

Report on Arroyo Crossing Community Garden MoCom Community Gardens Project

Prepared by Rebecca Mann, February 12, 2024

Project Overview

The community garden at the Arroyo Crossing housing development has been a large undertaking and is still in progress as of February 2024, but we have seen quite a bit of progress at this location thanks to the support of many community partners by way of funding and contributions to garden planning and site development. The Grand Conservation District contributed \$2,988 (a portion of \$4,400 total split between this garden and the WabiSabi community garden), and 100 Women Who Care contributed \$2,450. Moonflower Community Co-Op has also recently supported the project through both its Seeds to Start grant (\$1,000) and the Round Up at the Register program (amount to be determined).

The Moab Area Community Land Trust (MACLT) has also been integral to the development of the community garden throughout. They have aided in project design, prepared the site foundation by hiring a contractor to de-compact and amend the garden soil, paid for installation of an irrigation stub to the garden as well as installation of perennial landscaping surrounding the future garden. In 2023, MACLT brought on a community engagement intern who has also been instrumental in furthering the development of the garden space. Moab Community (MoCom) Gardens, a project of the Resiliency Hub through December 2023, and a project of the Youth Garden Project as of January 2024, has been orchestrating the construction and installation of the garden throughout, through its program managers and the Garden Steward, Alex de Moor, who has been a huge help on garden development since 2022.

The Arroyo Crossing garden began with conversations between Becky Mann (MoCom Gardens) and Audrey Graham (MACLT) as early as winter 2018, but the idea was formally adopted in summer 2020, when a space for a garden became available within the concept plan for the MACLT housing area. The contracted earthwork and irrigation stub-out took place fall 2020, and the non-profits (MoCom, MACLT) began hashing out the garden layout and an MOU during 2021. The development of the garden space picked up speed from 2022-2023 following funding received from the Grand Conservation District and 100 Women Who Care. These funds allowed for the purchase of cover crop seed, fencing materials, mulch, and irrigation materials, as well as a few gardening hand tools. In spring 2023, cold-hardy cover crop seed was planted to improve the quality of the very sandy native desert soil. The intention was to work in this first round of cover crop biomass in summer 2023 and plant a second crop to grow out over the late summer into fall. However, the soil was so rocky that even after hand-picking out many cobbles, it still broke the tines on the heavy-duty hand tiller used to work the soil. After several tries, the group was able to identify a local farmer willing to till the soil with his tractor - but he admitted that he wouldn't be willing to return until even more rocks were removed from the garden area. So in 2023, aside from prepping the irrigation system for the full garden (installing a water meter and valve), the majority of our volunteer time was spent pulling rocks from the soil. Although there will always be more rocks, the group has made a huge dent and the soil should be workable by tractor in 2024.

The plan for the upcoming 2024 season is to complete the full construction of the community garden. This includes finalizing purchases of fence materials and installing the fence, laying out the irrigation tubing for the garden beds, and continuing to cover crop the garden beds that are not used for growing food for the coming season. MoCom Gardens and MACLT will be working together to accomplish these goals, at which point the space will be fully ready for incoming community gardeners! A huge Thank You to ALL who have supported this effort!

Summary of Expenditures

Of the total \$5,438 received for this project, \$3,749 has been spent; the details are shown in Table 1. The remaining \$1,689 will be transferred from the MoCom Gardens account (under the Resiliency Hub) to MACLT in February 2024. This money, plus additional funds from Moonflower (\$1,000 from a Seeds to Start Grant and a to-be-determined amount from the Roundup At the Register Program), will be used to complete purchasing needs for the 8' tall deer fence around the garden and few remaining irrigation supplies (total estimate for these are \$3,302.27, as shown in Table 2). Any other leftover funds will go towards gardener tools, supplies to develop a compost system, or additional edible landscaping plants.

Table 1. Grant money received and allocated spending records

Grants and Donations Received			
	GCD Grant	100 Women Who Care Grant	Total
Award Date	7/18/2022	5/10/2023	
Amount Awarded	\$ 2,988	\$ 2,450	\$ 5,438

Allocation of Funds Spent							
	Proposed	Actual	Proposed	Actual	Total	Total	
					Proposed	Spent	
Arroyo Crossing	Fencing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,450	\$ 961	\$ 2,450	\$ 961
	Irrigation	\$ 1,244	\$ 1,905	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,244	\$ 1,905
	Mulch/Soil	\$ -	\$ 179	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 179
	Cover Cropping	\$ 262	\$ 427	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262	\$ 427
	Hardware/Tools	\$ 494	\$ 276	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 494	\$ 276
	Undefined	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,788	\$ 2,450	\$ 961	\$ 4,450	\$ 3,749	

Net Funds remaining			
	GCD Grant	100 Women Who Care Grant	Total
Funds Remaining	\$ 200	\$ 1,489	\$ 1,689

Table 2. Cost estimate of remaining critical purchases.

Fencing Supplies							
Materials	Qty needed	Qty on hand	Qty to purchase	Sale Unit	# Sale Units Needed	\$/unit	Total materials estimate
T-posts 10'	16 posts	4 posts	12 posts	1 post	12	\$12.49	\$149.88
game fence	432 ft	0 ft	432 ft	330 ft	2	\$597.19	\$1,194.38
fencing staples	2 boxes	0 boxes	2 boxes	8 lb box	2	\$24.59	\$49.18
gate 12'	1 gate	0 gates	1 gate	1 gate	1	\$191.53	\$191.53
gate 4'	2 gates	0 gates	2 gates	1 gate	2	\$103.85	\$207.70
Fencing Contract Labor							Total contract estimate
Digging 19 4' deep, 15" diameter holes for primary fence support posts.							\$1,450.00
Irrigation Supplies							
Materials	Qty needed	Qty on hand	Qty to purchase	Sale Unit	# Sale Units Needed	\$/unit	Total materials estimate
½" rings	328 clamps	145 clamps	183 clamps	10 clamps	19	\$2.80	\$53.20
¾" rings	20 clamps	0 clamps	20 clamps	10 clamps	2	\$3.20	\$6.40
GRANT TOTAL ESTIMATE							\$3,302.27

Garden Development Timeline – Major Milestones

Nov. 2018	MoCom Gardens and MACLT begin discussing a community garden at Arroyo Crossing
May 2020	Community garden plan officially adopted by MACLT and MoCom Gardens
March 2021	MoCom Garden Steward identified for the Arroyo Crossing Garden (Alex de Moor)
March 2022	Work on MOU accomplished
July 2022	Grand Conservation District Grant and Easy Bee Farm donation received
August 2022	Refinement of MOU
Feb. 2023	Broke tines on our borrowed heavy-duty hand tiller due to rocky soil during soil prep
March 2023	Purchased cover crop seeds, irrigation materials, mulch. Loosed soil using a grader attachment on a mini tractor Seeded cover crops
April 2023	Purchased irrigation material, tools Installed irrigation meter, valve
May 2023	Grant received from 100 Women Who Care
July 2023	Used full tractor with tiller attachment to till initial seeded cover crops Seeded second cover crop
Summer 2023	De-rocking soil by hand
Sept. 2023	MACLT community engagement Americorps Vista (Johanna Blanco) starts collaborating on garden
Nov. 2023	Johanna works with high school students to make a garden bulletin board from reclaimed wood
Nov. 2023	Purchased 12' wooden fence posts
Dec. 2023	Procured contract estimates for post hole digging, selected cheapest contractor
Jan. 2024	Transfer of MoCom Gardens project from Resiliency Hub to Youth Garden Project MACLT board approved the fence build plan

2022-2023 Garden Photos and Diagrams

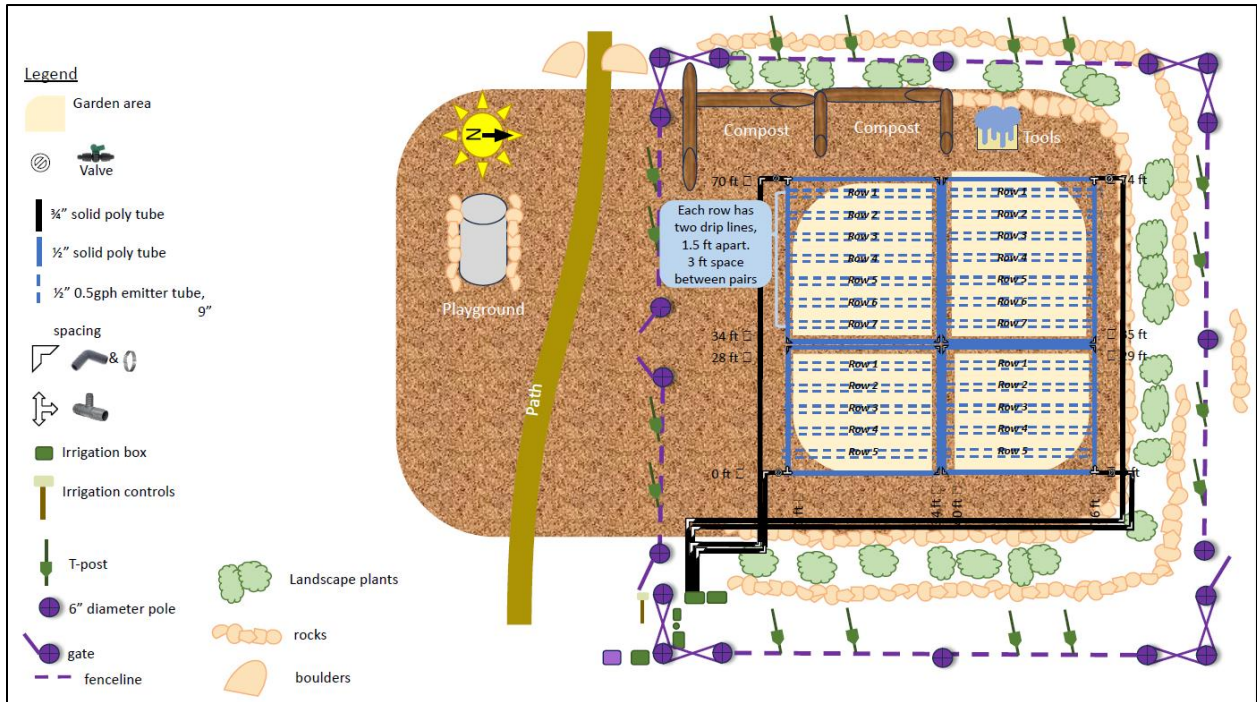
Test garden plot in 2023 run by Alex de Moor, the Garden Steward



Garden location



Garden layout



Fencing model will be based on that used at the Mulberry Grove community garden



Fencing materials – 12' posts (purchased) and fencing wire (to be purchased)



Loosening soil for seeding, March 2023

