

## RELEVANCE

The Lubbock Master Gardener Association (LMGA) Demonstration Garden, adult educational programming, adds additional deliveries and outreach in the areas of adult and public Horticulture education. Planned programs focus on the identified and emerging needs outside of the in-depth educational efforts in Lubbock County. The LMGA Demonstration Garden is used as an outdoor learning classroom to host public gardening programs. This style of education gets participants out of chairs and on their feet, hands in the dirt, and is easier for them to replicate in their own home settings. The high prevalence of obesity in Texas is cause for concern because it is linked to negative health consequences for humans. For example, vegetable exposure plus hands on gardening has been shown to improve consumption of fruits and vegetables. Adding more frequent and more vigorous physical activities during your day has been shown to improve fitness and weight. Water conservation is also a major concern in Lubbock County. Unique gardening techniques that are proven to save water have been instituted and demonstrated throughout the garden.



## RESPONSE

The process of garden planning, understanding storm water runoff, design, financial management, resource acquisition, construction, project management, and installation all provide unique educational opportunities for the LMGA demonstration garden committee to undertake. LMGA hosts public educational programs every 3rd Saturday of the month, community events throughout the growing season, are available for on site questions daily, and offer the Demonstration Garden as a stop on the Hub City Garden Tour annually. To participate in the LMGA demonstration garden committee, individuals must (1) be a LMGA member in good standing and (2) attend demonstration garden committee meetings.

## VALUE STATEMENT

### Texas Master Gardener

The Texas Master Gardener Program is an educational volunteer organization which is part of Texas A&M University's AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener Programs are designed to increase the availability of horticultural information and extend horticultural projects throughout the community. The programs provide invaluable training and educational opportunities. Persons who become Master Gardeners contribute time as volunteers, working through their AgriLife Extension office to provide horticultural-related information in various ways to their communities.

**\$35,500**

IN GRANT FUNDING  
FOR THE LMGA  
DEMONSTRATION  
GARDEN





## RESPONSE cont'd.

### Partnerships & Collaborators

- The Lubbock Memorial Arboretum provided the land for this project.
- The City of Lubbock provided grant funding and countless labor hours during construction.
- The High Plains Water District provided grant funding for this project.
- The LMGA worked tirelessly volunteering to bring this project to completion.
- Jason Hodges, ASLA drafted a unique and creative design to neutralize the storm water runoff issues from University Avenue.



"I have never been more proud while giving back to my community"

## Evaluation Strategy

This project was proposed in December of 2022, phase one the "Raised Bed Gardens" was completed in August of 2023, and phase three "Storm Water Runoff Project" was completed in August 2024. A pre-post evaluation was administered on storm water management through gardening at the conclusion of each session. A total of 15 of 19 graduates returned the evaluation instrument for a response rate of 75%.

## RESULTS

Extension Agent Reid, Jason Hodges, and LMGA volunteers taught storm water management, water conservative landscapes, erosion control, and native plants sessions. \$35,500 and additional in-kind donations were secured from community supporters. Pre- and post-surveys indicate participants had a statistically different positive change as a result in the following areas:

### Knowledge Gained

- 98% fully understand plant needs
- 83% understand water movement techniques
- 97% can utilize landscape design principles
- 44% understand ADA regulations for public spaces

### Perceived Changes

- 63% increase in consumption of water once a day
- 100% learned a new water movement technique
- 100% have a new respect for public spaces

## Summary

The value of the LMGA demonstration garden program in Lubbock County is empowering adults with the knowledge and support for large-scale project management and new gardening techniques used for public educational purposes. It also provides an example for replication in other public spaces.

## Future Programming

The LMGA demonstration garden program will continue to provide an outdoor living classroom for horticultural programs. Expansion areas include new construction phases as finances allow.



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