



Captain Planet: Project Giving Gardens UC Marin Master Gardeners: Grow An Extra Row

Summer 2021

14

Gardens Sites

Four pods - each one in an area of Marin with food insecurity



13 Paid Part
Time Growers

Growers coordinated time to support pods; several were return students to their schools; Many thanks to numerous volunteers too!!



11 Food
Donation Sites

Donations supported families in need across the county with fresh local produce

Cross County Collaboration

Master Gardeners grew starts, coordinated plant and technical support donations, connected across the region, and helped sites get started. Growers supported one another in getting food to sites in need. Program participants made lots of great new connections that will continue past the summer. Schools were able to open up with their gardens flourishing and ready for fall harvest.



Summer growing.....

3,797 pounds

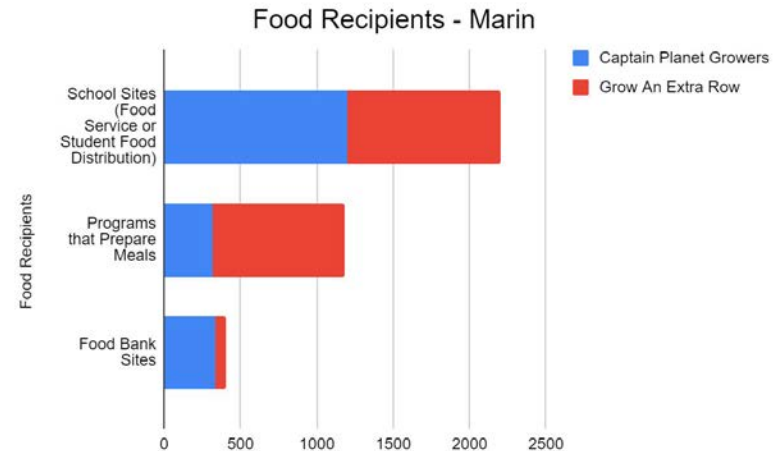
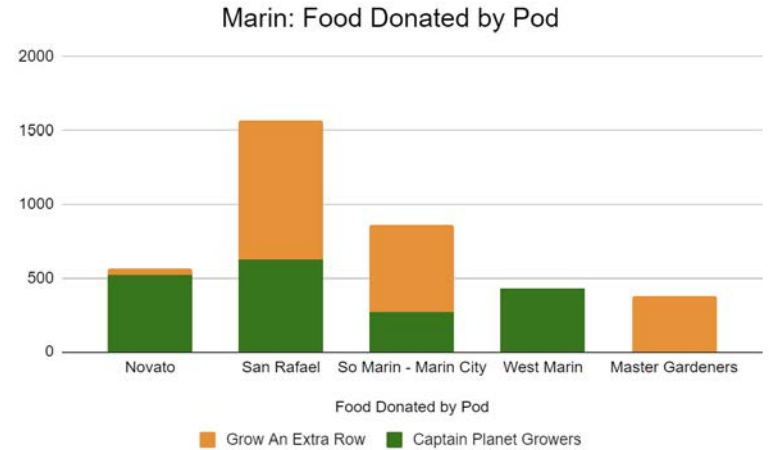
Note that many of our gardens are producing large volumes of produce in late August and Sep after the Project Giving Gardens program ended. That produce is not included in these totals.

1,846

pounds of food donated as recorded by Captain Planet growers

1,951

pounds of food donated through UC Master Gardeners Grow and Extra Row campaign (some from CP sites)



West Marin - June

- Refurbished Lagunitas' garden
- Harvest magic: connecting growers, recipients, and the pod
- Next gen growers come back

Lagunitas: Prior to starting, and with harvest picked by summer camp children



Bolinas Stinson Elementary



Papermill
Creek



West Marin - Highlights and Learnings

- Garden activity has created a lot of local enthusiasm at the various schools
- Numerous opportunities to work together on Food System issues - West Marin Food System working group making progress on wellness initiatives



Southern Marin/Marin City - June

- Meet and greet at Bayside MLK
- Lots of start and seed sharing
- Ashley tour of several sites with a stop at Bayside's Conscious Kitchen
- Edna Maguire school reviewing non-profit model; longer term funding opportunities



Friends of the Mill Valley Children's Garden at Edna Maguire Elementary Mill Valley, CA

- Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 the school garden at Edna Maguire shifted gears from instruction to production
- With the help of over 40 volunteer families we transformed our ½ acre garden into a production farm
- The school agreed to donate all produce in 2020, over 1200lbs to local Marin organizations
- January-August 2021 we kept the same format and donated 636lbs
- June-August 2021 we worked with Captain Planet Project Giving Garden and donated 366lbs to Community Action Marin and Vivalon



Our Captain Planet Project Giving Gardens team (Reesha and Sarah), plus 2 local high school volunteers. Summer 2021

Friends of the Mill Valley Children's Garden at Edna Maguire Elementary Mill Valley, CA

- Meeting with other schools and local organizations we shared some of same difficulties: securing and/or paying for dedicated farm/garden labor
- Relying on volunteers alone is not sufficient to run most of the larger gardens in the county
- The paid grower funded by Captain Planet was crucial for our success this summer



- August 2021 Edna Maguire has resumed full in person instruction and our garden educator is expected to resume her duties as an instructor

What's next???

- The non profit "Friends of the Mill Valley Children's Garden" at Edna Maguire Elementary is searching for funding opportunities to hire a paid farm manager to work closely with our garden educator

Southern Marin/Marin City - Highlights and Learnings

- Chef Guillaume happily receiving donated produce on the first day of school; he is preparing fresh Conscious Kitchen Meals for Marin City students
- Willow Creek Academy was pleased to receive a Deluxe Jura Composter through their connections with the Master Gardeners



San Rafael - June

- Successful 5th grade outdoor ed class prior to start of program
- Direct farm to school donations supporting summer meal program, over 300 lbs donated
- Increased farm size by 25%



San Rafael - Highlights and Learnings

- Garden was productive and is well setup to provide food for the district in the fall (they even have some okra growing!)
- Sanzuma's new food packing area is creating opportunities to better preserve and keep produce (i.e.. Spiralized large zucchini for "noodles")
- Sanzuma has begun hosting a series of workshops for school garden teams across the county to further education and outreach



**SANZUMA'S
FARM TO CAFETERIA
WORKSHOP**

Learn how to:

- To transform your space from bare ground to Hugelkultur technique.
- Practice buried Ollas irrigation method
- Permaculture techniques
- Start a successful CSA
- Make your school farm more sustainable

PLEASE RSVP ASAP
lori@sanzuma.org
510-599-9621 for questions.
The workshop is free

August 31, 2021 4:00 PM - 6:00PM
498 Pt. San Pedro Rd. San Rafael

As per Governor Newsom we can only allow vaccinated people on school grounds



Novato - June

- Direct distribution to Rancho elementary summer bag program
- Donations to Homeward Bound



Dahlias blooming at
Lynwood Elementary



Rancho Elementary School



Weighing the harvest at Novato Charter School
(28 lbs. donated to Homeward Bound)



Summer in full swing at
Lu Sutton Elementary



Loma Verde Elementary School

Novato - Highlights and Learnings



Green bean starts grown and donated by MMG Barbara Searles as part of the Grow an Extra Row initiative growing beautifully at Novato Charter School.

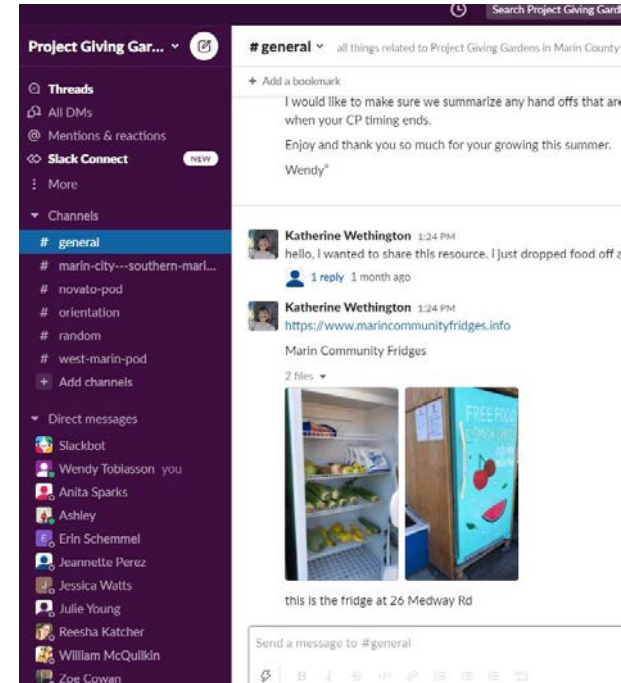
We were thrilled to connect with Rancho Elementary and learn of Lara Giusti's efforts throughout the summer to continue feeding 35 families in need within the Rancho school community. What began during Spring 2020 to address food insecurities of families during the pandemic has continued because of Lara. 12 families each week come to Rancho on Thursdays to pick out produce and other donations which have been donated by local grocery stores or private citizens. Lara delivers bags to those who could not get to the school. The bulk of harvests from Novato Charter, Lynwood, Lu Sutton, Loma Verde and Rancho went to this grassroots program.

We also connected with Andrea Rey, Community Engagement Coordinator for Homeward Bound who was very grateful for the produce we donated. This non-profit organization provides shelter and support services for homeless families and individuals in Marin.



Other Impacts

- Regional connectivity
- Meaningful kick off with Master Gardener starts and support
- Ongoing relationships between Master Gardener sites and school gardens
- Best practices discussions among school garden team members
 - Growing tips (trellising, compost sources, gopher ideas)
 - Farming versus education discussions
- Engaging interested next gen participants
- Continuity from summer to school
- Regional publicity
- Opportunities for ongoing learning and connection: Sanzuma CDFA Grant Workshops on school production gardening
- Use of SLACK channel allowed for a new communication approach



Transitioning Back to School, Next Steps, Wish List

Sanzuma Farm: San Pedro School

- Large CDFA Grant (added farm systems and food production capabilities, regional trainings open to all schools)
- Additional Farm Staff
- Kids back at school with after school garden programming
- Food being sold to SR school district for school meals
- Greenhouse in place for own starts
- WISH LIST: Do more Food Donations: ad hoc availability based on funding for farm labor (otherwise produce sold to restaurants to support farm operations)

Papermill Pre School
Inverness expansion;
leverage elementary garden;
fruit trees

Lagunitas Elementary
School position hiring underway (garden educator),
Irrigation improvements planned (catchment, solar motor),
Volunteer momentum

Lagunitas Comm Garden
Ongoing engagement with
SGVCC programs

Bolinas/Stinson:
New garden in use
with students

WM Food Systems Local food
systems focus; WM Fund Grant
to support gardens

Marin CCC: Continue to distribute starts and garden education materials;
WISH LIST: Getting back in person with childcare sites (post COVID)

Shoreline WISH LIST: Meeting with Shoreline Schools to review
collaboration opportunities, complete SLAQ assessments

San
Rafael

West
Marin

Marin
City
(+So Marin)

Novato

Bayside / MLK Elementary

Conscious Kitchen
garden support;
School positions still in
planning stages

Willow Creek: Ongoing
teacher support of garden;
school positions still in
planning stages; composter
in action (summer donation),
install irrigation

**Marin
CCC:**
Starts,
back to
in-person

Marin CCC:
Starts, back to in-person

College of Marin
Continued support
with coaching and
starts; consider
coordination around
job development
opportunities

Rancho Elementary

Continued produce
donations to families in
need at school site; Shift
back to educator

Novato Charter School
Shift back to educator

MCCSD

Eagle scout bed
project; next gen
participants; produce
entrepreneurship ideas

Park School:
Coordination with Edna on
production support; connect
with new garden educator

Tam High:
Ongoing HS program;
consider youth projects
across other sites

Tamalpais:

Continued donations;
garden educator active
with classes again

Edna Maguire:
Transitioning back to
educator focus, non-profit
developing to support farm
maintenance role

**Conscious Kitchen
Private Site:**
Continued donations to
Marin City school meal
programs

Lynwood Elementary
Shift back to educator

Lu Sutton Elementary
Shift back to educator

**Loma Verde
Elementary**
Shift back to
educator

Marin Project Giving Gardens 2021 (# of beds/site)

Marin CCC:
Starts

Paradise on Picnic
Starts

Sanzuma Farm
Farm Staff
Production Facility
with Extensive
Farming Experience
and Food Donations
Maint support, few
starts, can coach and
provide admin

**Papermill Pre:
Point Reyes (3)**
Maint Support

**Lagunitas Elementary
(7)**
Irrigation check, Maint
Support, Compost,
Starts

**Papermill Pre:
Inverness (3)**
Maint. Support
Irrigation
Compost, Starts

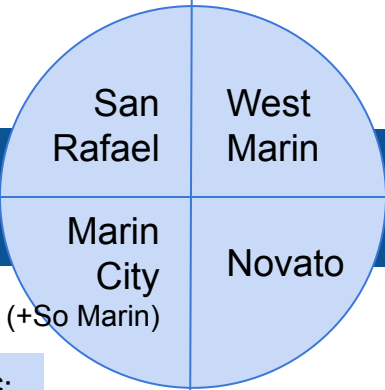
Marin CCC:
Papermill
Coordination,
Starts

**Lagunitas Comm
Garden**
Maint. Support, Starts

Shoreline: Bolinas (4)
Maint. Support
Starts

Possible other minor support to Shoreline sites after program hours

Chandna, Krissa (Lori - Sanzuma; Stephan - Tracking)



Will, Katherine, Indigo, Kiowa (Julie, Marcia)

Reesha, Sarah, Zoe (Vanessa, Jess, Anita, Juanita, Diane)

Jeannette, Erin, Rafi, Emily (Laurie, Janice)

**Bayside / MLK
Elementary (7)**
Maint (min)
Can Coach

Willow Creek (7)
Maint Support
Compost, Upper Irrig
Few Starts

Marin CCC:
Starts

MCCSD (3+)
Maint. (min)
Starts

Park School (4)
Maint support,
Applied

Tam High (5)
Maint (min), Remote
timer, Can Coach

Tamalpais (5)
Minor partner
Can Coach

Edna Maguire (7)
Maint. Support
Can Coach

**Conscious Kitchen
Private Site (6)**
Maint support

Rancho Elementary
Maint.Support
MG Starts

Marin CCC:
Starts

**Novato Charter
School**
Maint. Support
Starts

College of Marin
Start Supply
Teaching Garden
Possible
Coaching

Lynwood Elementary
Maint.Support
MG Starts

Lu Sutton Elementary
Maint. Support
MG Starts

**Loma Verde
Elementary**
Maint. (min)
MG Starts

Donation Tips (Contact other on Slack for donation support or a last minute need)

- MARIN CITY:

- **Conscious Kitchen** serves 200 student meals M-F: can accommodate produce with advance notice (fruits for packaged lunches, makes salads, not a lot of storage space); Bayside/MLK kitchen 6 AM - 2 PM M-F (Chef Guillaume: 415-430-7864)
- **Marin City Community Services District:** programs Monday (drop off between 8-9 AM), St Andrews food bank Monday
- **People Intercities Church:** Thursday 1 PM food bank/extrafood

- SAN RAFAEL:

- **CAM** (Community Action Marin): drop off between 8-noon Mon - Fri; try calling from the parking lot if no one answers the door (hard to hear inside); Edna regularly delivers there on Mondays
- **Vivalon:** prefer drop offs between 2-4. They are there in the morning as well so can accept early but please avoid 11-2 when they have active lunch programming and are busy
- **Ceres:** Tam Valley School has volunteer going Wed with produce from TV

- WEST MARIN:

- **San Geronimo Valley Comm. Center:** Food Bank Thurs 9am-1pm for drop off at TPL (SGV Golf Course)
- **Papermill Creek Preschool:** shares produce directly with families at the center