



2024 RIVERSIDE GARDEN COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



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Riverside Garden's Mission: to strengthen our local urban community, encourage environmental sustainability, expand healthy eating choices, promote life-long learning, and vitalize an underused public green space.

2024 Achievements

40% of Riverside Garden space is dedicated to produce donation

1,373.12 pounds were donated to:

- *Plant a Row for the Hungry*
- *Kansas Wildlife Exhibit*
- *Our Community Sharing Station*
- *Cowtown Education Days*
- *Linwood Senior Center*
- *MakeICT homeless outreach*
- *International Rescue Committee*

Riverside Garden Upgrades

- *Fence installed*
- *Sidewalk installed*
- *Four new raised beds built with trellis added for donated produce*
- *Large native pollinator plant bed added*
- *New in ground bed created for donated produce*
- *Educational signage added, teaching about PAR, composting, native gardening, KWE, K-State Extension*
- *New Riverside Garden sign designed and put in place by Eagle Scout Dylan Waltner*
- *Benches built and painted*
- *Corral for garden materials built*



Community Outreach

Riverside Pollinator Project

As part of the Wichita Bee City initiative, we partnered with the Riverside Citizens Association, Kansas Wildlife Exhibit, Kansas Native Plant Society and Grassland Groupies to plant 300 native pollinator plants at Riverside Garden and our first native bed at KWE. We gave away over 300 plants and seeds, and registered Riverside Garden as an official Monarch Waystation.

Garden Tour

Riverside Garden was a stop on the Sedgwick County Master Gardeners' Garden Tour. We had over 600 people visit the garden and learn about community gardens, the Plant a Row program, composting, gardening with native plants and how to work with the city to create a community garden.

Friends University Classes

We hosted Friends University's Nutrition and Sustainability classes in the Spring and Fall in partnership with Wichita Parks and Recreation, Master Gardeners, and ICT Food Rescue

Coffee and Dirt Events

Monthly community events offered breakfast, produce to share, guests from the community, and educational experiences. We hosted a meet and greet for Dr. Zimmerman (Botanica) and Tom Ewert (Park Board representative), gathered local community garden leaders to learn about Fall gardening practices from a Master Gardener, participated in an art experience as we pounded flowers on fabric, using flowers from the garden, and hosted a community plant and seed exchange.

ICT Bee Fest

Riverside Garden manned an interactive educational booth about bees, the importance of planting native plants to support pollinators, and the importance of pollinators for food production.

Community Garden Beds

Riverside Garden has 32 beds rented by community members for personal use, which creates a vibrant and beautiful space in addition to beds earmarked for donation.

Community Herb Bed

A new community herb bed was installed outside the fence to freely share herbs with the neighborhood. End of season herbs were donated to Cowtown Education Days.

