

BCMGA Annual Committee Report

Committee: Adams School Garden Year: 2025

*Number of Active Members: 8 MGs 4 comm. Vol. *Number of Public Contacts: Approx. 500

*Number of volunteer hours (estimates are fine): 1200

Purpose of Committee:

Support Adams School Garden program by coordinating an after school spring and fall garden club for students 2-5th grade. Also work with teachers sharing ideas for in classroom activities relating to the garden. Maintain the garden during the summer so it will be vibrant when the children return to school in the fall.

This year we continued making progress on rebuilding the garden. Began involving more students and also parents and children during the summer. Met with school administrator and teachers to keep them abreast of what is happening and coordinate funding to support the garden.

Participate in garden related activities sponsored by the school including tabling event at Stem Night.

Goals for the year:

To rebuild phase one and two of the garden by working with the school and other organizations to secure funding for new beds. Hold work party involving parents to assemble beds after funding is secured.

Develop a vibrant afterschool program for 2nd-5th graders and work with teacher coordinator to provide more activities for students not involved in after school garden club.

Encourage other teachers to utilize the garden as part of their learning program.

Participate in STEM night with a hands on tabling event.

Events/Activities: We were able to secure funding from the PTO, Corvallis School Foundation, Friends of Benton Gardeners as well as the BMGA funds to secure beds from Greenworks as well as soil. Organized a work party with volunteers, parents and staff to put the beds together, line with hardware cloth and fill with soil. Funding was secured to put in a wheel chair ramp and bed. This was done before spring break so garden was ready for spring garden club the week after spring break.

The Spring program was for 11 weeks where we focused on different activities each week. Many of the activities involved planting the beds with spring vegetables as well as put in a strawberry bed with donated plants. Many weeks we were able to also include an activity where the kids could take home something to plant in their garden or on the patio. This included making microgreen growing containers for each child. They potted up strawberry plants, Made Mothers Day containers with flower starts donated from Peoria Gardens, spread lots of bark chips donated by Bartlett Tree Service, planted corn starts which we sprouted and then transplanted in the garden. We received a donation of seed starting kits from Wilco and the kids planted them, took some home and one of the classrooms babysit pots

which we then transplanted in the beds. We received a box of seed potatoes so planted a potato bed and then each child made a potato bag to take home to grow. Talked about pollinators, dressed the kids up in bee suits, sampled honey and talked about bees. Secured weather resistant bee signs for the garden which educates the kids on pollinators other than honey bees. We also had bouquet making day and each child made at least one bouquet to take home as well as supplying a bouquets for the school office.

Ended spring garden club with a feast of spring veggies grown in the garden and goodies and each child received a garden bag and certificate. Encouraged families to join us on Tuesday mornings for garden maintenance and was pleased that a couple families joined us with their children.

Worked through the summer planting and maintaining the garden. Then in the fall we again offered an afterschool program for 6 weeks. Each week we featured a different hands on activity for the kids relating to gardening and utilizing the produce through cooking. Fall activities included a lot of harvesting and sending produce home with the families. We were able to harvest and freeze the corn that matured too soon so the kids could sample it. Other activities utilizing produce grown in the garden included freezer jam from the berries, pesto from the herbs which we served on school grown spiritualized zucchini. We made sauerkraut, salsa, and grape juice. Each week there was a bucket of apples and the kids made “slinky,” apples. From our flower beds plus some we brought from home the kids made bouquets. We ended garden club with a pumpkin feast and other goodies. Kids each got to take home at least one pumpkin which we grew in the garden, garden stickers and a garden bag. Each week vegetables were shared with families to take home and enjoy.

Besides the afterschool garden club the teacher, David Abraham held a lunch time garden club for kids that could not stay for after school activities. We provided things for him to do and they also helped with spreading chips in the garden.

Connie Ash and I were invited to have lunch with the teachers at the start of the school year and took them on a tour of the garden encouraging them to include the garden in their teaching curriculum. Several classes were in the garden doing activities, enjoying produce, reading and art work.

Volunteers met one afternoon after Halloween and put the garden to bed. We had the kids plant Fava beans as a cover crop in one of the beds and also planted spring tulips and daffodils.

How have your goals and events met the educational mission of BCMGA?

Our fun educational activities helped educate the youth about horticulture and related activities associated with the joy of gardening. We also included life skills on how to utilize the food grown in the garden and the kids learned where their food comes from. Hands on learning programs helped the kids enjoy learning skills that they can utilize in years to come.

We had several kids tell us that they had planted garden at home and how well it did. Parents also commented that there kids loved garden club and it was one their favorite part of school.

Has your committee had opportunities to meet the needs of under served populations?

We have a wide variety of children 2-5th grade participate in our program. It is open to all youth. We had a number of children from under served populations and income level in our program. Program open to all. Put in a wheel chair ramp and handicapped bed. We sent food home with children and many parents thanked us. The noontime garden club helps meet the needs of kids that are not able to participate in the after school activity now have an option to enjoy the garden.

How might your committee extend events/activities to under served populations in the future?

Continue to work with the school to include more gardening activities into the classroom and more in school activities relating to the garden once we get it all rebuilt. This coming year we hope to secure a grant so we can complete phase 3 adding a sensory garden to the mix which will include a small greenhouse, chicken coop, fruit trees including a persimmons tree and shrubs and plants with aroma. We hope to have areas where the kids can relax, read, draw etc in a garden setting.

Hoping to get more families involved in the garden in the summer, sharing produce and gardening activities for families not able to garden at home.

Other information you would like to share that is unique to your committee:

We have an amazing team of MG volunteers as well as school and community members that have been helping with this project. We also have been fortunate to have community organizations and business help with this project. Received a nice donation from the Adams Parent Club to purchase beds for phase 2, Corvallis School Foundation funded handicap ramp, Seed donations from the OSU Food Hero Grow It Program and Wilco Farm Store. Peoria Gardens gave us flower starts for mothers day pots as well as vegetable starts, Wilco Farm Store gave us fruit trees, fertilizer and grow kits, MGs and Friends of Benton Gardeners gave us plants for the garden and for the kids to take home. Also got donations from our volunteers and parents.

This year we were also invited to STEM night and they gave us three tables just as you come into the school so we were popular with the kids and families who came. Hands on activities included potting up a jade start, sampling micro greens, learning about pollinators, saw how worms compost in little worm hotels and each family could take a bee activity book home, and the kids made living necklaces

See pictorial story of our gardening program

We have also mentored other school garden coordinators and co taught a class at OSU this summer with Linda Madison for teachers interested in starting school gardens. Shared ideas with MGa who were staffing STEM nights at other grade schools.

Our Fabulous volunteer team include: Chere Pereira, Sue and Nick Piasias, Dan Rosenberg, MaryAnn Carr, Henry Sumpter, Connie Ash, Irene Sussman, Connie Ash, and Charlotte Mills. We also had several parent volunteers this summer.

Nellie Oehler, Chair of Adams Garden Committee

Picture giving a visual look at our fabulous Garden

2025 Adams School Garden Photos

Photos of garden rebuilding work days



January 1

Work party to put new beds together



Beds lined with hardware cloth



Filled with soil



Old shed returns home

Spring Garden Club planting beds and starting plants





Planting Kits



Micro Greens



handicap path to bed



Lesson on Honey Bees



Dressed up as bee keepers



Sampling honey



Growing potatoes in a bag lesson



Writing thank you notes for our donors



Mothers Day Flower Pots



Stem Night at Adams



Making Living Necklaces



Propagating Jade Plant



Teachers tour garden as part of fall orientation



Kids enjoy scavenger hunt

Fall Cooking Activities



Weekly Slinky Apples



Making Salsa



Exploding Cranberry Sauce



Corn Feast



Enjoying Corn



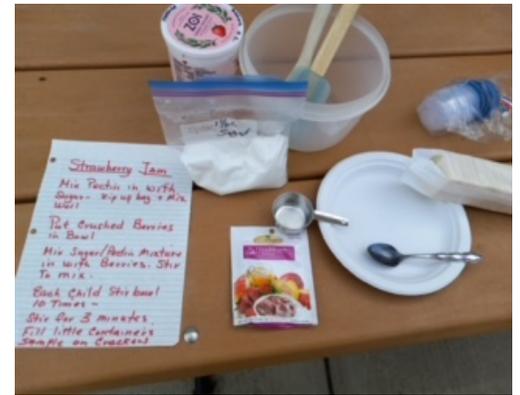
Sauerkraut Making From Garden Cabbage



Making Pesto from Herbs Grown in Garden



Enjoying pesto and Spirilized Zucchini



Freezer Jam



Potato Digging Contest



Successful Dig



Potato Contest Winners



Flower Arranging Day



Successful Bouquets



Gathering Vegetables to participate in the state wide Crunch



Squash & Pumpkin Harvest Day

Chere Showing off Okra



Amazing Sunflowers



Weekly Harvest



Fall Beds in Production



Garden put to bed for winter. Had an amazing year and look forward to renovating phase 3 and continuing to add more activities to the garden.

We are always looking for more MG volunteers and community volunteers to help out with this exciting project. If interested contact Nellie Oehler