



PATIO GARDEN

COMMUNITY GARDEN



Photo credit: David Lam Library

DEPARTMENT

David Lam Library

CAMPUS

Point Grey

FUNDING YEAR

2016

ABOUT HWIP

The Healthy Workplace Initiatives Program (HWIP) is an annual fund available to UBC departments and units to support grassroots activities that promote wellbeing in the workplace. The program provides start-up funds and support for health-related, sustainable initiatives.

www.hr.ubc.ca/hwip

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2016, the David Lam Library built a community garden on the 3rd floor patio of the Sauder School of Business. The project began with an engineering assessment of the load capacity of the patio. Then, the team deliberated on the types of plants and trees to plant in the garden. Working together, they brought soil, containers, plants, trees, and shrubs to the space, planted vegetable seeds, and transplanted fruit trees and shrubs into permanent containers.

Planning with long-term maintenance in mind, they elected to plant a mix of perennials, which live more than two years, and annual plants, which only live for one growing season. What started as a small garden with 3 containers now spans two floors of patio space and is producing a variety of fruits, herbs, flowers, and vegetables.

“The space where we have the garden, it was previously locked and unavailable to use. Once we got the garden going, [it was unlocked and opened up for use]. Now, students and staff take their lunch out there, students will have group meetings, staff will invite colleagues for tea in the garden. So it’s used for enjoyment and for hanging out [in addition to gardening].”

CURRENTLY GROWING IN THE GARDEN

mulberries - figs - peaches - apples - cherrie - blackberries - blueberries - raspberries - roses - lavender - grapes - tomatoes - leafy greens - mint - basil



VALUABLE OUTCOMES

The patio garden has continued to grow and provide positive impacts on the wellbeing of team members.

Having a space where people can slow down, remember to breathe, and engage closely with plants has been beneficial for mental, emotional, social, and physical health.

KEY TO SUCCESS

HWIP funding was used to purchase fruit trees and shrubs that will be productive for years and to buy tools and materials needed to keep the garden going for many years.

A dedicated group of staff to tend the garden was established in the first year, and, with leadership support, a small budget has been dedicated to garden maintenance. Campus and community resources, such as the [UBC seed lending library](#) and the [City of Vancouver's \\$10 Tree Sale](#), are utilized to keep costs low.

UBC WELLBEING
STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK
PRIORITY AREAS

Food & Nutrition

Built & Natural
Environments

Mental Health &
Resiliency

wellbeing.ubc.ca/framework

SUSTAINABILITY

Team members take turns to water, plant, and help with garden maintenance and activities.

The Garden Committee meets to make decisions about budgeting and what to plant each season.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE HWIP GRANTEES

1

Think about long-term maintenance of the community garden

Figure out which plants your team wants to plant, what makes sense for the space, and how much maintenance and future resources they will require. Perennials require less maintenance and ongoing care than annuals, which need to be planted each season.

2

Be patient!

The journey of building and growing a garden are important parts of the initiative. It's not just about the end product, but about the process, too.