



January 2020

The **WeGrow Garden** is an urban garden in the heart of Bellingham comprised of 32 raised beds, fruit trees, composting systems, and native and perennial plantings that support pollinators and enhance green space in our urban core. Through six years of successful collaboration between the WSU Whatcom County Extension, Northwest Youth Services, and over a dozen non-profit and business partners WeGrow is dedicated to increasing food security and providing space for community education, youth programs, vocational training and public engagement. Whatcom County Agriculture is rich in tradition and the WeGrow garden creates connections with farmers large and small by training youth and local residents to understand and value the crops that sustain them.

WeGrow provides low-barrier vocational training to at-risk and homeless youth who partner with Master Gardeners to plant, grow, harvest and distribute produce to those in need. As a Bellingham Food Bank Victory Garden we donate over 500 pounds of produce each season. The garden also serves as an education space for school groups, non-profit youth agencies, and the public. Showcasing how food is grown and managed is critical to a resilient community.

As a vibrant living lab for horticultural learning we seek to build on our successes by formalizing and expanding programming in the following five core service areas:

2021 PROGRAMMING GOALS

Food Security –

- Continue as a Food Bank Victory Garden – donate 300 pounds of fresh produce
- Pilot a weekly Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for 10 subscribers
- Conduct Food Preservation workshops,

Youth Vocational Training –

- Provide two six-week vocational programs focusing on employment skills, horticultural and cooking for youth ages 16-24
- Conduct three four-week service internships for youth ages 12-16
- Engaging eight WSU Master Gardener Youth Mentors, trained in trauma-informed care and resilience enhancement practices

Youth Education Programming –

- Partner with nearby identified schools with hands-on horticultural training designed enhance science and nutrition curricula
- Provide horticultural workshops for non-profit youth agencies (e.g. YMCA, 4-H, Scouts)

Community Education –

- Home Horticulture public workshops conducted by WSU Extension & Master Gardeners
- Garden/Conservation workshops conducted by partner businesses/agencies (e.g. upcycling, solar energy, etc)

Community Engagement –

- Public rental space
- Plant sales, sustainable living workshops, for community events

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: JOIN US!! to learn more please contact a team member

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WeGrow Garden is located at 1815 Ellis Street Bellingham, WA
special thanks to Bellingham Parks and Recreation and the Greenways Program for providing the space.



Whatcom County
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EXTENSION