas, and strengthening community bonds (CDC).

Come help our garden grow!
UWT Giving Garden
Plot Adoption & Participation Agreement

Member Name: _____ Group: _____ Group Lead: _____
Quarter/Year: _____ Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Type of Membership:
 Bed / Plot adopter Communal Partnership Community Supporter

Plot Adoption: I am responsible for planting and maintaining my garden bed(s). I understand that I will be required to donate 50% of the produce I grow in the Giving Garden to be incorporated into their weekly harvest donation during growing season. Either I or my group will attend weekly harvest parties if I am unable to participate, or give permission to the Giving Garden staff to harvest on my behalf.

Communal Partnership: I am responsible for participating in planting and maintaining the communal beds(s). I understand that I will be required to attend garden work parties and harvest parties, which may require me to leave my job. It is understood that the produce from the communal beds(s) will be donated to the Giving Garden to be incorporated into their weekly harvest donations, during growing season. And the other 50% of the harvest will be divided among communal partners.

Community Supporter: I will coordinate a time to work in the garden on another date. If I miss a consecutive work or harvest party, my giving membership moves from partner to supporter.

If I am unable to participate in these events, then I will coordinate a time to work in the garden on another date. If I miss a consecutive work or harvest party, my giving membership moves from partner to supporter.

Communal Partnership: I will coordinate with the Giving Garden Coordinator a day and time I am able to come work in the garden or attend a work party, in exchange for a small portion of produce, herbs, or flowers that is available for harvest on the day I work.

PARTNERSHIPS & SPONSORSHIP BUILDING

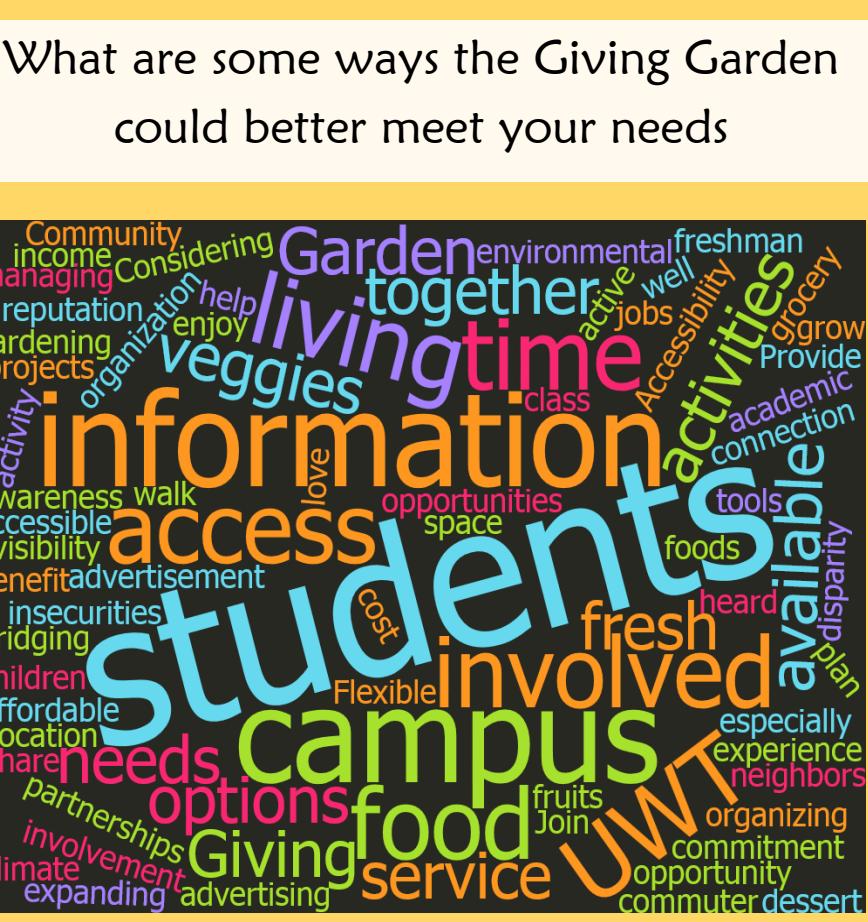
- * Established partnership with Center for Student Leadership, and are coordinating future roles they will take with volunteer database management, and community service events.
- * Partnered with the UWT Pantry. The garden will donate 50% of the produce harvested.
- * Partnered with Court 17, to host cooking demos and connect student to healthy lifestyles.
- * Received Absher Co. sponsorship to fund and construct an information kiosk at the garden.
- * Need to build partnership with Center for Student Involvement to reach out to the RSO's
- * Partnered with UWT Veterans & Military Resources to host a community service project with the Travis Manion Foundation.

RESEARCH METHODS

A statistical analysis was developed in the form of an online survey to gain a critical perspective on how to improve the existing programs and infrastructure at the Giving Garden. In order to capture the needs of UWT community efficiently, two survey were created. One for faculty and staff and the other for students. This was done because these two groups have very different goals and objectives. The student survey was designed to identify the micro-communities on UWT campus, and identify their level and areas of interest in the garden. The faculty and staff survey was designed to identify how they would participate in the garden and what areas of teaching they are interested in participating in.

DATA ANALYSIS

If the mission is to have the Giving Garden grow food, their must be equal effort being invested in community engagement. Engagement goes deeper into the needs of diverse communities and connects them to the garden in ways that are meaningful to them. It draws groups or individuals into the space by showing them how the garden can feed their interest and needs. Which will inspire and cultivate participation and help the garden grow a bountiful harvest that feeds the body and soul. Commitments to community involvement is a cornerstone to garden (Irvine, Johnson, & Peters, 1999)



VISION FOR THE GARDEN

"We can begin by doing small things at the local level, like planting community gardens or looking out for our neighbors. That is how change takes place in living systems, not from above but from within, from many local actions occurring simultaneously". Social activist, philosopher, author, and feminist Grace Lee Boggs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ⇒ Send emails quarterly, to the faculty and staff to inform them about upcoming garden activities, & remind them the garden is a tool to support their teaching.
- ⇒ Gain structural support from UWT by creating a space within the institution that secures funding and year-round support. The garden coordinator could be an annual internship, a certificate program, or a paid positions.

⇒ There are two areas the Giving Garden must focus on:

1. **growing food**—opportunity for Community-based Learning and on the job skills training.
2. **build and strengthen community**—equal effort being put into growing food or the garden wont sustain itself and struggle to survive.

⇒ Host a diverse array of activities and welcome different interest into the garden varying from science, music, art, culture and history.

⇒ Work with Urban Design program to create a professional design for the garden to help recruit volunteers, and partnerships with UWT community and beyond.

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

EMAIL: uwgarden@uw.edu or join us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GivingGardenUWT/>

Summer Schedule: 1st and 3rd Sun of the month, 3-5pm & every Wed, 10am-noon. This doesn't work for you, contact us!

