

Educational Outreach

For this final report, I wanted to describe in a bit more detail the educational impact that this project has had on the community.

1. Training, ag. profession:
 - Farm visit by Earthdance Organic Farm interns + online class structure
 - Farm visit by Washington University students studying community-based agricultural organizing
 - Rotations by three Logan University dietetics interns who worked at the farms, in the kitchen, and in the grocery to learn about a sustainable integrated food system.
 - The Ujima Café internship program incorporated MARSH into their educational series of farm, kitchen, and grocery activities.
2. Community – all produce was made available to the community on a sliding scale through a weekly outdoor market and the MARSH Grocery Cooperative storefront. These outlets provided extensive opportunities for conversation around food production, gardening methodology and processes, cooking, and agricultural systems. These experiences were particularly profound because the people managing the market and grocery were also, in many cases, the same worker owners who had grown the food, prepared it for sale, and made value-added products in the kitchen.
3. Co-op members and other interested persons receive a (mostly) weekly online newsletter from the Co-op. At last count, there were 400 recipients on the mailing list. Throughout the growing season, this provided a regular outlet for photos and updates about the gardens, related issues, and the available produce.
4. MARSH has active social media accounts with over 900 followers on Facebook and 1700 on Instagram. These have been potent avenues for sharing information, events, and volunteer opportunities related to the MARSH urban agriculture project.
5. Our team made a number of visits to other farms for work days and education. Team members visited with our project partner, Mitch Pearson, on three occasions, and members of our team also spent at least one day at Rustic Roots Sanctuary, A Red Circle, and New Roots Urban Farm.
6. Some intended gatherings and volunteer days were suspended due to COVID.