

# Coconino Community College Garden

A Historical Compilation

# The Beginning...

CCC Garden activity began in the early 2000's, led by Construction faculty, and gardening enthusiast, Joe Costion.

A rainwater harvesting tank (which is still in use today!) was purchased and installed to catch rainwater from the Ceramics kiln roof.

The garden volunteers during this time installed elk fencing, built up rock beds, and participated in a papercrete bed-building workshop (2004).

The CCC greenhouse was built by CCC Construction faculty Ken Myers and students in the "Youth Build" program (2009).

These CCC Garden projects helped to establish the College's Sustainable and Green Building program!

During the early years, the garden was used by the Science Club, led by advisor and Science faculty Ana Novak.



# The Beginning in Pictures!

Pictured: CCC Garden volunteers at the Papercrete bed workshop and working on building up rock beds (*circa 2004 – 2005*).





# Garden history continued...

After years of the garden being unused, Janan Scott led an Employee Wellness Committee planting party in 2015 (*video*).

Unfortunately, due to lack of wildlife protection and problems with crumbling beds, the vegetable garden did not make it through the season.

Though the vegetable garden didn't work out, it did create renewed interest in the space!





# Building the Space Back Up!

After the vegetable garden didn't work out as planned, Janan Scott teamed up with fellow CCC employee and Coconino Master Gardener Nichole Gregory to re-think use of the space.

They decided to focus on eradicating invasive weeds, building up soil health, creating locations for seating, and re-introducing native plants to benefit the local wildlife.

NAPEBT & the CCC Employee Wellness Committee provided funds to purchase the first round of garden tools and the new volunteers got to work!



## 2016 - 2017

Janan Scott and Nichole Gregory secured a grant from the Coconino Master Gardener Association. These funds allowed the duo to purchase more garden tools, compost, native wildflower seeds, and supplies to build new raised beds.

Volunteers began meeting for monthly work days to remove invasive weeds and rebuild rock beds.

Warner's Nursery donated a collection of native plants and the garden hosted a planting party.

CCC Facilities department assisted volunteers in removing the crumbling papercrete beds, allowing space to build new beds.





## 2018 - 2019

The CCC Garden began a partnership with the Coconino Adult Probation Department, which designated the space as a location for probationers to earn community service hours.

The Science Club built a raised bed in the garden and TRiO students joined volunteers in the garden for a service day.

Nichole Gregory, along with her husband Jacob, built two more raised beds and installed a second rainwater harvesting tank.

The CCC Garden became a designated Master Gardener educational space.

Garden volunteers held a plant sale, after being gifted tomato starts from CCC employee, and gardening enthusiast, Nancy Smith.





## 2020 - 2021

The garden continued hosting monthly volunteer days, building up beds, planting perennials, and hosting educational workshops.

Bridges 2 Baccalaureate (B2B) students, advised by Science faculty Melinda McKinney, began a medicinal garden section for their research project.

With the installation of three new water features and an extensive pollinator bed, the garden became an official pollinator habitat.

Garden volunteers packed and distributed 200 envelopes of free native wildflower seeds to CCC students and employees.





# 2022 & Beyond!

The 2022 gardening season is shaping up to be very productive!

- Monthly volunteer days will pick back up in April.
- The CCC Garden Club will be hosting a seed-starting workshop to prepare for another plant sale.
- We have submitted another grant application to the Coconino Master Gardener Association.
- We are beginning plans to build a fenced-in vegetable garden and renovate the existing greenhouse.
- The CCC Garden Club is partnering with the College's Indigenous Student Success program to host a native dye workshop in Fall 2022.

