



SFS GROWS: GARDENING AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED ADULTS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SFS Grows is a program funded by the California State Library Sustainable Libraries Grant and is designed to inform participants about gardening and sustainable actions they can take to support the environment. It consists of a series of twelve bi-weekly workshops, each with accessible, hands-on activities designed to reinforce the theme. Our session topics include:

- Seed Dispersal in Nature
- The Plant Growth Process
- Propagation
- Small-space gardening
- Composting
- Pollinators and Garden Insects
- California Native and Drought Tolerant Planting

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

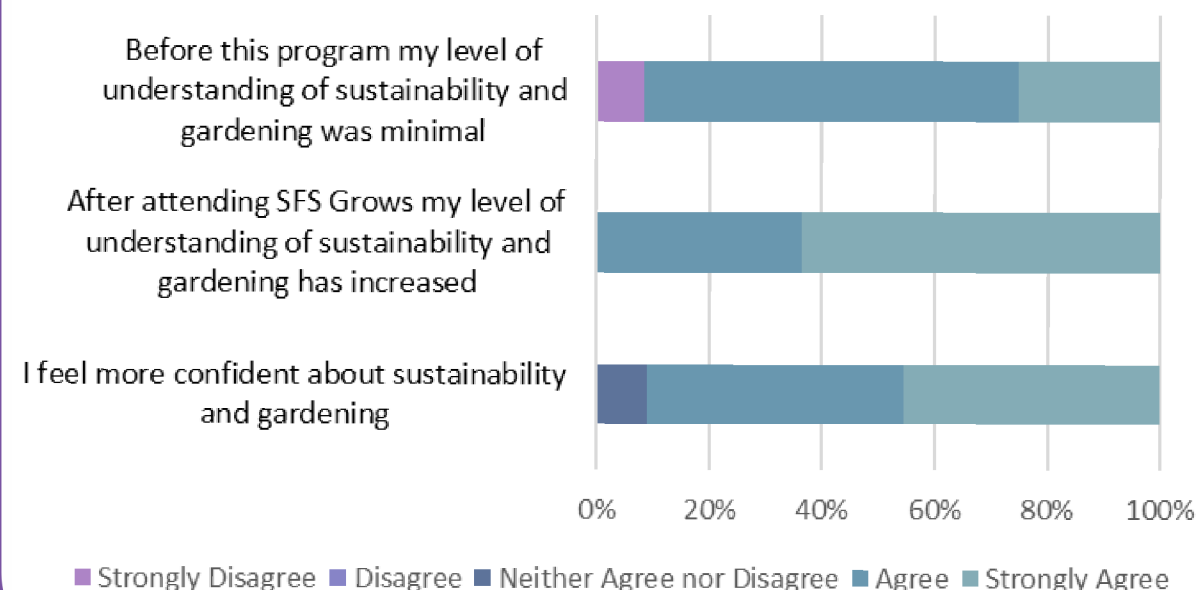
A program for developmentally disabled adults was much needed and asked for in the community. To make this program fully accessible for different disabilities we added kneelers, easy-to-handle tools, and garden beds for those who have mobility issues. Our locations were fully accessible and our garden was located behind the library near a wheelchair ramp. While the members did a lot of the work, their caregivers also helped by giving instructions to their clients and showing examples. This program has been a city partnership with the Parks and Recreation division under our Community Services Department which we expect to continue.

PLANNING & PREPARATION

A twelve-week program was formed with topics related to sustainability, small-space gardening, drought-tolerant plants, and more. A budget was created to purchase items for the activities that supplemented the learning portion. Each session had a learning portion with visuals, slides, and key terms which was less than 15 minutes long. Prep time for each session was two weeks in advance and it included purchases, creating the presentation, and prepping the craft or activity that would follow. Our garden location was prepared by our Public Works Department making the ground even and free of compaction. While creating this program we kept the demographic in mind to make it inclusive and adaptive to our members.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

SFS Grows Outcome Results



BRINGING SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMMING TO YOUR LIBRARY

Locate gaps in programming at your library. Use this program to fill a community's needs or interests. Use research tools to identify what type of sustainable program your community needs.

Consider the timeline of your program. Will it be a one-time series or a recurring program? A new addition to the library's collections? Consider what the time commitment will be for your program.

Research into grants that can support the integration of your program. Popular topics to consider include sustainability, gardening, green libraries, and environmental activism—otherwise, budget according to your institution's standards.

Market your new program using as many outlets as possible. Remember that your marketing campaign should reflect your program's desired population. Reach out to local organizations, post on library social media, and incorporate city calendars. Be vigilant!

Conduct evaluations throughout the program. Surveys and community opinion are great tools to determine if the program is successful in meeting its goals. Research how to best present your survey to the participants.