

## BCMGA Annual Committee Report

Committee: Adams School Year: 2023

\*Number of Active Members: 9 MGs and 5 others \*Number of Public Contacts: 290

\*Number of volunteer hours (estimates are fine): 430

### Purpose of Committee:

Adams School Garden Committee provides gardening and horticulture information to elementary school children at Adams School. Also works with teachers and classrooms to provide gardening opportunities and supplies upon request. We have worked with other schools in Benton County to share ideas about school gardens. Committee maintains the school garden and provide an after-school gardening program for 2-5<sup>th</sup> graders in the spring and fall. Note this year we only had garden club in spring due to school construction making it unsafe for kids in the fall.}

### Goals for the year:

Work with the school district to maintain a garden to be enjoyed by children during the construction of additions to the school that destroyed half of the existing garden. Maintain the garden during the summer and fall and work with the district to design and rebuild a dynamic garden for the years to come. In Progress!

Sidebar: Maintain our sanity during the construction and rebuilding stage this year. Smile

### Events/Activities:

Held a spring after-school garden program for 30 kids

Note attached report for details

Share garden produce with school personnel and children during construction.

Work with the district on plans for redesigning the garden

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

Provided education on horticulture and home gardening to children at Adams School.

Encouraged children to try gardening at home by starting seeds and sending them home with the kids

Encouraged kids to try new vegetables and fruits grown in the garden

Share our joy of gardening with the next generation of gardeners.

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

Garden Club I open to all 2-5 grade students and we have been able to serve many cross cultural kids as well as kids with behavioral problems and those from varying income levels.

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How might your committee extend events/activities to underserved populations in the future? We have grown a variety of vegetables that are popular with other cultures such as Bok chow, hot peppers, many varieties of greens and also fava beans. Then we cooked them and shared them with the children to try.

We have provided excess produce to children from food insecure homes.

Our plan for the future is to include more culturally diverse plants in our raised bed garden area as well as in our sensory garden we plan to build.

Because of construction we were not able to do as much with the kids and school as in the past but looking to the future.

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

## **2023 Adams School Garden Report**

2023 Adams School Garden project continued to be challenging and adventuresome. The school was in full construction mode in the spring when we arrived to get organized for spring garden club. Half the garden was removed, and the remaining area fenced off due to construction. The weather was also challenging. The committee met to decide what to do, and we decided to hold weekly events for the kids beginning the week after spring break and ending early in June. Fortunately, the soccer program, which uses the fields around Adams has a large tent near the garden so we used it for several of our spring gardening events when the weather was horrible and the garden was not accessible. We had up to 30 kids sign up and attend weekly afterschool sessions.

I again signed up with the A-Z Seed Program through the OSU Extension Nutrition Education Program and received seeds and gardening kits which we used with our spring projects. We were also excited to recruit several new MG trainees to join our team so we had a good crew each week to coordinate activities. We are also grateful to our community volunteers and to the school staff who have helped us out.

### **Activities this year included:**

Uncovering the beds, weeding, and planting a variety of spring crops including different kinds of lettuce, kale, Swiss Chard, lots of radishes, broccoli, onion starts, and cabbage. Some were from plant starts we purchased and some from seeds from the A-Z program. Our fava beans we planted last fall also flourished and were fun for the kids to watch grow, harvest and enjoy.

We started a worm composting bin that Lisa Borgine provided and had a team of kids help with the feeding and monitoring the bins. Kids love the worms.

Later in the spring and early summer we planted summer crops including lots of tomatoes, cukes, beans, zucchini, pumpkins, corn and even popcorn. We anticipated a fall garden club however due to the construction at the school and limited access as well as the school being in

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chaos moving into the new buildings and navigating a remodeled school, we all decided it best not to try to have afterschool programming this year. We did meet weekly all summer to maintain and harvest the produce and this fall were able to meet as well, harvest and maintain beds. We provided produce to the school to share with staff and food insecure families.

### **Weekly Spring Garden Club Activities included:**

Planting seed starts in egg cartons for the kids to take home

Mother's Day herb containers. Each child decorated their container and planted it with seeds and or plants. (made containers for one week and planted the second week).

As spring progressed there was lots of harvesting and of course weeding to do.

For several weeks each child was able to take home a container or salad greens which included radishes and a variety of greens. We also had a good crop of strawberries in the big pots for the kids to enjoy and our rhubarb bush flourish this year and many kids had never tasted rhubarb.

Our apple tree produced some apples this year and we had a great grape crop and lots of raspberries.

We also like to plant flowers and sunflowers and one of our activities is to make bouquets for the kids to take home. The sun flowers were enjoyed by our bird friends.

I have been working with school administrators as we design our new garden area. The raised beds have been ordered and should be installed soon. We requested hardware cloth under the beds. Our final garden will be in three sections. One being beds that the teachers can use for education purposes if they wish, second area with raised beds will be for afterschool garden club which we will manage and the third area will be designed into a sensory garden that everyone can enjoy with lots of fun plants, edibles and maybe even a chicken coop in the future.

It will be exciting and challenging to rebuild our garden but our Adams MG crew as well as some other dedicated volunteers from the school and community are excited to make it happen.

We are grateful to receive a grant from the MG Association for a new shed for our garden and are also looking to find some extra funding to help with the raised bed area in the after-school garden section and building the sensory garden. Stay tuned as we slowly rebuild what we hope will be an amazing addition to Adams School. Are grateful for the support from the MG Association and also have a wonderful working relationship with the Adams School Staff.

We are looking forward to shopping for a new shed this spring thanks to the special allocation funds we received from the Benton County Master Gardeners Association.

Photo Page send as separate attachment.

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## Photos of 2023 Adams School Garden Adventure



Adams School Spring Garden Club Members and Volunteers



Spring Planting with the kids. Seeds from OSU Seed program plus starts





Amazing crop of fava beans planted last fall to enjoy this spring. Made humus out of the beans to enjoy with our spring feast and many children took some home. Seeds saved which were planted again this fall.



The Garden Flurshed over the spring to produce an incredible amount of produce for the kids to harvest and enjoy taking home.





Amazing Flower Bed this year which we used to make bouquets and share with the school front office.



Kids made flower arrangements to take home to their parents celebrating a fun spring in the garden.





Seed planting project in egg cartons on a horrible raining cold afternoon under the soccer tent. Used seeds from the A-Z OSU Seed Project.



Mothers Day Herb container project. Kids decorated the containers, made signs and then planted their containers with seeds and starts to take home.



Lisa Borgine teaching kids about  
day  
Worm bins

Chere Pereira presenting lesson for the



We bought new tomato cages and put in a variety of tomatoes which resulted in lots of tomatoes to share with our team as well as the school staff  
Just wish the kids could have enjoyed the fruits of their labor last spring.





Happy Kids in the Garden showing off produce

Each kid took home a tub greens



End of Spring Garden Club Feast which included Rhubarb fluff, green salad, fava bean humus, berry slugs, blueberry muffins and assortment of other great inventions by our team.





The Birds love our Sun Flowers



Fall harvest



First Apple Crop



Our Fall Garden was amazing.



Entered curly kale won best of show at the Benton County Fair





In October the clean up crew harvested corn stalks, pumpkins and flowers and decorated the entry way at the school noting that the produce came from the Adams School Garden.



Final Work party put the garden to bed

Our project for Spring, New Garden

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