

Master Gardener Project Annual Report

Name of Project:

Ecumenical Tower Community Garden

Name of Project Chairs(s):

Michael Hesseltine



Number of Master Gardeners involved/impacted with project: Provide brief statement of what this involvement/impact was.

Typical involvement relates to a spring clean up followed by a planting session, then summer maintenance. Fall clean up is the last activity of the year. Due to the high visibility nature of this site, there is always foot traffic on the sidewalk and in and out of the adjacent residential tower.

Involved #

10-12 master gardeners

Impacted #

Dozens

Summary of project activities conducted throughout the year and results of the project: (include any data of successes of the project).

This year we kicked off with a spring clean up and planting session. We planted Dahlias, a butterfly bush, and some zinnias. We had some generous donations from the downtown master gardeners who added new varieties of daylilies. Residents planted some gourds for making bird houses and crafts. This was the first year the clematis bloomed. We cleaned up and carted away some rubbish from the side of the building that was a detractor from the overall garden appearance. We applied mulch late summer. This fall we transplanted two shrubs (Euonymus & Viburnum) and made plans for trimming back the lilacs and ninebark in the spring. Added several bags of mulch but could use a little more before winter. Also discussed with two of the residents, removal of one of the Yews in the westerly most bed. We might also consider significant pruning depending on the looks upon completion. Overall, the beds were in good shape much of the year and only marginally impacted by the elements.

Statement of what you would consider the greatest success of this project:

This year there was more consistent involvement than the previous two years from both the residents at the facility and the master gardener community. The project benefitted greatly from this attention. There were more things blooming and more consistently than in some

previous years. That regular showing of color is a real crowd pleaser for those passing by and the residents who live at the facility.

What needs are there to help this project continue? What changes would you like to make for the future?

I would like to attract a consistent committed work team to ensure more uniform maintenance of the site. It seems to work well getting spring clean up assistance and again in the fall (this fall attracted a great crew) but in between it is hit or miss. I would also like to add more late summer color and expand the beds marginally to add more plant diversity.