



UBCO GARDENING CLUB

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Photo credit: UBCO Facilities Management

DEPARTMENT

Facilities Management,
UBC Campus Operations
and Risk Management
Services

CAMPUS

UBC Okanagan

FUNDING YEAR

2016 & 2017

ABOUT HWIP

The Healthy Workplace Initiatives Program (HWIP) is an annual fund available to UBC departments and units to support grassroots activities that promote wellbeing in the workplace. The program provides start-up funds and support for health-related, sustainable initiatives.

www.hr.ubc.ca/hwip

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

With their first HWIP grant in 2016, the UBCO Gardening Club was launched. They hosted a series of “Lunch and Learn” workshops led by faculty and community experts about native plant and animal life, installed a pollinator garden, and hosted nature walks around campus. Inspired by a workshop on nectar trails, the Gardening Club decided to install a nectar trail on campus in 2017. With a second, smaller HWIP grant, club members designed, planted, and maintained 12 pollinator gardens along a 1 kilometer trail on the UBCO campus.

The success of these initiatives led to the decision to continue funding the Gardening Club through operational funds. The club chooses a new theme each year based on ideas and interests of its members. Each summer, they offer educational, building, planting, and social activities that get people outside and into the campus landscape. In 2018, they partnered with Lee Valley Tools, a local hardware company, to build and install pollinator hotels on campus and in 2019, the nectar trail built in 2017 was enhanced.

“Our most valuable resource for this initiative is undoubtedly our knowledgeable campus partners, including faculty and community experts who have facilitated workshops, and our landscape maintenance contractors who have lent their assistance and expertise to our planting activities.”

KEY TO SUCCESS

Strong partnerships with campus and community partners have been key to successfully launching and maintaining the Gardening Club at UBCO.

The Gardening Club engaged faculty and community experts to facilitate workshops (see [examples here!](#)). They also secured matching funds and donations from a local hardware store. A donated shed created a central “homebase” for the club and donated tools continue to be used for new projects.

SUSTAINABILITY

Over the years, the Gardening Club has become something that its members expect and look forward to each year.

Each winter, members start to email asking when the Gardening Club will start and sharing ideas for themes and activities for the spring.



Photo credit: UBCO Facilities Management

VALUABLE OUTCOMES

Through educational workshops, planting activities, and social events ([see examples here!](#)), Garden Club participants are able to take mental, physical, and social breaks from their work.

They have also developed awareness of pollinating species and native flora on campus and developed a sense of ownership and contribution by building features that support these species and can be enjoyed by everyone on the UBCO campus.

UBC WELLBEING
STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK
PRIORITY AREAS

Built & Natural
Environments

Collaborative
Leadership

Social Connection

Physical Activity

wellbeing.ubc.ca/framework

ADVICE FOR FUTURE HWIP GRANTEES

1

Look for opportunities for synergies with institutional or departmental goals

“Our success [sustaining this initiative] came from linking it into other campus initiatives... The nectar trail supports indigenization, sustainability, and design guidelines. It probably checked about six different boxes. We can link other activities the Gardening Club has done in a similar way [to campus or departmental goals or initiatives].”

2

It can take some time to build momentum. Be persistent and consistent!

“After the second year, we had kind of established ourselves, we had a core group, and we were getting emails in the late winter going, “Hey, is the Gardening Club happening again?” It’s almost like we didn’t have a choice to not continue [at that point].”