

Oregon State University Extension Service

METRO CONNECTION

November 2018

New Demonstration Garden Opens at PCC-Rock Creek



Changes at the Washington County Fair Complex required Washington County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) to shift the demonstration garden to a new location. A partnership with Portland Community College–Rock Creek (PCC-RC) — including students of landscaping, architecture, and design — provides a larger more accessible space for a new education garden.

Master Gardener™ demonstration and education gardens provide highly trained volunteers an opportunity to offer their expertise, classes and hands-on demonstrations about sustainable gardening practices to youth, adults, families, and beginning and enthusiastic gardeners. For nearly 30 years, WCMGA worked side-by-side with the Tualatin Valley Garden Club to develop and maintain the Washington County Fair Complex garden site.



At the Fair Complex garden is Margie Brunello, Jeannine Rychlik, and Jane Miller

Each year during the four days of the Washington County Fair, nearly 4,000 visitors toured the garden and got answers to their gardening questions. Children's camp groups and families explored the Kids Zone, took part in a garden scavenger hunt, and learned how fruits and vegetables are grown. Master Gardeners also provided gardening seminars using the garden's vignettes to provide plant education on things commonly found in home landscape scenarios.

Many thanks to the OSU Master Gardener — and Tualatin Valley Garden Club — volunteers for the hard work needed to maintain a demonstration garden and conduct educational events. The demonstration garden provided thousands of educational contacts and a meaningful opportunity to share an educational garden space with friends and other garden enthusiasts. Their dedication, time, and expertise was tremendous and appreciated!



A new learning opportunity to engage youth and families about gardening and landscape topics is planned for the 2019 Washington County Fair.

As the new education garden at PCC-RC takes shape and propels us into the future, we hope you will visit and watch as a bare plot of ground is transformed into a wide variety of special garden plots. The PCC-RC garden is open to visitors Monday through Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Stay tuned for upcoming 2019 In the Garden Series class schedule offering a many sustainable gardening topics.