

HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN



UNI / University of Northern Iowa
Center for Energy & Environmental Education

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

Highland Park Community Garden provides access to garden plots for Highland Neighborhood residents as well as immigrants who live in Waterloo and are eager to grow their own fresh produce. This access to land helps new lowans develop roots in Waterloo, feel at home, and connect with a network of friends who share the love of fresh, locally grown food.



PARTNERS

In spring of 2023, a partnership between UNI, the City of Waterloo, Black Hawk County Public Health, and Highland Neighborhood Association helped turn Highland Park's underutilized greenspace into a flourishing community garden.



REACH

The site was selected based on its ease of accessibility and provided 48 plots for rent, sized 20 x 20ft each. Highland Neighborhood residents tended to 25% of the plots, and the rest were cared for by new lowans from Africa, Asia, and Central America.

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With the help of many hands, 2023's growing season was a huge success! Tools were donated along with temporary fencing, which, thanks to the UNI Construction Management class, are now being safely stored in an onsite toolshed. Growers also had access to a water spigot and hoses which were installed in the spring.



"It's a dream come true! I didn't know that this was a need and an aspiration in my community!"
Julie, Congolese gardener & organizer



"We loved gardening and can't wait to start again in the spring!"
Mandy, Highland resident who gardened with her daughter

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR 2024?

New and exciting improvements are on the way! Larger plots for gardeners ready to scale up will be available per request, along with highly anticipated infrastructure developments, such as fencing and signage. Furthermore, planning is in progress to establish an additional community garden in time for this year's growing season.



THANK YOU TO OUR
FUNDERS AND
SUPPORTERS

City of Waterloo • Black Hawk County Public Health •
Highland Neighborhood Association •
UNI Local Food Program • The Leighty Fund at CFNEIA •
Nourish Iowa VISTA Program • Green Iowa AmeriCorps