

WELLINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

John Siena, Chair

Wellington Garden Club (WGC) was approached by the Young Professionals of Wellington (YPoW) to participate in a Community Garden that they started but needed help to sustain. Our Board of Directors asked for a volunteer to lead the effort late last year and I volunteered to chair the program. I was very quickly joined by Deb Russel and Lisa Ferrano, and shortly thereafter by Sandy Sklar, Ann Hlasnicek, Jim Thompson, Anne Finch, Maria Wolfe and Kathy Siena. Following bullet points are key aspects of the Community Garden:

- The YPoW started the Community Garden on Village of Wellington property at the Boys and Girls Club on Wellington Trace. Participants are YPoW, WGC, The Village of Wellington, and several local for-profit businesses like Growums and H&J Contracting.
- There are four 12 X 24 foot raised beds in the garden. They needed attention when we arrived.
- We planted peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, kale, eggplant, sweet potatoes, boniato, beans, okra, herbs, watermelon, sunflowers, peanuts, gourds, and other edibles including a papaya tree that is starting to bear fruit. This was done with the children of the Boys & Girls Club and help from other participants. (See photos)
- We had a "harvest event" on April 22 (Earth Day) which was attended by members of the community, several Village of Wellington Council members, the vice mayor of Royal Palm, directors of the Boys and Girls Club, the YPoW, our committee, and others. It was a major success! Our club received a lot of publicity and recognition with articles in Town Crier, Wellington Magazine, Palm Beach Post, and other county and state publications.
- There have been regular harvests with the produce distributed to all who participated in the work of the garden.
- During the heat of the summer we worked early in the garden and the committee team organized indoor lessons for the kids on building bug boxes and planting seeds in glove. Photos will be in the Town Crier soon. (See photo)
- The YPoW are funding the Community Garden with \$1500.00; our club appropriated a budget of \$300.00 for it.
- The Village of Wellington provided a beautiful white PVC fence around the garden (see photo).
- We are planning another harvest event in the beginning of November.
- The Young Professionals of Wellington are planning a major fund-raising food event in February featuring produce from the garden. The details and organization are to be announced by the YPoW.

Once again, our club has made and continues to make a major contribution to the Village of Wellington community. I am proud to be in this club and am honored to work with such a competent and dedicated committee. Go Green!

John C. Siena

August 12, 2017

Community Garden Chair



Harvesting at Community Garden with WGC member, Maria Wolfe



Sandy Sklar and Ann Hlasnicek weeding with kids.



Sandy Sklar, Ann Finch, Jim Thompson, Lisa Ferrano, John Siena



Building bug boxes at the Community Garden