



## ***Growing Community Through Gardening***

### **WESTBURY COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**12581 Dunlap St.  
Houston, TX 77035**

**Mission:** *"The Westbury Community Garden educates adults and children about good nutrition and ecology, strengthens community spirit, provides organically-grown food, and serves as a gathering place for the community."*

**Motto:** *"Growing Community through Gardening"*

### **2021-2022 Impact Report**

**Number of 100 sq ft allotment gardens** = 62 (3 are shared teaching gardens, 59 production gardens)

**Food Production** - With square foot gardening method, average annual organic food production per bed is 362 lbs. of organic produce (\$750) That is over 21,000 lbs. of vegetables garden wide.

**Number of gardener members** = 77.

#### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Men = 41%  
Women = 59%

White = 65%  
African American = 22%  
Latino = 6%  
Asian = 7%

Over age 60 = 48%

#### **Cross member organizations:**

- Harris County Master Gardeners
- Galveston County Master Gardeners
- Houston Master Composters
- Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston Chapter
- Herb Society of America - South Texas Unit
- Houston Chapter - Native Prairies Association of Texas
- Houston Natural Beekeepers Association
- Urban Harvest Inc.
- Permaculture Guild of Houston / Permaculture Institute of North America (PINA)

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A project of the non-profit Westbury Area Improvement Corp. (WAIC) ♦ office – 5322 W. Bellfort Ave. Suite 100 Houston, TX 77035



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### **Outside Volunteer Groups (plus many individuals)**

Average 400 non-member volunteers/1600 volunteer hours annually

#### **2021**

KIPP Mosaic School  
Hightower HS  
Village School  
Ideal Daughters of Light #5  
BSA Troop 549 (Zane Bennett Eagle project – mulching the sunflower maze)  
Kincaid School  
BSA 99 (Prairie work)  
Christ Embassy Houston Church  
Bellaire HS National Honor Society  
Emery Weiner HS  
Houston International Jaycees

#### **2022**

Texas Women's University  
Ohio State University Club of Houston  
Teach For America  
Bellaire HS NSA  
BSA Troop 549 (Case Bennett project – 2 raised beds)  
BSA Troop 740 (Burke Klingensmith – Park benches and shade structure repair)  
Amerigo Education / St Pius X High School  
Sysco  
MIT Alumni  
Westbury High School - National Honor Society

### **2021-22 PROJECTS**

#### **Apiary**

We have now 3 Langstroth hives, the traditional, vertical stacked hives and 2 Top Bar (horizontal) hives. Our beekeepers say we can estimate that each of our 5 hives contain about 20,000 bees. Each rescue/relocation is about 10,000 bees.

2021 - WCG beekeepers performed 7 bee colony rescue/relocations

2022 - performed 17 rescue/relocations



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### **Compost Production**

Compost production has been greatly improved with frequent aeration, watering, and temperature monitoring. Each year the garden produces 2 cubic yards of rich, live compost for distribution to garden members. The compost operation diverts 1,188 gallons of kitchen waste from landfills annually.

### **Fruit Trees / Orchard Restoration after Winter Storm Uri (Feb 2021)**

2022 - Number of fruit trees planted - 15. Thanks to

- USDA/NRCS Community Garden grant
- Urban Harvest / Tito's Vodka partnership
- Fruit Tree Planting Foundation grant

### **Native Shade Tree Reforestation Project**

2021 - 16 native trees and 9 shrubs planted.

### **Gardening Within Reach**

2022 - Two bi-level sit/stand raised beds were built by an Eagle scout candidate and his troop, family, and friends for gardeners who have difficulty bending, kneeling, and reaching. He raised \$1200 for materials and provided all the labor. We received a grant to build one more bi-level raised bed next year and eventually plan to have a complete row of 12 bi-level beds.

### **Garden Seating**

2022 - An Eagle scout candidate built 2 park benches and repaired the shade deck.

### **The Magical Sunflower Maze at Westbury Community Garden**

2021 & 2022 - 3000 sunflowers of all colors and types were planted in a 60' x 60' maze configuration. There were map-reading exercises for kids. The maze was intended to provide an outdoor family landscape during the COVID pandemic.

### **Outdoor Learning For Young People**

2021 Preschool Graduation Activity - What Part of Plants Do We Eat?

2022 Scout Gardening and Locavore badges - 3 troops / about 40 girls

Science / Ag education classes - 80 students - Westside High School



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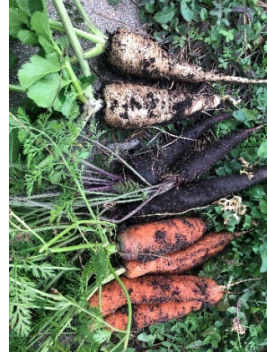
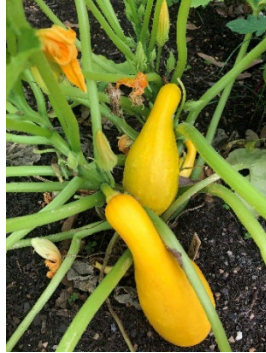


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### **MEMBER QUOTES**

Mary T

I decided to garden here after I read about the Westbury Community Garden in the Southwest News. I got into gardening to start eating healthy and organic and to get out and about...It's been fun so far!

Kat E

The garden is good for my soul! I love being out here. In summer when it's hot – doesn't bother me. In winter, I'm all bundled up in my hoodie. Winter is when we grow all the great vegetables – they're wonderful! In summer we have tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers. We have really nice celebrations here, like the Tomato Tasting. They are a lot of fun!

Surendra M

Gardening is part of my family [tradition.] I grew up with a small family garden. It gave me a lot of joy just to plant and harvest with my family. I jumped at the opportunity to be part of something that reminded me of my childhood.

Betsy L

I believe Nature is closely entwined to the wisdom of creation... Sometimes I just come out here to watch the wind blow.

My challenge this year is to eat something I grew every day and still have some to share.

Becky S

I love being outside in nature and love the people that are here. I joined a community within the community. We have 5-6 women sharing several beds. I love that we work together and we don't have to be here every day. It's a win-win-win-win for me!

Surendra M

Community Gardens are so important for neighborhoods because it creates a sense of unity – a common space where individuals can come to be a part of nature. We are one with nature and simply by being in the garden it creates that sense of continuity with the environment we live in.



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Deanne D

What I love best about being out here is being outdoors, close to nature and being with all the like-minded people who enjoy the same thing. I've met a lot of wonderful people out here. And I certainly like to enjoy the fruits of my labor. I'll be having fresh, home-grown green beans with my Thanksgiving dinner. It's a terrific experience. I recommend it to anybody!

Melanie D

I had been coming out to this garden for about two years. I was not gardening but I live in the neighborhood. I would come here and walk among the gardens. For me, it was relaxing. It was my meditation garden and I loved it. I would get off work and come over here to see the birds and the bees. It was life happening – life growing – a beautiful experience! I had never gardened before, but one day I thought, “I want to do this” and I joined. That was about three years ago.

Hazel P

I love to garden. It's a real pleasure to have enough sunshine to grow vegetables. I like to work outdoors, to make a difference... I like digging in the soil. I particularly like growing potatoes, which I will do in January.

Kat E

We love our volunteers and we couldn't do this without them.

Bert G

Well, for me it's like therapy. It's a lot of fun! I'm 86 years old. My wife loves being out here too. We are rewarded with bountiful harvests every year. We love it!

Katie O

I love coming out here because I have a very stressful job... I need a little right brain activity to balance the left brain activity at work. I love the people here and growing things. My garden is three quarters flowers which is perfect for me. Everything is wonderful about this place.