**FOTO Community Garden Project**

By Linda Murray

1. Benefits of a community garden?
   1. They provide fresh produce and plants to residents and nearby shelters;
   2. Improve the neighborhood by developing a sense of community and connection to the environment;
   3. Can help alleviate one effect of climate change, which is expected to cause a global decline in agricultural output. Fresh produce will become increasingly unaffordable;
   4. Reduce the use of fossil fuels transporting produce;
   5. Provide exercise!
2. Different types of Community Gardens
   1. Vegetable –
      1. Supplement food sources for many low-income families and retirees;
      2. Provides a chance to improve people’s health and outlook by producing fresh produce that is free of pesticides;
      3. Teaches our youth where their food comes from and the importance of community and stewardship.
   2. Pollinator –
      1. Pollinator insects, especially bees, are in decline. Habitat loss, diseases, and residuals from the use of pesticides are having a severe impact on pollinator health.
      2. This garden supports four important elements for a pollinator friendly garden:
         1. Food
         2. Water
         3. Shelter
         4. Protection of their Habitat.
      3. Flowers in many colors, shapes and sizes entice a myriad of pollinators like bees, butterflies, beetles, moths, and more to perform their essential pollination services.
3. FOTO’s involvement and support
   1. Education
      1. How to get started
      2. Maintaining the plants – how to garden healthy
      3. Watering the garden – Suggest they use rain barrels
   2. Suppling garden kits – based on individual needs
      1. Raised garden bed
      2. Soil, seeds, starter plants