Planting Seeds to Meet the Needs

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& Urban Horticulture Agent IV
Meet Julie
Meet Lucas
Community Gardens
Community Gardens

- Source of healthy foods
- Nutrition security
- Physical activity/recreation
- Educational opportunities
- Pollinator pathways
- Beautification & placemaking
- Income potential
  - Coops
  - Market gardens
  - Value added products
Safe, non-threatening spaces
Empowerment

- Foster community; a sense of belonging
- Build connections
- Promote healthier lifestyles
- Empowered eating equals empowered communities
  - Some small control over food supply
  - Process of empowerment fuels education
Resiliency Planning

Community gardens not just for the skilled - backbone of local food system

Opportunities to beautify blighted areas & encourage diversity

Safe, outdoor recreation & healthy activity - healthy foods

Opportunities to volunteer

Contribute to building stronger, more resilient neighborhoods and individuals
Invest in Urban Agriculture & Share Resources

- Reach out to UF/IFAS Extension
- Reach out to community organizations
- Ordinances, zoning, long range planning
- Build coalition of supporters
- Champion - funded positions
- Don’t depend on volunteers
- Require community gardens/markets in LDC
We Invest in Infrastructure..
Why Not Invest in the Future?
All you need is love to grow healthy foods
I love planting things and watching them grow
Then I can eat it and be happy
Carrots, green beans, watermelon and bananas are my favorite
I like tomatoes because they make sauce and ketchup
Food makes me happy and strong

Questions?

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