

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Community Garden at the Wildcat Farm
Program Manager: Kate Doughty
Fiscal Year: 2022

1. In what ways does your program support CWU students? Please be specific, yet concise.

We provide space for students to grow food (or flowers), connect with community, and volunteer. The exciting thing about our space is we do not charge a fee and often have plants or seeds available for people to use. It is a very low cost option, which allows for more centered learning. Additionally, students are able to make connections with each other but also with some of our community members, faculty, or staff who have garden plots. The intergenerational, often intercultural connections are greatly beneficial for everyone who engages with the garden. We also run a garden planning workshop for anyone to participate in.

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

We are focusing on trying to find more ways for students to engage with the farm outside of physical work, by building an outdoor pizza oven on site that will allow us to host community events. Additionally, we are hoping to move further towards our goal of building more accessible garden beds so we can accommodate folks with different mobility needs. We track ratios of student:faculty:staff:community member participation, volunteers, and are going to be starting a garden council that we hope reflects the participant ratios.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
 - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs who have a similar purpose or service?

Our purpose is to provide space for our community to build gardening knowledge, practice sustainability and resilience, and support the ecological health of our community. We overlap with a number of programs: SLICE, Wellness, the Wildcat Pantry—the beautiful thing about food is it is intertwined with nearly every aspect of our lives and communities.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? *“Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.”*

We work to provide volunteers and garden participants with as much education on what we do as can be communicated in the time we have. Our connections with SLICE provides an excellent resource for students on campus who may have trouble going to off campus volunteer events. Additionally, our student participants in the community garden have much more flexibility working with us because of the lower cost.

5. How does your program support CWU’s mission and goals? (<https://www.cwu.edu/mission/>)

Our program is about community sustainability, resilience, and practical learning. Our participants learn by doing, and our garden is a community focused space that supports meaningful connection.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

We do not track demographic information beyond university affiliation, so I do not want to report other information without actual data. However, our experience of the garden is of a multigenerational, multicultural, and multi-experiential (if that is a word?) participant base. For the 2021 season we had 16 student reservations (two of which are clubs with 2+ members), 5 staff, 2 faculty, and 14 community members. The other benefit we provide is being the only community garden north of campus. This gives the opportunity for folks living in housing on that side of town (some of which is affordable housing) easy access to a garden.

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
- How do you gather these metrics?
 - If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

We do not have exact numbers on this. The reason is we know some folks share plots (the 16 student reservations reach more than 16 individual students). We also have volunteers come through either with us or as volunteers for FISH or APOYO, who also have plots at the garden. We plan to be much more careful with data tracking so we can provide better responses and be more intentional with programming.

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

None

9. Given the budget reductions taking place and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and including in your initial base funding request.

This will primarily impact student employee time and future programming. We are planning to use as much of the carry over funds as possible to account for possible reductions. It will also impact our hope to get supplemental funding for a composting toilet.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

Professional staff time has been the biggest factor here.

11. What growth or increases would you like to see in your program in the future?

The composting toilet, and more interaction from students.