

Shasta Lake Resident Community Garden

The Shasta Lake Garden is located just above the Central Valley High School's football field. This Community Garden was in development for over two years and was developed as a part of project HUING (Harvesting Understanding and Instruction through a Neighborhood Garden) to forge a unique partnership between the staff and students of Central Valley High School and the new residents of the Hazelwood Housing Project. "Huing" is the Mien word for "garden", and grant funding through the McConnell Community Partners supplied the equipment and resources to create a community garden, which has become self-sustaining. Members of the Shasta Lake City Administration, Shasta County Public Health, the Gateway School District, and many representatives of the Hazelwood subdivision have participated in the garden planning process. The project serves as a focus for the development of community understanding for local residents and as a workshop in the practical application of employable skills for students. The community garden will be shared between the residents of the Hazelwood Project and members of the surrounding community. This community garden has a coordinator and two assistant coordinators who are in charge of enforcing the garden rules. In February 2006, two sign-up meetings were held to invite community residents to apply for a garden plot. The estimated cost was \$50 for plots that are 20' X 30' in size. This fee was to go into a fund to pay the water bill for a year.

During the 2007-2008 harvest season, 47 plots were used by City of Shasta Lake residents who enjoyed growing a variety of vegetables such as lima beans, peppers, corn, yellow squash, winter mustard greens, onions, garlic, cilantro, tomatoes, egg plant, and cucumbers. Public Health staff created a PowerPoint presentation to show members of the Gateway School District the benefits of the Community Garden. Around 50 participants attended the official Ribbon Cutting event that was held on April 25, 2007. Garden participants utilized produce from their gardens to provide a potluck for the event.

This garden project is becoming so successful that community collaboration is beginning to happen. The Central Valley High School English Learner's program wants to utilize a garden plot and others have shown an interest. The Community Garden is open to all residents living within the Gateway School District. For more information, please contact Manuel Meza at 229-8453.

