

Massillon City Health Department 2024 QI Project: Garden Production

Plan

Identify an Opportunity and Plan for Improvement

Aim Statement

Increase harvest quantity produced by the community garden by 50% during the 2024 growing season.

Examine the current approach

Currently the community garden has several opportunities for improvement which include less than 50% of total area is used for planting, lacking enough additional community volunteers, irregular garden committee meetings, and a deteriorating fence that does not deter wildlife.

Collect Baseline Data

During the 2023 growing season, all produce from garden was weighed and record monthly.

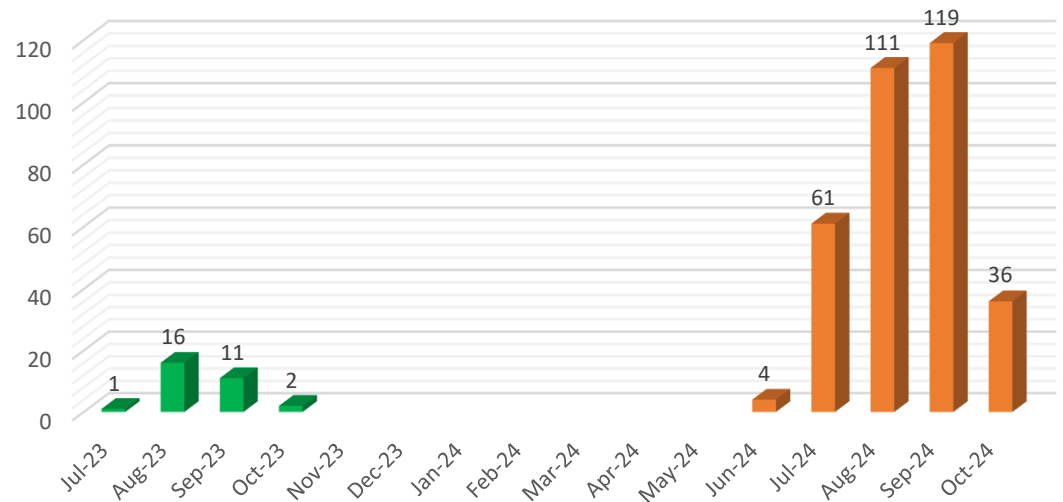
Identify Possible solutions

Health Department Garden Staff met at the end of the 2023 season to establish goals for the 2024 to increase harvest by addressing multiple problems that led to a low harvest. This included additional meetings amongst garden staff, new fence, increase planting square footage, and recruitment/communication of volunteers.

Develop an Improvement Theory

By scheduling regular garden meetings to discuss needs and improvements, installing a new fence, increase planting area/amount of plants planted, and increase volunteer involvement and communication, the garden harvest will increase substantially.

GARDEN HARVEST



Do

Test the Theory for Improvement

Test the theory

Garden Committee began the current process of implementing improvements in April 2024 at the beginning of the 2024 growing season.

Collect and Document Data

Staff will weigh harvest as it is collected and document the total each month on an excel spreadsheet.

Act

Standardize the Improvement and Establish Future Plans

By holding regular scheduled meetings, garden needs and improvements were more effectively problem solved, the 8-foot-tall fence deterred wild life from consuming produce, additional plants led to an increase variety of harvest, and consistent volunteer participation led to an increase in harvest from 26.8 pounds during the 2023 growing season to 330 pounds during the 2024 growing season.

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