

This research project examines the many positive impacts of participating in community gardening. Moving from primary impacts on participants, it goes on to examine secondary and tertiary impacts including the effects on host communities as cited in existing research literature. These benefits include reduced crime, increased social cohesion, and increased property values to name a few. By categorizing the positive effects as noted in the existing literature we hope help local governments and institutions to support the maintenance or creation of community gardens, encourage current community garden members to continue their efforts, as well as increase interest among the general public in community gardening. This project includes peer-reviewed research from a variety of disciplines including ecology, economics, social work, leisure studies, and cross-cultural communication. This presentation will offer an infographic that condenses the existing literature into a easily digestible and aesthetically pleasing format. The use of this infographic in the Vermont Community Garden Network's marketing and website will help increase support and interest in community gardens by making the existing research on these benefits more easily recognized.