

# Healthy Eating

- **Goal 2:** Increase access to fresh and healthy foods for all.
  - **Objective 2.2:** Expand community and school garden opportunities targeting high-need geographic areas.

Priority Issue: Healthy Eating					
Goal 2		Increase access to fresh and healthy foods for all. *			
Objective 2.2		Expand community and school garden opportunities targeting high-need geographic areas.			
Key Actions		Timeline	Responsible Partners	Dedicated Resources	Accomplishments
2.2.A	Promote zoning policy changes to allow for more community gardens.	01/2019 - 06/2019	FFC, Urban Agriculture Working Group (UAWG), FFC, AWG, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), VCE, George Mason University (GMU)	VFHY Grant \$60,000 07/2018 – 07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed on proposed changes to Zoning Ordinance.</li> <li>Spoke at Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors' Public Hearings to express Food Council support.</li> <li>Supported the Zoning Ordinance amendment adopted by the County to change policy to allow for front yard edible gardens and more community gardens.</li> <li>Monitored success of changes and conducted informal interviews with local farmers and growers to determine next steps in policy advocacy.</li> </ul>
2.2.B	Map existing gardens and identify opportunities for expansion.	01/2019 - 06/2020	FFC, UAWG, FCPS, FFO	VFHY Grant \$60,000 07/2018 - 07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified, verified, and documented all existing community gardens.</li> <li>Worked with County Geographic Information System (GIS) to make an interactive map.</li> </ul>
2.2.C	Develop targeted and replicable approaches for community engagement in sustainable garden development.	01/2019 - 12/2021	FFC, UAWG, VCE, SWCD, NCS, FCIA	VFHY Grant \$60,000 07/2018 - 07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned and implemented seven educational gardening workshops with 183 attendees (2019).</li> <li>Planned and implemented four educational gardening workshops with 336 attendees. One workshop was in-person and three were virtual (2020).</li> <li>Produced three videos that provide specific guidance on steps to start a community garden and posted them on the FFC website.</li> <li>Planned and implemented eight educational gardening workshops (six virtual and 2 in person) with 372 attendees (2021).</li> <li>Continued to advise local park authority on how to create a new model of community garden that would better serve a food-insecure neighborhood.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(more next page)</p>

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2.2.D	Explore sustainable garden management models that enable school garden programming maintenance, and support.	09/2020 – 06/2022	FFC UAWG, VCE, FCPS, FNS, Get2Green, Arcadia	None identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchased and donated 130 packs of seeds, including cover crops, to 16 school gardens.</li> <li>Partnered with four FCPS schools with objective to turn learning gardens to production gardens. Assistance included providing seeds, educational materials about cover crops and providing continued gardening guidance. Grant writing assistance was provided to promote self-sustenance on needed resources.</li> <li>Partnered with VCE to assign master gardeners to advise faculty, provide workshops and guide staff and families with these school gardens.</li> <li>Arcadia hosted two teacher workshops on school garden topics that included 35 participants.</li> <li>FCPS Get2Green and FNS distributed 14,972 Grow at Home gardening kits with green bean seeds, soil, and educational booklet to broaden the students understanding of plants and healthy eating. Eliminated unhealthy food from weekend bag programs and school pantries.</li> <li>In 2022, purchased and donated 151 packs of seeds, including cover crops to 25 public schools (17 elementary, 4 middle, and 4 high schools).</li> <li>In 2022, continued partnerships with FCPS, providing seeds, educational materials, assistance in finding master gardeners/mentors to provide dedicated school support.</li> </ul>