

Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area



Harvest Report



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1,815

pounds were harvested by

100

Club youth!



Partnership Contributions

- **Bemidji Garden Club:** landscaping fabric
- **Beltrami County Development Fund:** grant for seeds, supplies, and equipment to support comprehensive agricultural program
- **Beltrami Electric Operation Round-Up:** funding for hydroponic growing kits
- **Enbridge:** sponsorship of garden program
- **Fork Farms:** provides seeds, nutrients, supplies, curriculum and coaching to help the Club be successful with the new Flex Farm hydroponic units
- **Hill's Greenhouse:** donated seeds
- **Bemidji Area Schools:** purchased hydroponic lettuce and garden produce to provide students nutritious veggies for school lunches and snacks; co-located a hydroponic unit at Bemidji Middle School for 7th grade science students
- **MN AGRI Urban Agriculture grant:** funds for garden staffing, a hydroponic unit, culinary classes and garden supplies
- **Ter-Lee Gardens:** donated pumpkins
- **University of Minnesota Extension Service:** master gardener support
- **United States Department of Agriculture:** grant funds to support culinary classes, garden staffing, hydroponic units, refrigerator, and garden kitchen supplies
- **Volunteers:** Jack Judkins, Jerry & Vicky Younk, Tom & Kristi Reise, Choice Therapy employees, Affinity Plus employees, Upward Bound students & staff, Gus - master gardener intern, and many more!

Our Garden Space

- **High Tunnel** - 24' X 60': 1,440 sq ft
- **Garden Bed area** - 25 raised beds: 9,800 sq ft
- **Fruit Tree Corridor** - 3,500 sq ft.
 - 3 plum, 1 cherry, 2 crabapple, and 5 apple
- **Fork Farm Hydroponic units** - three units that each grow 144 heads of lettuce approx. every 40 days

Harvest Impact

In 2023, we sold produce to:

- Bemidji Area Schools
- Table for 7
- Rutgers Birchmont Lodge
- Onsite farmer's markets



Garden Produce

CORN *Strawberries* Eggplant
Onions **Celery** POTATOES
Cucumbers **Beans** & **Squash**
CARROTS Rhubarb BASIL
Garlic Peppers CAULIFLOWER
TOMATOES *Broccoli* Zucchini
Lettuce *Mint* Cucumelons
Sweet Potatoes **BEETS** Peas
 **and many more!**



Garden Committee

- **Terry Nennich** - Retired University of Minnesota Extension Agriculture Specialist, & Bemidji Farmers Market Vendor
- **Kristi Reise** - University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener
- **Tammie Colley** - Bemidji School District #31 Food Service Director
- **Jack Judkins** - Bemidji Community Food Shelf & Farm Coordinator
- **Jordan Lutz** - Bemidji State Sustainability Program, Educator



Garden History

- **2006:** One raised bed: "Pizza Garden"
- **2007-2011:** Installed one additional raised bed each year
- **2012:** Added 1,500 sq ft high tunnel
- **2016:** Extension of outdoor garden that included 15 additional raised beds, nearly 2,000 sq ft paver section, built seven large picnic tables, youth painted and installed tires for potato beds, and more
- **2017:** Added irrigation to raised beds, outdoor washing station, Eagle Scout/Home Depot Team Depot project of building pergola and benches to complete outdoor gardening education center
- **2021:** Secured three hydroponic indoor growing towers and built a new garden shed for additional storage
- **2022:** Partnership established to add another hydroponic unit that is co-located at Bemidji Middle School

