



JACKSON HOLE RESIDENTS DIG IN AT MAY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Situation

Most land in and around the Jackson area is public, causing a housing crisis and lack of houses and apartments with yards. This has affected the number of individuals able to plant gardens on their own. Jackson was given land for the Blair Community Garden many years ago near Jackson Hole Middle School and across the street from the Blair Apartments. The Blair Garden has about 41 full-size garden plots planted with produce and flowers, with a few smaller educational plots. For many years, Teton County Parks and Recreation and the extension office have been working to provide the community with another garden.

The May Park Community Garden, developed in the fall of 2014, is funded by Teton County Parks and Recreation, Teton County UW Extension, and a grant from the Teton Conservation District. Teton County broke ground in early May for excavation; water lines began to be placed; and fence post holes were dug. The first build day was May 30 with 10 Teton County Parks and Recreation employees, 30 volunteers, and Jordan McCoy, the extension nutrition and food safety educator. Seventy-two garden plots have been constructed, including raised

garden beds for senior or disabled gardeners. The fee to help maintain the infrastructure of the community garden is \$55 per plot with a \$10 senior discount.

By mid-June, all gardeners had planted their garden plots. Many planted perennials for next year and added some covering to their gardens in preparation for winter.

Impact

Gardeners were asked in September about the effects having access to the community garden had on their lives. Seventy percent stated this was the first time they were able to have a garden. Those who had previously gardened used planters in driveways, church gardens, and porch containers.

When asked how the garden affected them nutritionally, almost 72 percent said their intake of fresh vegetables and herbs increased. Also, 74 percent stated they used more fresh garden goods while cooking. Other impacts were decreased intake of processed foods and the impact on daily food intake in general. Almost 95 percent stated they were able to act on the garden-to-table concept within their homes or families.



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**May Park
Community Garden**
<http://bit.ly/MayPark>

