

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

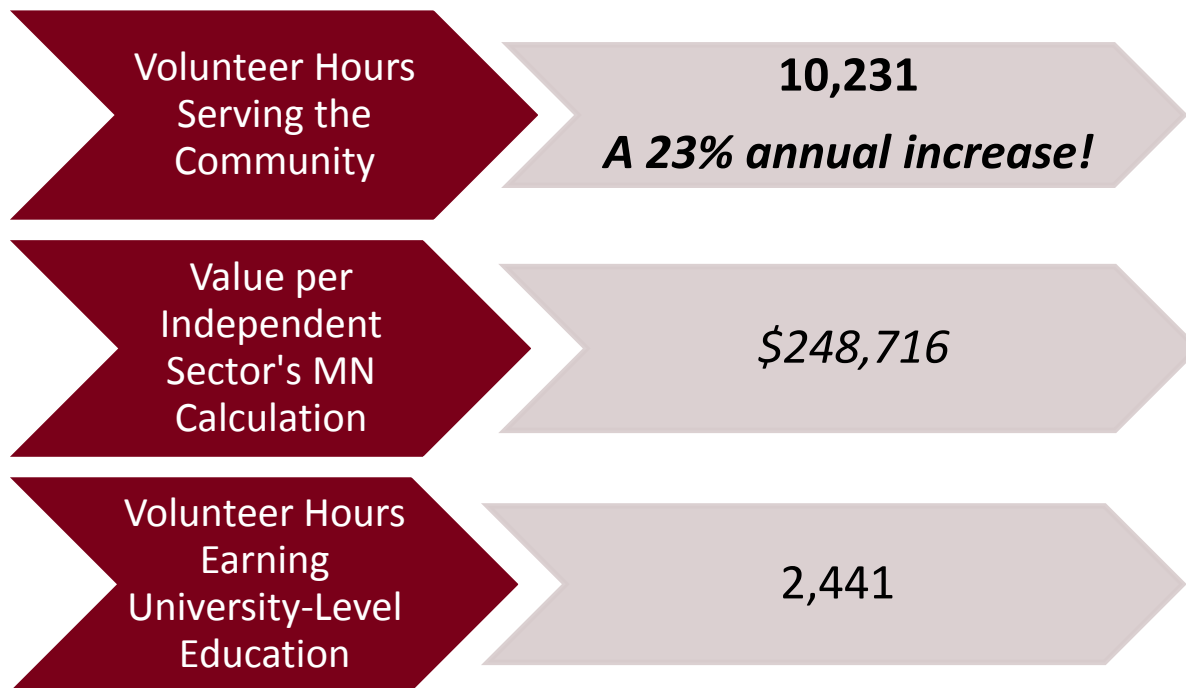
MISSION

We use University of Minnesota Extension research to teach the below messages to Ramsey County youth and adults of all backgrounds—to improve the quality of life for all residents and to help bridge income, education, and health disparities.

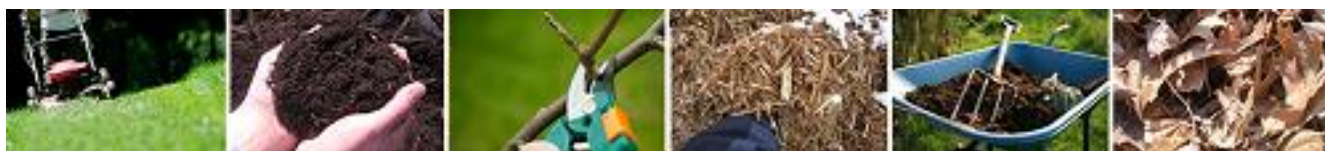
MESSAGES:

We convey these main messages to the public:

- *Protect Our Water: Reduce Runoff Rainwater; Reduce Garden Chemicals; Plant Rain Gardens*
- *Reduce Waste: Compost or Recycle Organics, Properly Prune, Leave Grass Clippings on lawn*
- *Grow Your Own Food: For Exercise, Good Health, and a Better Budget*
- *Reduce Chemicals: Reduce Chemicals in Your Yard and Home and properly dispose any leftovers*



Teaching County Residents to Protect Our Natural Resources



RAMSEY COUNTY YARD WASTE SITES

Master Gardeners increased their volunteer time at the Yard waste sites—from 160 hours to 350 Master Gardener hours—over double. We answered questions for, and encouraged organic waste composting with, 3,846 citizens at Yard Waste sites—**up from 1,785** in 2013!

Yard Waste SITE Citizens Helped:

Battle Creek	91
Frank & Sims	1038
Midway	981
Summit Hill	1193
Shoreview	271
Moundsview	272

TOTAL 3,846

MASTER GARDENERS HELP ROLL OUT NEW RAMSEY COUNTY ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM

We helped introduce and explain the new Ramsey County Organics Collection program to county citizens. Common questions included how to follow the correct procedures and what resources were available to assist residents. At our different county project sites, Master Gardeners used displays and brochures to encourage residents to recycle their organics—or to compost at home.



SUCCESS STORY: Frank Dolejsi, Ramsey County Master Gardener intern, presented “How to Recycle Your Organics” to the Roseville Rotary Club by request.

Their response: *Thank you. There were many positive comments about the information you shared with us about Ramsey County’s new Organics Recycling initiative and about the Ramsey County Master Gardener program itself. You had great information...We’ll continue to bring our compostable bags with our organics to the sites.*

BOY SCOUTS BUILD PORTABLE COMPOST DISPLAYS FOR COMPOSTING EDUCATION

Ramsey County Master Gardener Board Chair Susan Oven recruited local Boy Scouts to replicate compost displays. The original mini, portable display was created by Ramsey Master Gardener Leonard Gloeb.

Duplicating the displays was rewarding for the troop, and the Master Gardeners use them to teach Ramsey County residents of all ages the importance of composting.



RAMSEY COUNTY YARD WASTE PEACE POLE GARDENS

Master Gardeners also help maintain the Peace Pole gardens installed at several of the Ramsey County Yard Waste Sites.



ST. THOMAS MORE FARMERS MARKET

1079 Summit Ave. St. Paul

176 persons stopped to ask questions while shopping at this farmers market, held every Friday afternoon. Although a newer market, people seem to appreciate the resources offered by Master Gardeners. An addition of a notebook and wireless service this season was extremely useful in relaying the latest research in record time! We were able to dispense information about our free Diagnostic Clinic.

DAYTON'S BLUFF FARMERS MARKET

463 Maria Ave. St. Paul

The Market on the Bluff, new to our project list, expands our information booths in this area of St Paul. Another Master Gardener project, **Dream of Wild Health Native American Farm**, sells organic produce here every Thursday evening, 4- 8 pm.

ALDRICH ARENA FARMERS MARKET

1850 White Bear Ave, Maplewood

Wednesdays throughout the season, Master Gardeners can be asked gardening questions from residents who shop at the market. Recent interest has included straw bale gardening and helping prevent and treat vegetable diseases. Master Gardeners here also are able to refer residents to our free Diagnostic Clinic, conveniently located nearby and open at the same time as the market. The Master Gardeners served **205 residents** with a question and answer booth; the addition of the demonstration area served another **60** persons.

HMONGTOWN MARKET

217 Como Ave. St. Paul

Master Gardeners staff a weekend information booth here during the season. The addition of a Hmong translator helped the volunteer Master Gardeners disseminate important information regarding composting and organic recycling in 2014 to approximately **240** market clients. The addition of the mini compost display was a great conversation starter, and we also encouraged Hmong gardeners to apply to our program. By sharing their expertise and having the opportunity to learn from the U of M Extension, a great partnership to educate and learn from Hmong gardeners would be formed. As a result of this outreach, we now have a Hmong intern for 2015.



ROSEVILLE FARMERS MARKET

County Rd B. Roseville

Master Gardeners answered gardening questions from **168** clients on Tuesday afternoons from June through September. We're especially proud of helping a client who was experiencing health issues how she could continue gardening in spite of her condition.

ST. PAUL DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

290 5th Street East, St. Paul

Master Gardeners spent **298 hours** providing gardening information to **1261** persons at this popular market, an average of 60 persons per day. Youth are drawn to the table there— one 10-year-old boy spent 20 minutes with us, looking through our reference materials, asking good questions and telling us about his family's garden.



HAMPDEN PARK CO-OP PLANT SALE

928 Raymond Ave. S., St. Paul

Master Gardeners served as an educational resource for volunteers and shoppers during the Co-op's Native plant sale May 9-11, 2014, answering questions on everything from plant ID to how city-dwellers can grow plants in containers in the city.



Organization / Event

Persons Served

Downtown St Paul Farmers Market	1261
Roseville Farmers Market	79
St Thomas More Farmers Market	75
Hampden Park Co-op Plant Sale	67
City of Maplewood—various events	40
Head Start Parent Meeting	22

ANNUAL RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE



We successfully disbursed reasonably-priced vegetable, native, and perennial plants to county residents. We continue to add plants and more educational displays on popular topics—including on the importance of composting. 241 customers bought **all** of our plants.

BLOOMING ST. PAUL AWARDS

75% of Ramsey Master Gardeners volunteered to judge Ramsey County residential and business gardens. Important environmental awards included:

CRWD Clean Water - A project or practice that demonstrates storm water runoff reduction, pollution prevention or water reuse.

EggPlant Edible Garden - A site incorporating edible plants into the landscaping.

Garden Steward Volunteer - A volunteer group or individual enrolled in the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Garden Steward program.

Gardening Advocate - An individual or group who's promoting and supporting gardening efforts in Saint Paul in an exemplary fashion.

CITY OF MAPLEWOOD PROJECTS

Ramsey County Master Gardeners served at a variety of City events—including serving over **40** residents at a community garden open house and butterfly garden tour and providing a Master Gardener compost presentation and information table.



ASK A MASTER GARDENER PHONE LINE AND THE GREAT MINNESOTA GET TOGETHER

Ramsey County Master Gardeners answered **182** questions on our local hotline—including questions about trees, shrubs, composting, bugs, weeds, pests and lawns. Callers tell us they appreciate the availability of Master Gardener volunteers to answer questions as a free service to all residents. We're encouraging callers to learn more information about the organics recycling program in the county. At the Minnesota State Fair, Ramsey County Master Gardeners helped answer **15,000** home and garden questions! Ramsey County Master Gardener Pam Hartley co-chaired this state project.

CHIPOTLE EDIBLE GARDEN IN COMO PARK

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory 1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul

Master Gardeners volunteered at Como June-September weekends, serving **1612 people**. Families asked how to incorporate edible plants into their existing gardens and how to plant a similar garden at home—including black tomatoes, hop plants, hyacinth beans and aromatic herbs.

RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

2020 White Bear Ave, Maplewood

Master Gardeners processed **112** submissions of horticultural material for analysis at the University of Minnesota Extension “Barn” to assist homeowners in making **appropriate, environmentally-friendly decisions** to treat garden pests—and to identify unknown plants, trees and shrubs.



RAMSEY COUNTY FAIR

2020 White Bear Ave, Maplewood

Master Gardeners answered questions to **100** residents at the annual county fair. Each year a demonstration area is prepared and gardening questions are answered. This year's hot topic was straw bale gardening.

Teaching Ramsey County Youth Raingardens, Native Plants, Pollinators

PLANTED RAINGARDENS WITH YOUTH AT:

Redeeming Love Church *2425 White Bear Ave. N.*

Master Gardeners helped 56 L'Etoile du Nord and 28 Farnsworth fourth graders plant 700 native plants in 4 rain gardens, to infiltrate roof run-off before it pollutes Kohlman Lake. Student involvement in these Watershed District planting projects helps ground students' understanding of the importance of protecting water quality and applies their knowledge about the value of native plants. Later, a Master Gardener also helped 5 Girl Scouts and 2 Scout leaders finish the planting. Church members expressed praise for this project.



First Hmong Assembly of God *1630 Geranium Ave.*

2 Master Gardeners helped 10 church members plant 500 native plants and cultivars in a large church rain garden, to filter rainwater from their roof. One of the church volunteers turned out to be a Farnsworth student with whom we worked earlier this year on a prairie restoration project elsewhere!

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary *Commercial St. & 4th St. E., St. Paul*

A Master Gardener helped 25 L'Etoile du Nord School fourth graders remove garlic mustard in Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. St. Paul Parks and Recreation thanked us for tackling this high-need project for removing invasive species.

Children's Discovery Academy *433 E. Little Canada Rd., Little Canada*

Master Gardeners assisted 10 **kindergarteners** in transplanting seedlings for their school demonstration garden. Children at this age are so enthusiastic and energized by this hands-on activity. Master Gardeners also came back later to help 5 **kindergarteners** plant native plants in their butterfly garden—to improve habitat for butterflies and pollinators.

Farnsworth Aero Space Garden *1290 Arcade St., St. Paul*

Master Gardeners assisted **kindergarten, second, third and fourth-graders** transplant seedlings for rain garden and demonstration gardens around the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. This is a very fun and empowering activity for young children who will have the opportunity in the spring to plant some of these seedlings outside and see plant growing phases. We also conducted sessions on native seed stratifying and scarifying to K-4 youth.

Farnsworth Butterfly Garden

1290 Arcade Street, St. Paul

Master Gardeners assisted **third and fourth-grade students** in planting seedlings in their butterfly garden. This garden has been a demonstration garden for over five years and continues to be a study area for classes.

Farnsworth Seed Planting

1290 Arcade Street, St. Paul

Master Gardeners taught **52 kindergarteners** to prepare soil for planting and then worked with **60 second graders** to plant native seeds. The seedlings will be used in a variety of Watershed District projects. It's an inspirational spring activity and the kids enjoy making drawings of the plants.

Later, Master Gardeners worked with **60 third and fourth-graders** to plant additional Watershed District projects seeds, including school demonstration gardens and church rain gardens.



Battle Creek Elementary

60 S. Ruth

St., St. Paul

Master Gardeners taught **26 enthusiastic second graders** to transplant seedlings for a variety of watershed projects. Later, Master Gardeners taught the same second graders to plant native seeds for use in projects around the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. The kids, while working on this seeding project, created a WaterFest art display explaining the water cycle and the relationship between plants and water. Students were also given a session on seed stratifying and scarification to enhance their growth.

Mounds Park Academy

2051 Larpenneur Ave. E., Maplewood

Master Gardeners taught **67 high school students** to transplant seedlings they had grown under lights—many of which create the rain garden at First Hmong Assembly of God Church in St. Paul.

TAUGHT SEEDLING PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS AND WATER QUALITY AT:

Mounds Park Academy

Master Gardeners taught **47 high school students** to plant native seeds for projects on their campus and elsewhere. Students collected seed on their school grounds in the fall to start in the winter and plant in the spring.

St. Peter School

2620 N. Margaret St., North St. Paul

Master Gardeners taught **22 fourth-graders** to transplant seedlings for raingarden demonstration gardens and church rain gardens. This class created a marvelous WaterFest teaching activity, demonstrating their new knowledge about native plants. It was a matching display using paper clips, a battery and light bulbs that lit up when they made a correct match between a description of a plant they had studied and its name—a wonderful integration and application of knowledge gained during hands-on work.

St. Peter School Seed Planting

Master Gardeners taught **22 fourth-graders** to start seeds for multiple county raingardens—including Hope Lutheran Church.

L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School

1760 Ames Place, St. Paul

Master Gardeners taught **53 fourth and fifth graders** to transplant seedlings to help several churches complete rain gardens planted last year, including First Hmong Assembly of God and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Students also learned about stratifying and scarifying native seeds to enhance their growth.



L'Etoile du Nord Seed Planting

Master Gardeners assisted **56 fourth-graders** in planting native seeds. Students also submitted designs for the covers of seed packets that were given away at WaterFest, a public celebration held at Lake Phalen.

Keller Golf Course

2166 Maplewood Dr., Maplewood

Master Gardeners taught **66 students** from Mounds Park Academy to plant native plants in buffer areas—to improve habitat and slow erosion. The county golf course has really appreciated involving so many young people in this project over the past two years. Master Gardeners helped 78 Farnsworth fifth graders plant 936 native seedlings in buffer areas and woodlands—to improve habitat and stop erosion. Master Gardeners taught 29 Farnsworth fifth-graders and 22 St. Peter fourth-graders to plant 612 native seedlings on the course. These plantings will slow erosion and improve habitats in the Phalen chain of lakes.

Taught Youth Composting and Vegetable Gardening

ST. PAUL CITY SCHOOL

643 Virginia Street, St. Paul

Enthusiastic about planting and tending a garden, **15** middle school students initiated the start of a vegetable garden at their school. **2** of our Master Gardeners participated in providing the plant material to get them going. The donation was extremely appreciated by the adult supervisor and the students.



MIDWAY Y TEACHING/GIVING GARDEN

1761 University Ave W, St Paul

We helped plan and sustain **50** Garden-in-a-Box vegetable beds. Much of the produce that was grown in the boxes was sent home with the **125** Y day camp **youth**, staff, and members. The garden was supported by the Active Older Adult members at the Midway Y—who raised money to support the effort and helped plant the garden. Master Gardeners developed a **weekly gardening curriculum and healthy eating lessons** and facilitated activities for the children. Youth not only learned vegetable gardening skills, but were exposed to different, new vegetables. They also contributed to the community by donating excess produce to the local food shelf.

SUNNY HOLLOW MONTESSORI SCHOOL

636 S. Mississippi River Blvd, St. Paul

2 Master Gardeners conducted a vermicomposting demonstration for **13** children ages 3 to 6. The children learned how important worms are to composting and our eco-system!

CORNERSTONE MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1611 Ames Ave, St Paul

34 students and their teacher learned about growing vegetables in their currently under-utilized greenhouse located on the school grounds.

EDGEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

5100 Edgewood Drive, Moundsvie

Consulted with a teacher to plan a vegetable garden that will be used to collect data and conduct experiments as part of the math and science curriculum. The project will involve **180** students.

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY ACADEMY

433 East Little Canada Rd, Little Canada

Seed stratification and scarification to grow native plant seedlings amazed **10** students at this school.

GREAT RIVER SCHOOL

1326 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul

With the help of a teacher, 7 sessions of hands on material related to gardening were taught to **12** students from grades 6th to 8th. Topics included composting (built a bin!), crop rotation, companion planting, garden planning, permaculture, garlic planting and designing a hoop house.

TAMARACK NATURE CENTER

5287 Otter Lake Rd, White Bear Township

A family-oriented local harvesting event hosted by the nature center had Master Gardeners answering vegetable gardening questions to **30** adults and **26** children. In a beautiful setting, the curiosity of toddlers and preschoolers were satisfied as they received answers to their questions and tasted vegetables that were harvested.



Tamarack Nature Center, Maplewood, Minnesota

Cultivate Healthy Choices and Economic Opportunities with Traditionally Underserved Residents

GARDEN ADVENTURE WORKSHOP

739 Selby Ave., St. Paul

Master Gardeners sponsored this workshop for youth at Morning Star Baptist Church. Participants rotated through tables every 10 minutes. Table topics:

- The Land of Clean Water
- The World of Edibles
- A Dream Garden of Your Own
- The Underworld of Worms and Compost

URBAN FARM AND GARDEN ALLIANCE

6 Ramsey Master Gardeners participate in the Urban Farm and Garden Alliance, a group of 7 different gardens and gardeners in St Paul's Frogtown/Aurora St. Anthony neighborhoods. The Alliance grows food and sponsors educational and social activities, in collaboration with neighbors and congregations, at the following locations:

- ASA Peace Sanctuary Garden
- Victoria Community Garden
- Frogtown Greenhouse Garden
- Pilgrim Baptist Church Garden
- Morning Star Baptist Church
- Lexington Commons Garden
- Backyard Box Gardeners



URBAN FARM AND GARDEN ALLIANCE MEETING

SEED SAVING WORKSHOPS

The Urban Farm and Garden Alliance with The Master Gardeners hosted 5 workshops this season, on topics that are most relevant to the participants.



Join us for a class sponsored by the URBAN FARM AND GARDEN ALLIANCE:

PRESERVING THE HARVEST

Please join us for this class on five methods for preserving your garden produce

Seed Saving



MASTER GARDENERS COLLABORATE WITH OTHER EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND RAMSEY COUNTY

1. Ramsey County Master Gardeners contributed tomato and pepper plants to the on-site vegetable garden at the Ramsey County Extension Barn. The produce was used in U of M Extension's "Cooking Matters" program, which teaches low-income participants to cook healthy meals for their families. Produce was sent home with each family at every class. The garden produced over **200 pounds of tomatoes and peppers** and over **1,000 pounds of total produce**. Excess produce was contributed to Second Harvest Heartland food bank.



Our collaboration with **Cooking Matters** in maintaining this vegetable garden--and the on-site Rain Garden, was a collaboration with Ramsey County Property Manager, Bruce Christofferson and his crew.

2. Master Gardener Jeanne St. Clair conducted a training for the **University of Minnesota Extension Health and Nutrition Program** on container gardening. The nutrition educators use this information to teach participants in their SNAP and EFNEP-funded programming to use their EBT card to purchase plants and seeds, then plant them in containers to **grow and stretch their food dollars**. This practice increases accessibility to healthy food and is easy to implement at home.
3. Master Gardener Mary Parenteau, co-coordinator of our plant sale, planted stella de oro lily bulbs at the **Ramsey County Care Center** as a thank-you for advertising our sale on their outside public board. Care center staff helped and patients enjoyed watching and asking questions about the activity.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECTS

Including: 585 Cook Ave., 605 Whitall Ave., 522 Thomas Ave.

15 Master Gardeners taught landscape design and planting at 6 Habitat for Humanity homes, working with families to implement their preferences and teaching them and local volunteers.

EARLY HEAD START PARENT MEETING

586 Fuller Ave., St. Paul

Master Gardeners engaged **18** children and **4** parents in hands-on activities, planting bean seeds and “Mr. Grassheads” in earth-friendly cups.

ST PAUL PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS

Ramsey Master Gardeners, through a partnership with Ramsey County Public Health, provided garden plans and advice to several St Paul Public Housing locations.

DIVERSITY/INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Our Committee continues to engage residents from all demographics in Ramsey County:

Diversity/Inclusion Committee Activities	# of Sessions	# Children/Adults per Session
Project for Pride in Living-Fort Road Flats	4	12-16
Project for Pride in Living-Selby Dale	4	11-16
Midway YMCA		136
Seeds—Rondo Library		45
Aurora St. Anthony Peace Garden		13-28
Urban Farm & Garden Alliance	4	63
Maxfield School Garden	8	12
Dream of Wild Health Farm	12	58



DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

18TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PEACE CELEBRATION

Ober Community Center, 376 Western Ave., St. Paul.

The free, one-day June 20 event attracted residents of St Paul's Summit-University and Aurora-St. Anthony neighborhoods. The event focused on **healthy living, social responsibility, unity, and community-building**. Master Gardeners hosted an *Ask a Question* booth and gave away vegetable plants. An event organizer praised the Master Gardeners:



I think you are becoming a healthy, expected tradition at the Peace Celebration...with the opportunity to receive plants from Ramsey County Master Gardeners and ask the MG's questions.... Your presence is having an on-going positive greening 'ripple effect' in the Rondo and Frogtown Communities. Good job!

DREAM OF WILD HEALTH FARM

16085 Jeffrey Ave. Hugo, MN

Master Gardeners taught **12 class sessions**, throughout the summer, to Native American youth on the **Dream of Wild Health Farm**. Youth groups included Cora's Kids and Garden Warriors, and learned composting, seed saving, entomology, and other vegetable farming topics.

From the Dream of Wild Health farm Website:

Garden Warriors

Far from the temptations of urban life, our Garden Warriors Youth Apprenticeship program provides a safe place for Native teens to learn about their culture, traditional farming, and health, while developing leadership and job skills. **A Master Gardener from the University of Minnesota Extension program teaches a weekly lesson on garden fundamentals.**



CHILDREN'S GARDEN PROGRAM

Peace Garden, 851 Aurora Ave, St Paul

Master Gardeners host a **weekly, summer-long classes** at this Peace Garden. Each class—from 3:30-5pm—features communal gardening time, a garden science lesson, and a nutritious garden-related snack. Children of all ages draw, plant, weed, taste, act, explore and have fun with learning about plants and bugs.



One afternoon, **13 children and 4 adults** participated planting a small patch of wheat for demonstration and harvesting raspberries, peas and cucumbers. After talking about whole grains, the group mixed a whole grain no-knead bread. Each gardener brought home a mini pan with bread dough to rise and bake at home. We enjoyed tasting some bread with honey for a healthy snack.



KICKSTARTER CAMPAIGN RAISED FUNDS FOR CHILDREN'S GARDEN TOOL SHED

Thank you to faculty and students from the University Of Minnesota School of Landscape Architecture, who helped us build a tool shed after a Kickstarter fund-raising campaign!

