



2025 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.

2025 Achievements

40% of Riverside Garden space is dedicated to produce donation

1,330 pounds were donated to:

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

Riverside Garden Upgrades

- *New AARP Community Challenge Flagship Grant Project accessible garden area*
 - *Concrete gardening area and sidewalk extension from entrance to gathering area and tool shed*
 - *5 waist height raised beds*
 - *2 wheelchair accessible beds*
 - *ADA Bench*
 - *Ergonomic tools, tool storage, automatic hose reels and hoses*
- *New in ground drip watering system for Plant a Row garden area*
- *Bee City Signage*
- *Little Free Library and Community Produce Sharing Station built by Eagle Scout, Son Le*
- *New garden bed numbers*



Community Outreach

Riverside Pollinator Project

As part of our annual Riverside Pollinator Project, we give away hundreds of native plants, seed packets, and vegetable and herb starts from ICT Farms. K-State Extension Master Gardeners provided educational materials and a children's planting activity. Thanks to a grant from Monarch Watch, we planted 32 plugs of milkweed at Riverside Garden, Marshall Middle School, Pawnee Prairie Park, Kansas Wildlife Exhibit, and Mid-America All Indian Center.

Accessible Garden Area

As the recipient of an AARP Community Flagship Grant, Riverside Garden was able to create a more accessible gardening area. The new area includes a continuation of the sidewalk from the entrance gate to a concrete slab surrounding a water hydrant and continues on to the pergola and tool shed. It includes five waist height raised beds that don't require bending over and two wheelchair accessible beds. To further encourage inclusive gardening, the area has an ADA bench, ergonomic tools, tool storage on the raised beds and an automatic hose reel and hose.

Community Meetings and Events

Meetings and gatherings are held at Riverside Garden by multiple organizations every year. This year we enjoyed teaching Friends University's Creation Care and Sustainability classes about community gardening. We hosted the Health and Wellness Coalition's meeting, alongside ICT Food Rescue and Gary Farris of the Park and Recreation Department. We also hosted meetings of the Master Gardeners Community Garden Committee and the Suburban Garden Club of Wichita.

Coffee and Dirt Events

Monthly community events offer breakfast, freshly picked produce to share, guests from the community, and educational experiences. This year we featured Mark Nolen of the Wichita Audubon Society, teaching about local birds, participated in a hands-on art experience taught by Diana Collins, pounding flowers onto fabric using flowers from our garden, and hosted an event highlighting microgreens, featuring ICT Urban Greens and shared microgreen seed packets with the community.

ICT Bee Fest

Riverside Garden manned an educational bee drawing activity/game and a booth focused on the importance of planting native plants to support pollinators, which included free native plant seeds. Riverside Garden was honored to be part of the New York Times "50 States, 50 Fixes" climate series highlighting Grassland Groupies and the Bee City Wichita partnership.

K-State Urban Agriculture Assessment

We were fortunate to represent community gardens as one of the 24 participants in the K-State research project, "Development of Resilient Urban Food Systems that Ensure Food Security in the Face of Climate Change." Phone calls, surveys and a site visit gave us the opportunity to present a well-rounded perspective of our garden. We appreciate contributing to their effort to understand how to create a more sustainable and resilient urban food system and look forward to the results of this multi-year project.

Community Garden Beds

Riverside Garden now has 38 beds rented by community members for personal use, which creates a vibrant and beautiful space in addition to beds earmarked for donation.

Community Corner

Our community corner includes a public herb bed to freely share herbs with the neighborhood and our new Free Little Library/Produce Sharing Station, which includes space for gardening resources, books, and produce to share with the community.

