

THE POWER TO GROW: BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK

COMMUNITY



“ Having a community garden at Booker T. Washington Park would be influential because it would give members of my community something for future generations to cherish for years to come. ”

KJ HOWARD
Food Justice Apprentice | Food Justice Network



“ The Power to Grow is very amazing, influential, and impactful. Everyone should be able to experience urban agriculture. It grants freedom, growth, and connection ”

CALISTA BARBOUR
Food Justice Apprentice | Integrated Systems



“ Being a FOOD JUSTICE LEADER means advocating in collaboration with the community for equitable food access. ”

LEAN LEON
Food Justice Apprentice Lead | City Schoolyard Garden



“ The Power to Grow is about coming together to create a better future for everyone's sake with food to keep our families fed. ”

EMMANUEL QUEZADA-RIVERO
Food Justice Apprentice | Urban Agriculture Collective



“ The Power to Grow for me means being an ally as I support my community in fighting for equity, power and opportunity. ”

ANYAH LINBACHER
Food Justice Apprentice | City Schoolyard Garden



“ The Power to Grow means see a need, find a partner, empower others, plan a proposal, and SHARE THE HARVEST. ”

MICHELE GIBSON
Community Advocate Lead | The Power to Grow



“ Urban agriculture and The Power to Grow means a lot to the community because it provides vegetables like corn and tomatoes and that's very important. It's healthy and leads to growth. ”

MARY ANDERSON
Community Advocate | The Power to Grow



“ The Power to Grow is important, especially to support kids get their best future. In my culture we say, 'healthy body, healthy mind' and it starts with kids and fresh food. ”

FARIDA USHANOVA
Community Advocate | The Power to Grow



“ The Power to Grow in the garden is my sanctuary. Being a food justice leader is helping to create and implement policies that build equity. ”

ROSA PARKER
Community Advocate | The Power to Grow



“ The Power to Grow is important because urban agriculture will show youth how to garden and help our community have more access to fresh produce. ”

ASHLEY FRESHMAN
Community Advocate | The Power to Grow



“ It is powerful to know that over 200 Black farmers and more community members created Booker T. Washington Park as a place of celebration and transformed the history of racism. ”

QUENTIA TAYLOR
Cultivate Team | The Power to Grow



“ The Power to Grow is about roots and having a connection to community, our food, and building equity through community-led urban agriculture. ”

JEANETTE ARIAS-NADER
Cultivate Team | The Power to Grow



“ The Power to Grow means the power of choice, the power of food, and the power to build healthy and just communities. ”

RICHARD MORRIS
Farmer Rich, Cultivate Team | The Power to Grow



“ The Power to Grow means acknowledging the history of agriculture for people of color in order for an entire community to take back their power and have the resources and opportunity to grow healthy foods. ”

ALEEN CAREY
Cultivate Team | The Power to Grow



At Cultivate Charlottesville we believe that working together to grow gardens, share food and power, and advocate for just systems cultivates a healthy community for all. We are advocating for an urban farm at Booker T. Washington Park to give all neighbors the power to grow!

ENGAGEMENT





Cultivate Charlottesville engages youth and community in building an equitable, sustainable food system through garden-based experiential learning, growing and sharing healthy food, amplifying community leaders, and advocating for food justice.

Our integrated approach builds on interactions within schools, throughout neighborhoods, and across the city to take Charlottesville from a foodie hub to a food-E(quity) town for **all** residents.

CITY SCHOOLYARD GARDEN (CSG)

For more than a decade, CSG has partnered with Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) to connect youth with how their food is grown. We engage thousands of students each year with rich, meaningful interactions in the gardens. These interactions enhance academic learning, cultivate healthy living skills, and build leadership skills at all grade levels. This engagement is done in line with our commitment to centering racial equity in all that we do.

URBAN AGRICULTURE COLLECTIVE (UAC)

Started by Karen Waters-Wicks and fellow community members over 15 years ago, UAC builds food equity by working with public housing residents to grow fresh, healthy food. At its height, UAC has grown as much as 17,000 pounds of produce per year, which is shared, at no cost, with hundreds of local families experiencing food insecurity. Recently downsized due to necessary redevelopment at Friendship Court, South 1st Street and 6th Street, UAC is working with residents and partners to identify new land on which to grow and share food with our neighbors.

FOOD JUSTICE NETWORK (FJN)

FJN builds racial equity in our food system through education, organizing, and advocacy. As a collective, over 25 organizations work in unique and complementary ways to build healthy and just food system in Charlottesville. Our work focuses on the intersection of food equity and healthy school foods, affordable housing, urban agriculture, access and markets, and food pathways transportation



FOOD JUSTICE NETWORK 2024 FOCUS: FOOD EQUITY INITIATIVE POLICY PLATFORM



Over the course of 2024, The Food Justice Network Large Group will take an in-depth look at each of the planks of the Food Equity Initiative. **We want to hear from you! How is your work aligning with or advancing the goals of each area?**

Join us at our bi-monthly meetings as we take a deep dive into each advocacy area. Our goal is to highlight our collective progress toward an equitable food system and gain insight on where we want to grow!



FEBRUARY 28

Food Equity & Justice

Advancing Systemic Change and
Collective Movements



APRIL 24

The Power to Grow

Advancing Affordable Housing & Urban
Agriculture



JUNE 26

The Right to Good Food

Advancing Transportation &
Neighborhood Food Pathways



AUGUST 28

Inspire Youth Choice

Advancing Healthy School Foods



OCTOBER 23

Build Community Wealth

Advancing Neighborhood Food Access
& Markets



DECEMBER 11

Restore Earth and Climate

Advancing Environmental and
Climate Justice



THE POWER TO GROW

ADVANCING AFFORDABLE HOUSING & URBAN AGRICULTURE



In pursuit of restoring the power to grow for every community, an equitable investment in urban agriculture is needed to counter impacts of necessary housing redevelopment on decreased food access and environmental health. When families have the power to grow, land is liberation.

SPRING 2021

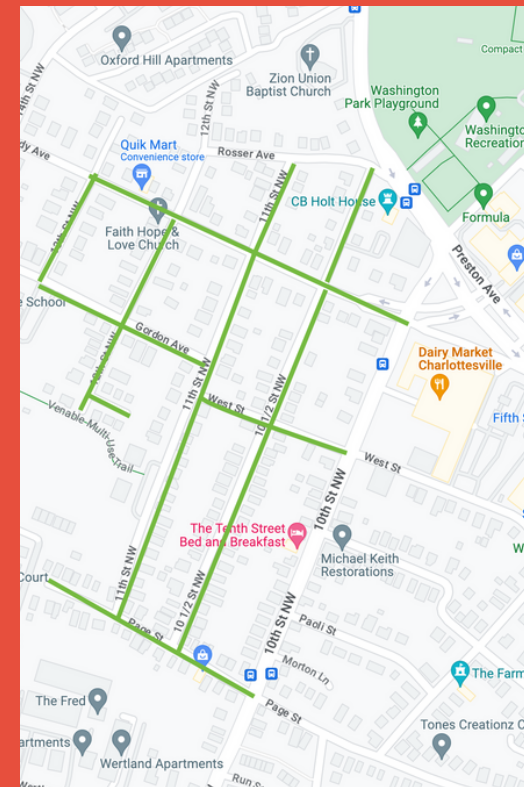
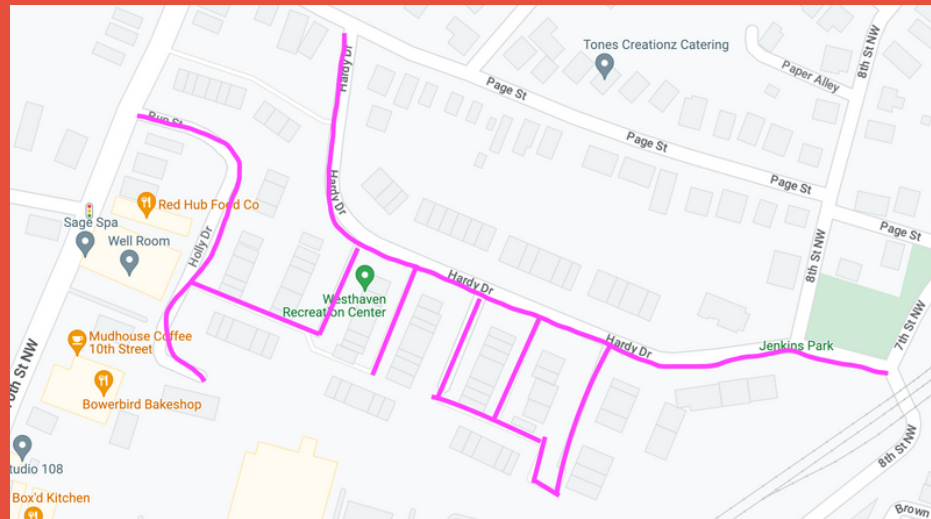


In the area of urban farming, Food Justice Network has gleaned significant community feedback towards creating an Urban Agriculture Collective farm at Booker T. Washington Park to grow produce for neighbors, reclaim community space, and engage residents in the surrounding areas.

We have spoken to over 300 community members in door-to-door discussions, three dozen in in-depth listening circles, and nearly one hundred at community roundtables. The community's support has been overwhelming and we look forward to continuing this partnership.

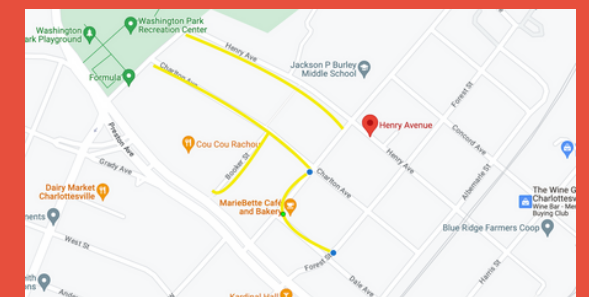
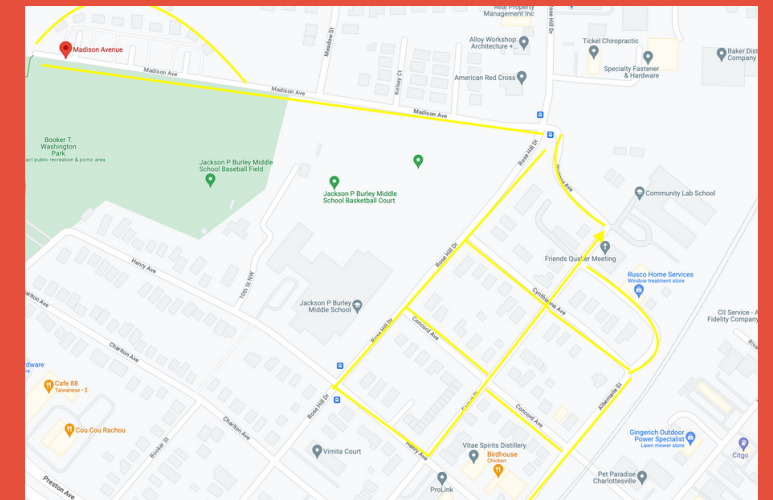
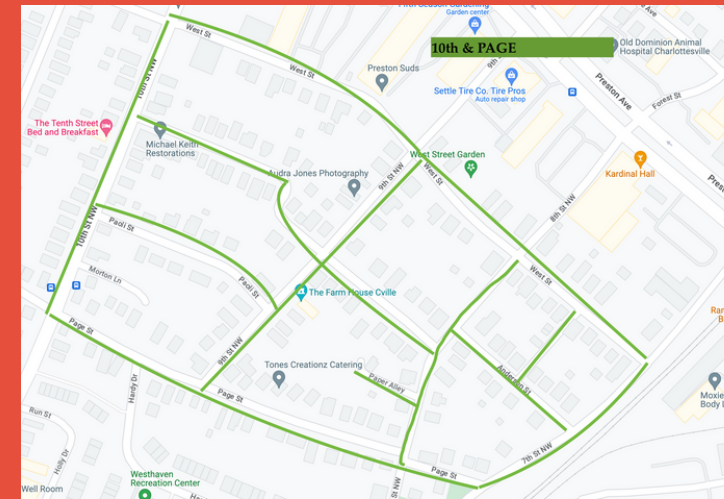
In 2023 we surveyed these neighborhoods to glean resident feedback

WESTHAVEN



VENABLE

10TH & PAGE



ROSE HILL



344

Total Surveys

The majority of surveys were conducted door-to-door by Community Advocates and Apprentices from May to June 2023

299

Total Residents

Non-residents were surveyed at events as well as some online surveys.

6

Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods surveyed include: Rose Hill, 10th & Page, Venable, Westhaven, Friendship Court, and 6th Street.

THE HISTORY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK

CULTIVATE
CHARLOTTESVILLE

City Schoolyard Garden | Urban Agriculture Collective | Food Justice Network

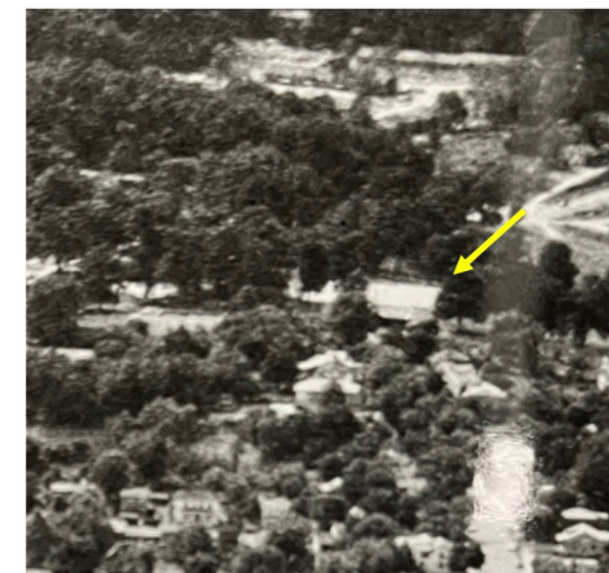
Cultivate Charlottesville acknowledges and honors the Monacan Nation, the original people of the land and waters we call home in Charlottesville, VA.

Disease, murder, and forced assimilation were tactics used by European colonizers to forcibly remove Monacan people from their land beginning in the 1500's.

We acknowledge the Monacan peoples' continuing connection to the land, water, and air, the same land in which we plant our gardens and grow food, the water that sustains us and all living things, and the air which we all breathe.



Central to Booker T. Washington Park's history, the African American community played a key role in transforming the land from a history of injustice to a history of reclamation. As Black people navigated the unjust system of segregation, the 'Colored Recreation Board' was established in early 1934, ushering in a wave of renovations and improvements to the park (From Private Privilege to Public Place, 1998). For decades, Black Charlottesville residents played a key role in transforming the land from a history of injustice to a history of new growth



c1960s

“THE BARN,” FOR EXAMPLE, SERVED A KEY ROLE FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY, INCLUDING A BASKETBALL GYMNASIUM, MUSIC VENUE AND MEETING PLACE (CITY AS A PARK, 98).

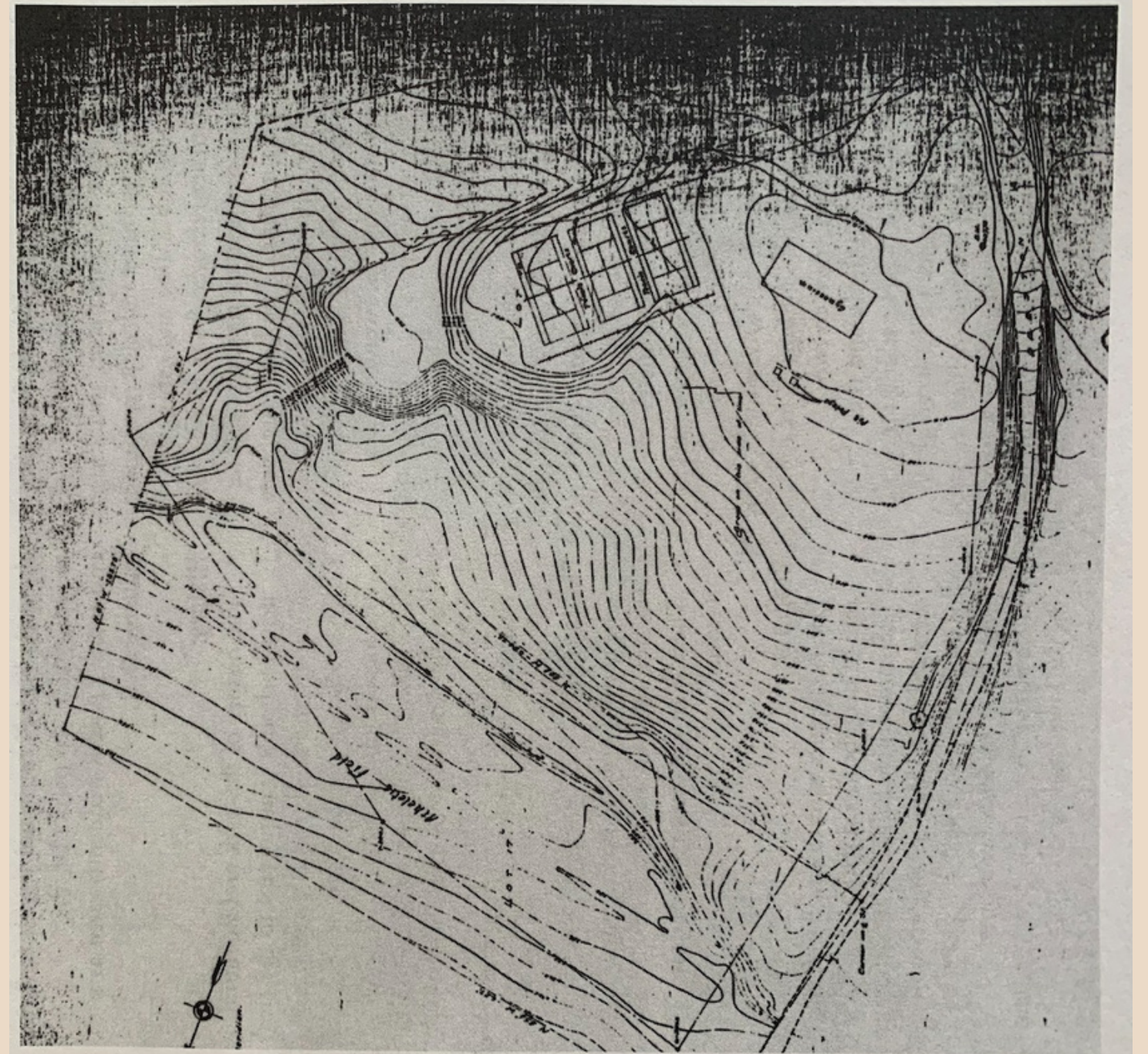
SIGNIFICANT PARK IMPROVEMENTS WERE LED BY BLACK COMMUNITY LEADERS WERE ACCOMPLISHED “AT A TIME WHEN NO MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THESE FACILITIES WERE DESIGNATED FOR BLACK USE NATION-WIDE.”

CIVIC AND ATHLETIC GROUPS SUCH AS THE GARDEN CLUB, THE “COLORED ELKS” AND THE “COLORED MOTHERS CLUB” CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVEMENTS OF THE PARK.

IN 1944, THE PARK HOSTED A VICTORY GARDEN EXHIBIT SHOWCASING OVER 200 EXHIBITS OF FLOWERS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND CANNED GOODS CREATED BY BLACK GARDENERS AND FARMERS.

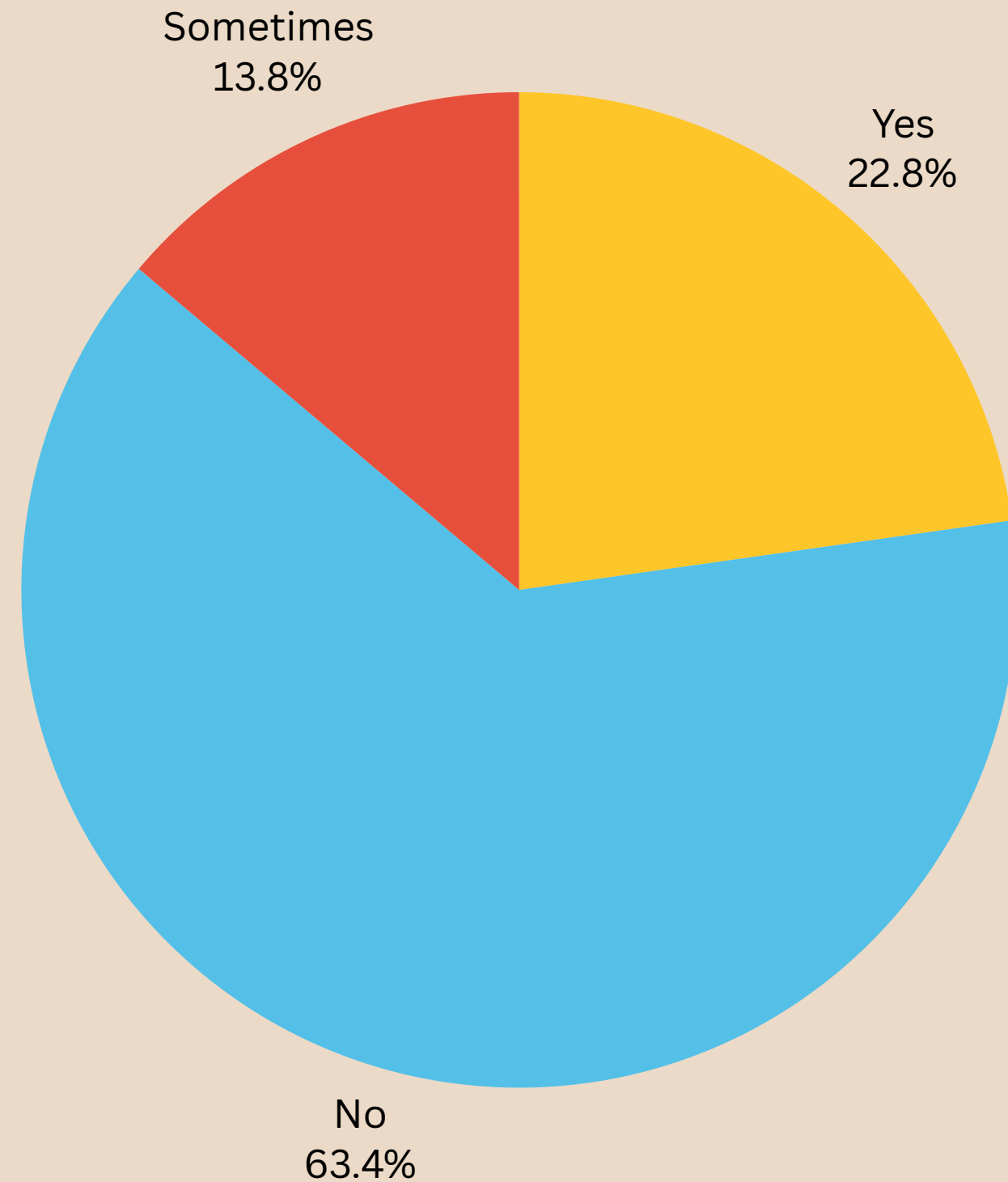
“Everything that we had to do in the black community, we did at Washington Park.”

Linwood “Chuck” Chisolm



SURVEY QUESTION:

Do you face challenges getting fresh produce?



- **36% of residents experience some challenges in getting fresh produce**
- **20% of those that face regular challenges mentioned transportation and cost**
- **Most residents said they did not experience regular challenges**
 - Our survey did not account for the amount of produce a household purchases nor the frequency of those purchases

WHO SUPPORTS THIS COMMUNITY GARDEN?



94%

**Believe a UAC farm in
Washington Park would
benefit the community.**

OUR GOALS FOR WASHINGTON PARK:



**Community coming together
around the table to build health
and be in nature.**



Intergenerational Connections

**Chances to build something here
and for community members to
build a BTW Park legacy.**



**Bring families together across
generations and build community
unity.**



**The opportunity to teach the benefits
of a community coming together for
a common good.**

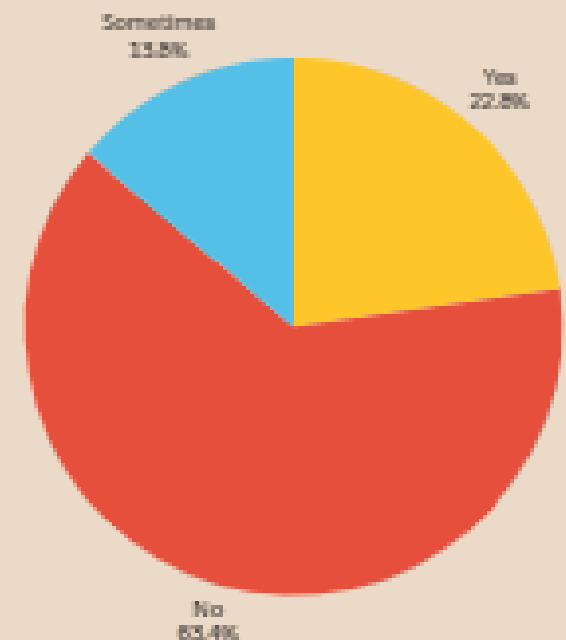
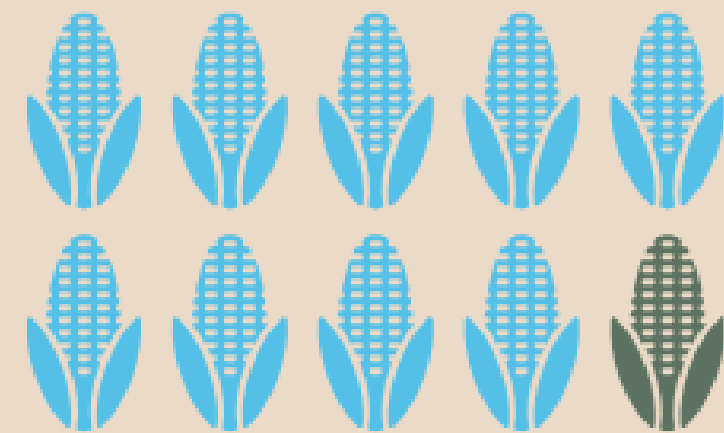


**An Urban Agriculture Collective farm
in Booker T. Washington Park**

Do you face challenges in getting fresh produce?

93%

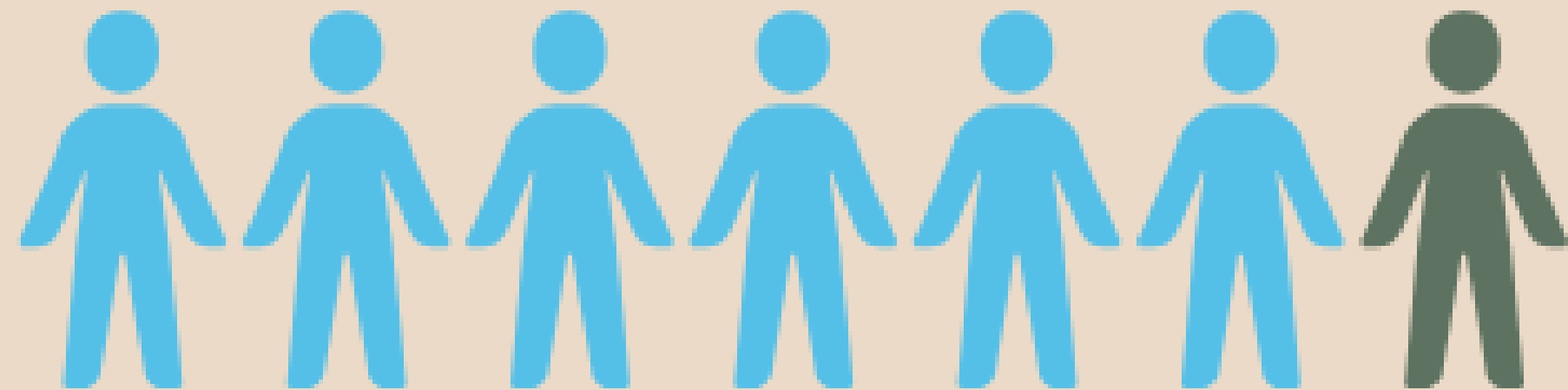
Believe a UAC farm in
Washington Park would
benefit the community.



Surveyed individuals reported only some challenges in getting fresh produce. 23% of individuals said they have some trouble but the majority (63%) stating that they did not face regular challenges.

20% of those facing challenges in acquiring fresh produce specifically mentioned issues with transportation or the cost of produce.

**6 IN 7 OF THOSE SURVEYED SUPPORT THE DISTRIBUTION OF FRESH AND
FREE PRODUCE TO THE RESIDENTS OF PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**



95% answered "Yes" when asked about distributing fresh and free produce to these Charlottesville neighborhoods. Only 4% said that they did not support this distribution.

The Power to Grow

PETITION RESULTS

429

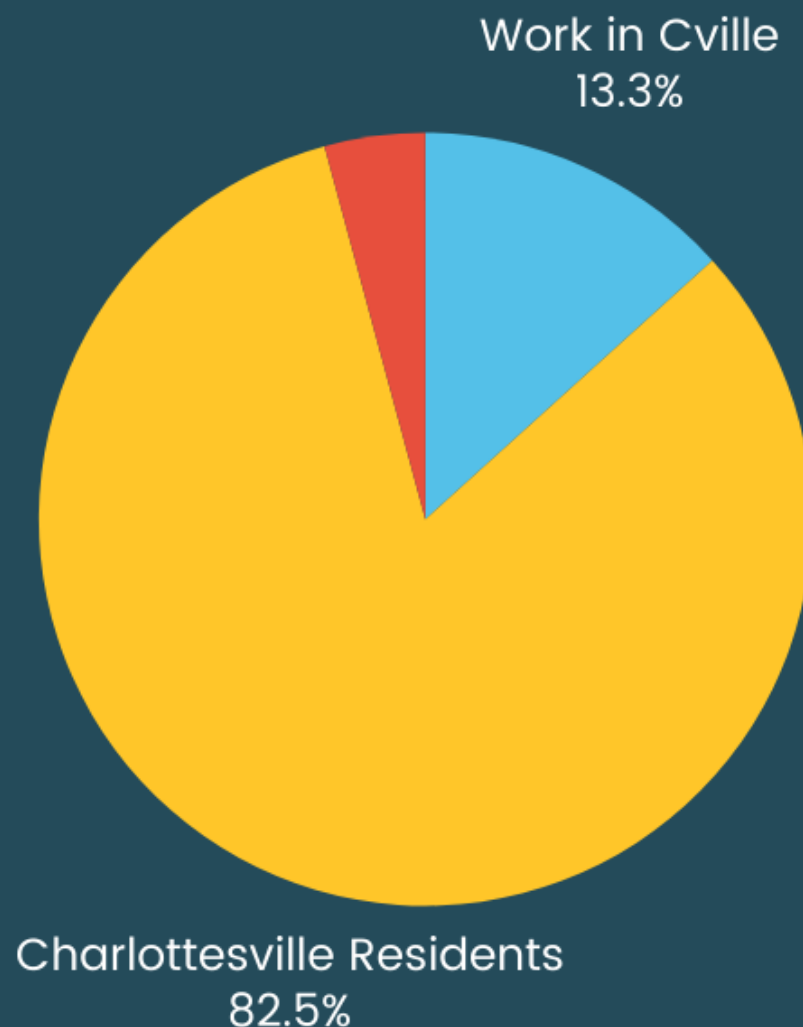
Total Signatures

353

Total Residents

100%

Percent In Favor



#1. Charlottesville City Council recommends dedicating land in Booker T. Washington Park for an Urban Agriculture Collective Farm

#2. Charlottesville City Council asks Parks and Recreation to prioritize a community design for this farm site in the upcoming P&R Strategic Plan.

#3. Charlottesville City Council recommends explicitly including food equity goals in the City's Strategic Plan in a way that aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Food Equity Initiative Platform.

IN THE YEAR AHEAD, CULTIVATE CHARLOTTESVILLE'S FOOD JUSTICE NETWORK WILL CONTINUE TO PRIORITIZE RIGOROUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO DRIVE OUR WORK ACROSS THE FOOD EQUITY INITIATIVE.

WE PLAN TO MODIFY WORKING MODELS IN RESPONSE TO THIS ENGAGEMENT AND TO FURTHER ALIGN WITH OUR GOAL OF CENTERING COMMUNITY VOICES AND CHOICES.

THE POWER TO GROW CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE URBAN AGRICULTURE LAND TO CHARLOTTESVILLE'S LOW-WEALTH NEIGHBORHOODS WILL BE A PRIORITY AND WE WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARKS & RECREATION.

THE FOOD JUSTICE NETWORK LARGE GROUP WILL COMPLETE OUR ANALYSIS OF THE FEI POLICY PLATFORM PLANKS AND HAVE A MIDYEAR REPORT TO COUNCIL WITH THESE RESULTS.

Recommendations for City Council

Recommendation #1:
Charlottesville City Council recommends dedicating land in Booker T. Washington Park for an Urban Agriculture Collective farm.

Recommendation #2:
Charlottesville City Council asks Parks and Recreation to prioritize a community design for this farm site in the upcoming Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan.

Recommendation #3:
Charlottesville City Council recommends explicitly including food equity goals in the City's Strategic Plan in a way that aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan Chapter 7, Goal 4 and the Food Equity Initiative Policy Platform

CITY OF PROMISE: COMMUNITY WORKDAYS



THE FOOD JUSTICE NETWORK HAS BEEN WORKING IN THE CITY OF PROMISE GARDEN FOR THE LAST YEAR. WE HAVE SPENT OUR TIME CREATING A SAFE SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT AND EXPERIENCE NATURE. THIS COMMUNITY GARDEN HAS ALLOWED FOR INTERGENERATIONAL BONDS TO BE CREATED AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE SHARED. WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE NEXT SUMMER OF PROGRAMMING.



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN EVERY FRIDAY
THE CITY OF PROMISE GARDEN
9 AM - 12 PM



Contact Information

First Name *

Last Name *



Email *

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Address

Country

United States

Address

City

State

ZIP Code

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