

USU Extension Sustainability Permaculture Initiative



2025 IMPACT REPORT

Natalia Bustos, Roslynn Brain McCann, Jake Powell



18 Volunteers completed
24 service hours.

13 Permaculture events held.

>400 Volunteers and participants engaged.

EXTENSION.USU.EDU/PERMACULTURE

4,796 Page views in 2025.

4,320 Fact sheet downloads since 2013.

PERMACULTURE FRIDAYS SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



861 Likes.

20,525 Accounts reached.



220 Likes/reactions.

10,311 Accounts reached.



234 Impressions.

13 Accounts engaged.



11,990 Impressions.

304 Accounts engaged.

675 AmeriCorps hours served.

SNAC Pantry:
166.77 LBS of food donated.

USU Composting:
31 LBS of compost donated,
\$3 per pound = \$93 compost.



HARVEST DONATIONS (ORGANIC)

PRODUCE	WEIGHT	VALUE
Apricots	28.7 lbs	\$143.21
Cucumbers	8.24 lbs	\$15.57
Fennel	2.46 lbs	\$7.36
Fresh Sage	4.67 lbs	\$13.03
Garlic	4.02 lbs	\$29.71
Garlic Scapes	0.4 lbs	\$1.20
Green Apples	4.6 lbs	\$13.30
Green Beans	10.44 lbs	\$20.78
Lettuce	34.22 lbs	\$116.01
Mint	.12 lbs	\$0.34
Nanking Cherries	17.8 lbs	\$124.42
Onions	1.52 lbs	\$4.55
Parsley	1.3 lbs	\$2.60
Peaches	21.4 lbs	\$98.22
Nectarine	10.78 lbs	\$45.28
Plums	27.3 lbs	\$114.67
Rhubarb	6.69 lbs	\$18.20
Sour Cherries	4 lbs	\$13.16
Spinach	.5 lbs	\$1.13
Strawberries	1.2 lbs	\$5.63
Swiss Chard	1.18 lbs	\$3.41
TOTAL:	187.57 lbs	\$791.78

PARTICIPANT RESPONSE

"Being the Permaculture Garden intern has enriched my personal and professional life in ways I was not expecting. The connections I have made with various local organizations, professors of different fields, the student pantry, and the general community have impacted and taught me how much support and excitement people have toward the garden. The basic ethics and principles of permaculture have shown me a reflection of the lifestyle I would love to have and continue practicing. I have learned how to cultivate a relationship with not only the land, but with myself and my role in my community. I found each educational event to be fulfilling and an opportunity to continue learning and improving community engagement. I am immensely grateful for all the garden has given me, in a tangible and non-tangible sense."

- Natalia Bustos, 2025 AmeriCorps
Permaculture Individual Placement



2025 MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

MARCH

22

Seed Swap at The GreenHouse,
Natalia Bustos

25 Participants.

>50 Varieties of seeds
exchanged.

"This is a great turnout."

- Lauren, manager of The GreenHouse

APRIL

18

Earth Day Edith Bowen Laboratory School Event

96 Participants.

- Sustainability
- Earth Day trivia
- Biodegradable seed pods

"It's important to take care of nature because nature takes care of us."

"I will care for my plant so it can grow very, very big."

22

USU Earth Day Tabling Event

34 Participants.

- Garden promotion
- Seed giveaway
- ~50 seed bombs assembled
- Educational flyers distributed

"I had no idea about this garden on campus, I will tell all my friends."

**Intermountain West Permaculture Design Certificate,
Jake Powell & Roslynn Brain McCann**

20 Participants.	4 Guest instructors.	2 Months of education and hands-on practice.	5 Inspirational designs for a community space.	>50 Perennial edible and medicinal plants planted.	7 Days of in-depth learning and living together.
3 Lead instructors.	1 Rain-garden installed.				

"This workshop completely changed how I view my life, my job, nature, and the future of my professional career."

"This has been such an unexpected and excellent, life-enhancing opportunity!"

"Spending a week immersed in a hands-on permaculture course was nothing short of transformational. I didn't just learn theories from a book—I lived them. Every day was filled with digging, planting, observing, and co-creating systems that actually work with nature, not against it. Applying knowledge in real time—whether it was designing a landscape or understanding microclimates—gave me a deep, grounded confidence I never could've gained from a screen. It wasn't just educational; it was empowering. The community and facilitators created a space that was collaborative, curious, and action-oriented. I walked away with calloused hands, a full heart, and a clearer vision of how to implement permaculture into daily life. If you're even remotely curious about permaculture, this kind of immersive experience is the game-changer!!"

"This course, more than anything, reminded me about the abundance that is all around us — in plants, wildlife, soil, and the people around us. At many points, I felt a real childlike wonder at the world that I haven't felt in so long. Connecting with all these wonderful people in my cohort especially impacted me — learning from their perspectives paralleled the course content and made it real, turning it into lasting impressions I can carry forward. The course also gave me a set of practical tools and knowledge I can use and share to build better environments and communities. I'm so glad I took part in this course."

Table 1. Knowledge Change

Knowledge	Pretest (n=25)	Post test (n=16)	% Increase	t
The role of systems in permaculture	39.17	90.67	131	10.21
Conducting a site assessment	42.86	80	87	5.88
Establishing a vision and design goals for a site	41.74	81.33	95	6.26
Assessing the functionality of proposed design elements	47	78.67	67	4.19
Creating multiple permaculture design alternatives	33.68	78.67	134	8.43
On-site water harvesting	35.83	77.33	116	6.42
Using landform to facilitate water movement	51	77.33	52	4.08
Applying permaculture principles to leveraging community networks	31.58	76	141	7.5
Applying permaculture principles to shift daily patterns	32	89.33	179	10.88

Table 2. Actions

Action	Pretest (n=25)	Post test (n=16)	% Increase	t
Harvesting water for use on my property	48.81	86.67	78	5.27
Using mulch to retain moisture and build soil in my landscape	69.57	90	29	2.64
Utilizing landform to slow, spread, sink, and store water on my property	45.45	91.67	102	6.21
Harvesting rainwater using a rain barrel, cistern, or similar storage device	40.91	70	71	3.14
Designed and/or implemented a permaculture strategy	44.74	88.33	97	5.19
Initiated a permaculture design process on my own site or others	51.25	91.67	79	5.09
Implemented the principles of permaculture into my personal life	52.63	93.33	77	5.35
Utilized the principles of permaculture to engage and improve my community	51.32	96.67	88	6.21

DAY	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	# OF PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSE
MAY 2025				
17	Permaculture Documentary "Inhabit" Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted a documentary screening at the Logan Library. Learned the different forms permaculture can take, depending on one's goals and space. 	8	<i>"It's awesome to see how permaculture has grown over the years and the possibilities it can give you. I've been learning for 20 years and permaculture can always teach you something new."</i>
JUNE 2025				
4	Basics of Drip Irrigation and Smart Watering Systems	Extension Specialist Dr. Shital Poudyal showed various models and systems for irrigation ranging in complexity. From drip lines to weather satellite connecting devices, participants were able to get a hands-on learning experience to determine what best fits their watering needs.	8	<i>"I'm from Arizona and we are starting with our new property from scratch, Dr. Poudyal gave us tools and resources to build our home."</i>
JULY 2025				
15	Little Gardeners with Common Grounds	<p>Children from the nonprofit organization Common Grounds visited the USU Permaculture Garden.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Took sensory garden tour/walk. Learned permaculture ethics and principles. Harvested lavender for a lavender lemonade. Planted 10 tomato plants. Created their own seeded pods. 	7	<i>"My favorite part was seeing all the bees around the flowers."</i>
AUGUST 2025				
28	Elderberry Processing Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of how to make elderberry syrup. Education on health benefits of elderberries. Permaculture Garden interactive tour. Syrup sampling. Took uncooked elderberries home to prepare their own syrup. 	41	<i>"As a new student, I am so glad that this type of garden is here on campus, it's my personal dream to grow my own food forest in a future home."</i>
SEPTEMBER 2025				
16	Sustainable Food Systems Guest Lecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The permaculture intern guest lectured in the Community Skills course. Lesson on the USU Permaculture Garden. History and definitions of permaculture. Ethics and principles of permaculture. Types of practices that are applied to permaculture gardens. Permaculture zones and design. Past garden events. Donating to the student pantry, SNAC. Pictures from the garden. Interactive garden tour. 	21	<i>"Super helpful lesson that showed a real-world example of how nutrition students can apply sustainable food systems!"</i>
OCTOBER 2025				
5	Hope Community Garden Potluck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food insecurity, sharing food, and connecting the community with helpful resources Learned what permaculture means in terms of agriculture, ethics, practices, and events. Organizations included Cache Food Pantry, the SNAC Pantry, Loaves and Fishes, International Friends Program, the Family Place, and Cache Community Connections. 	25	<i>"If we need this many organizations to tackle this issue, it goes to show how big of a problem it is in our community. We are glad to be helping our community, but our numbers rising is linked to more food insecurity."</i>

OCTOBER 2025

15	Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Science Department Research Showcase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate students shared their research. Food laboratories prepared food using local and healthy ingredients. Permaculture Garden highlights and tours. Flyers about the garden, a layout of the garden, a past impact report, our social media, and a photo collage on display on the wall next to the other research projects. 	102	<p><i>"My husband has been working for this department since before this garden was even built. I have loved to see it evolve into what it is now!"</i></p> <p><i>"I love the concept of this being a teaching garden as well because you are able to experiment with different species of produce."</i></p>
30	USU Sustainability Club and USU Permaculture Garden Tour & Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainability Club collaborated with the USU Permaculture Garden. Learned what permaculture means, how the garden is designed. Helped remove all of the dry and dead plant material. Learned sustainability efforts the garden is trying to achieve and the people and organizations they work with. Dead plant material taken to the UCC Farm to get it composted. Made seed bombs, a gardening tool that allows seeds to be planted anywhere. Utah State Statesman wrote a story about this event to promote the garden. 	14	<p>Article: usstatesman.com/taking-care-of-utah-states-permaculture-garden</p>

NOVEMBER 2025

5	USU Permaculture Garden Seed Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers organized seeds from past events. Bags were organized by type of seed; vegetable, flower, herb. Old seeds were discarded. Volunteers were allowed to take home some seeds. 	4	<p><i>"It's nice to see the variety of things that can grow here, especially in this Utah climate."</i></p>
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PUBLICATIONS

McCann, R.B., White, K.J., Dionne, L. (2025). Permaculture in Primary Teaching: Decolonizing and Building a More Socially and Environmentally Responsible World. In: Earle, S., Preston, C., Georgiou, H., Fitzgerald, A. (eds) Primary Science Learning for Children, Teachers, and Communities. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-95-0561-6_12

USU EXTENSION WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

McCann, R. (2025, December). Building community: Strategies for engagement in transitioning urban spaces. Invited guest speaker at Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet (SLU), Alnarp, Sweden. <https://www.slu.se/kalender/2025/12/building-community-strategies-for-engagement-in-transitioning-urban-spaces/> (10)

Earle, S., Sigsgaard, A.M., Nash, M., McCann, R., Dionne, L., Carpendale, J., et al. (2025, August). Permaculture in primary teaching: A transformative pathway for decolonizing education and building a more socially and environmentally responsible world. European Science Education Research Association (ESERA) Conference. Copenhagen, Denmark. (29)

McCann, R. (2025, July 25). Living systems: Greywater reuse and regenerative design. 9 plants & shrubs, 1 tree planted at the Bluff Design Build campus, Bluff, UT (see flyer) (11).

"I will be traveling from the Black Mesa region on the Navajo Nation with dad. We're excited for this workshop given that we don't have running water and we're always looking for ways to use all of our water."

McCann, R., Holliday, S., & Wytalucy, R. (2025, May 29). Perennial edible and medicinal volunteer planting day. 116 plants, shrubs and trees planted at the Tsé Bii' Ndzisgaa Community Center (Monument Valley Welcome Center), Monument Valley, UT (see flyer) (14).

"Everyone in the community loves it!" - Samantha Holiday, Tsé Bii' Ndzisgaa Community Center Director.

McCann, R. (2025, April 23). Introduction to permaculture design. 6-hour workshop taught to Community Rebuilds staff and interns, Moab, UT (10).

McCann, R. (2025, February 27). Sinking the rain and building nutrients with earthworks and wood mulch. Extension workshop delivered as part of the Grand County Soil Health Workshop, Moab, UT. (39)

McCann, R., Powell, J., Bernakevitch, J. (2025, January). Permaculture for professionals: Developing a skilled workforce in regenerative and ecological land management. Webinar delivered for the January 2025 AgriProspects Workforce Development Network. Zoom, national. (32)