

The Community Garden at the Boys and Girls Club of Wellington

The Community Garden at the Boys & Girls Club of Wellington was a long-time dream of a leader and member of the Young Professionals of Wellington (YPoW). This dream finally came to fruition in the fall of 2016 and four large raised beds were built on the grounds of the Boys & Girls Club. Wellington Garden Club (WGC) was approached to provide expertise and management of the garden. A major objective was to introduce and educate the community in vegetable gardening. This immediately focused on the kids attending the Boys & Girls Club. Enthusiastic cooperation was supplied by the Director of the Boys & Girls Club...we were off like a rocket. The Boys & Girls Club started a "Garden Club" that WGC volunteers have mentored since the beginning of the garden. A variety of vegetables and herbs have been planted, cared for, and harvested by the kids and the community under the guidance of the volunteers from WGC. One of the large garden beds was later converted into a native plant butterfly garden to demonstrate the importance of pollinators for healthy organic gardens. The Community Garden received awards from the National Garden Club Inc. for Community and Organic Gardening. The Young Professionals of Wellington were given recognition from Florida Children First for their support in the community garden.

The kids participated in two Wellington Garden Club Flower shows garnering first place awards. The dream continues and is supported by the Young Professionals of Wellington, Wellington Garden Club, the Village of Wellington, the Neil S. Hirsch Boys & Girls Club of Wellington, and other local businesses. Without the hard work and dedication of our WGC volunteers and the financial support from both the YPoW and WGC, this project could not exist, but we have the support, so the dream continues to grow and bear vegetable and educational fruit. Volunteers are always welcome to come to the garden and share their talents and knowledge with the participants.

John & Kathy Siena

Community Garden Chairs