

# The Shark Garden: A Critical Community Asset

*Food Access • Education • Community Health • Environmental Stewardship*

## **Recent Impact (2021–2025) – By the Numbers**

- ~7,000 pounds of organic and culturally relevant produce donated to local food banks
- 16,500+ volunteer hours contributed valued at over \$660,000
- 145+ free classes & community events attracted visitors from 22 zip codes
- 600+ people served annually through free classes and workshops
- 2,000+ annual event participants in community events hosted in the garden
- 76 community affordable garden p-patch plots (~90% BIPOC families)
- 37+ active partners, including nonprofits, businesses, chefs, experts, and schools
- 1.6-acre site with food production, community plots, apiary, outdoor classroom, and 18 educational gardens

## **Food Access & Community Health**

- ½-acre volunteer-run food bank garden producing organic and culturally relevant crops
- Harvest supports the White Center Food Bank serving 37,000+ families (107,000+ people)
- Hundreds of pounds of additional produce distributed onsite annually, directly to the community

## **Education, Equity & Community Impact**

- 76 students received either free education or paid education and workforce training opportunities.
- Free community education provided in gardening, cooking, environmental science, and art
- 18 educational display gardens with interpretive signs and free curriculum on website
- 400+ guided educational garden tours for visitors and up to 40,000 people reached monthly online
- ~90% of p-patch participants are families of color, including immigrant and refugee households
- 90%+ of volunteers and class attendees are women
- High quality instructors, from authors and professors to Michelin star level chefs provided free classes

## **Environmental Stewardship & Resilience**

- 60+ pollinator insect species and 58+ bird species documented, 50+ native plant species with Indigenous knowledge signage, 110+ berry varieties, 50+ fruit varieties, 60+ herbs and medicinal plants
- Research site for the Washington Bee Atlas Project documenting native pollinators in the state
- 5,000W off-grid solar system supporting community resilience with emergency power

## **Community Investment**

- \$1M+ invested in infrastructure, programs, and development in the last decade

- Built through public funding, partnerships, and volunteer labor
- Supported by national, state, county, city, and Port agencies shows trust for our programs

### **Why This Matters**

- High-impact public education hub delivering food access, education, therapeutic green space, local biodiversity, inclusive community gathering space, and community health benefits, serving thousands of people annually
- Located in an underserved neighborhood, rated 10 out of 10 on the Environmental Health Disparities Map (WADOH), providing much needed access to the programs and greenspace we offer
- Central location within the school district provides great opportunities for surrounding students and schools