



HUB FARM

DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020





In these uncertain times, we are grateful to be a part of such a resilient, creative, and compassionate community. Thank you for learning outside with us at the Durham Public Schools Hub Farm. Whether you volunteered on a field trip, attended a festival, or simply followed our progress on social media, we're glad you are with us!

The 2019-2020 school year brought challenges from the dual tragedies of the nation's ongoing reckoning with race and the global COVID-19 pandemic. We acknowledge the anti-Black racist history of farming in the United States and we stand in solidarity with all persons that have experienced and continue to experience harm from our nation's institutional system of white supremacy. You can read more about our response on page 4. Although 40 scheduled spring programs were canceled due to school closures, we quickly pivoted with innovative ideas and creative adaptations to our circumstances. Instead of hosting in-person field trips and class visits, we piloted virtual programming such as a live honey bee hive inspection, virtual lessons, and several new professional videos (find them on our Youtube channel!). We also shifted our garden production towards donating food and distributed 1,814 take-home seed growing kits and 300 summer transplants to DPS families.

With the help of community partners and five local grant programs, we completed Phase I of our pond rehabilitation project. The defunct livestock pond that drained in the fall of 2018 has now been transformed into open space for future programming and agricultural production. A constructed step-pool stream and wetland plantings will be added as soon as additional funding is available. We also improved our informational and directional signage, built a new outdoor classroom, and welcomed real windows to the barn. In collaboration with Northern High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) and a local farmer and veterinarian, we were thrilled to welcome seven Boer goats to the Hub Farm for the 2019-2020 school year! Cared for by dedicated high school FFA members, the goats brought voracious appetites and a lot of personality to our programs. We hope to continue this program annually and one day add some resident goats to our Hub Farm family.

As we continue through a school year that will undoubtedly present further challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to increasing access to safe outdoor learning for all students. We are listening to our community for how to best support DPS students, staff, and families during this uncertain time of extended virtual learning. We are energized by the strong foundation we have built together over the past eight years and are thrilled to have you by our side.

We are grateful for the progress we have made and have big dreams for the year ahead. Thank you for supporting us, lending a helping hand, and giving us the feedback necessary to help us grow - we hope to see you out at the Hub Farm as soon as it is safe!

In peace,

Handr Bell-Damby

Ashley Mendick

Melissa Jones



The Hub Farm's mission is to improve the academic achievement and well-being of students in Durham Public Schools through experiential outdoor learning.



Clockwise from top-right: produce from a spring CSA bag, CTE teacher Demikia Taylor and Northern High School students caring for Boer goats, beekeeping interns, math measurements in the garden, and students learning about geology in the Hub Farm woods.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AT THE DPS HUB FARM

As a public outdoor learning center serving the DPS community, we acknowledge the racist history of farming, land-use, and the public education system in the Southeast United States.

As descendants of colonizers and immigrants to this continent, we recognize that the Hub Farm currently occupies unceded ancestral lands. We acknowledge the Indigenous people who have been living on this land for thousands of years, the people who experienced forced enslavement and exploitation on this land for hundreds of years, and the people who still experience racism on this land today. We recognize the ongoing legacies of colonialism, enslavement, segregation, and racism in our community; we are mindful of our participation in these forces and institutions; we continue to research and understand our place within the history of this land; and we are committed to working for greater equity in access to this land.

Many of our tools, seeds, and agricultural technologies come from Indigenous, African, African-American, Latinx and immigrant communities, each rich with cultures and histories of their own. As we grow food and work outdoors with DPS students, 41 percent of whom are Black and over 80 percent of whom are students of color, we strive to keep this history at the forefront of our work. We center our students as the experts of their own experiences and commit to listening to and learning from them. We will always provide space for DPS student and staff voices and we are committed to seeking feedback.

We envision a world where all children feel safe in outdoor spaces, and have access to healthy food and a learning environment that supports their social and emotional well-being. We are deeply committed to providing positive outdoor experiences for all DPS students and we will continue to keep anti-racist practices at the core of our pedagogy.

We have more work to do. We invite you to read our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan for details on how we are taking action. We will continue to critically examine how the Hub Farm can contribute to dismantling systems of oppression in outdoor education. You can read more about our Action Plan on our website: www.thehubfarm.org.

With love and commitment,

The DPS Hub Farm

PIVOTING IN THE PANDEMIC

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

1,814

AT-HOME CONTAINER GARDEN
KITS MADE + DISTRIBUTED
TO 26 SITES

10

HOURS OF VIRTUAL
CLASSES TAUGHT



**HUB
FARM**
DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

260

POUNDS OF
PRODUCE DONATED

\$4,000

IN RAPID
RESPONSE GRANT
FUNDS AWARDED

271

VEGETABLE PLANT
STARTS DONATED

2019-2020

MEASURING OUR IMPACT:

ACTUAL VS. EXPECTED NUMBERS DUE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES

61/163

TEACHERS SERVED:
63% LOSS

1,363/3,909

STUDENTS SERVED:
65% LOSS

11/25

SCHOOLS SERVED:
56% LOSS

80/159

PROGRAMS LED:
49.7% LOSS

VOLUNTEER NUMBERS:

350

ENGAGED

1,700

HOURS

\$41,480

ADDED VALUE

6

UNC SERVICE
LEARNING INTERNS



FROM OUR COMMUNITY:

"My husband and I took your mushroom inoculation class and our mushroom logs have started fruiting! I didn't know what to expect but I'm super excited- thanks for a great class!"

~Abi

"Thank you for helping me learn science more and how it goes into everyday life and being a farmer"

~Adrienne, 7th grade

"This is the best day of my life because I get to see everything at the Hub Farm. There are a lot of animals. My favorite part is planting the flowers."

~1st grader

GARDEN BOUNTY

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

1/4 ACRE 2,631 LBS PRODUCE 283 DOZEN EGGS
 169 OZ HONEY 421 LBS DONATED 45 JARS PRESERVES



Recipients	Weight (lbs)
CSA + Sales	1,203
CTE Culinary Class	91
Donation	421
DPS + Hub Farm Staff	675
Field Trips	95
Interns	63
Volunteers + Community Partners	83
Total (lbs):	2,631

Highest-Producing Crops (lbs):	
Bok Choy	238.65
Tomatoes	228.55
Cucumbers	185.2
Turnips	179.25
Cut Lettuce	155.5
Kale	139.10
Mustard Greens	137.75
Sweet Potatoes	124.50





COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

CSA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ELLIOT LOWENTHAL

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A HUB FARM CSA MEMBER?

This will be my fourth season as a Hub Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) member!

WHAT IS A FAVORITE DISH YOU'VE COOKED WITH HUB FARM PRODUCE?

My favorite dish I've cooked with Hub Farm produce is a vegetable souffle I made using Hub Farm eggs, garlic, onions, parsley, rosemary, squash, patty pan and eggplant.

WHY DID YOU INITIALLY JOIN, AND WHAT KEEPS YOU RETURNING?

My sister-in-law was a member and introduced me. I like your affiliation with the local high school and the selection of farm fresh produce.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE VEGGIES?

It's hard to say what my favorite vegetable is. I truly enjoy the heirloom tomatoes, the patty pan squashes, and the farm fresh duck eggs. My wife is a big fan of the eggplants and figs.





High school interns gather before work; elementary school students learn about honeybees; middle school students investigate macroinvertebrates.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

JACK BROWN

HORTICULTURE TEACHER,
NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL

HUB FARM MEMORY

So many memories, but a couple stand out. One was having students drill, plug, and wax sweet gum logs for mushroom production. The students were amazed at the process and loved being a part of the assembly line. [It was a] true team experience. Secondly, getting all of my Horticulture students in bee suits and going into the hives. A lot of students were obviously nervous but once they got comfortable, a whole new world opened up for them.

FAVORITE WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Spending time outside enjoying all of the awesome things the NC Piedmont has to offer. I'm lucky to live in North Durham County, so the Eno is a few minutes away, as well as some great little lakes to paddle board and fish. The farmer's market is incredible too.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE HUB FARM?

I was able to utilize the farm for so many different teaching opportunities. It was a dream come true to have a working farm in walking distance [from Northern High School] to provide my students with hands-on instruction with real agriculture professionals.

HOW DOES THE HUB FARM BENEFIT YOUR STUDENTS?

The Hub Farm gets them out of the traditional classroom. I was never a successful student learning that way, so I understand the benefit of seeing and touching things to make that connection. You can literally see the "lightbulb" turn on in students that do not feel comfortable or engaged in the classroom. For other students, it's invaluable supplemental experience.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BO O'REILLY

HUB FARM VOLUNTEER SINCE 2015

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF!

One of the constants for me through life and career has been a love of nature. It has always provided fascination and wonder.

FAVORITE HUB FARM MEMORY

My favorite Hub Farm memory is of teaching grade school students during the annual EcoBloom Program on the importance of honey bees and pollination.

WHAT GOT YOU HOOKED ON THE HUB FARM?

Over 5 years ago I attended a DIY Shiitake Mushroom Log workshop at the Hub Farm. The more I learned about it, the more I admired the noble educational mission & wanted to be part of it.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO RELAX IN DURHAM?

I like Sennett's Swimming Hole (Turtle Hole) upriver from West Point on The Eno Park.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Thanks to our community partners, including the Bionomic Educational Training Center (BETC), Durham County Library, Durham Innovative Nutrition Education (DINE), UNC Masters of Teaching Program, Durham County Beekeepers Association, EPA, Frog Hollow Outdoors, NC Cooperative Extension, and Northern High School FFA.



GRANTS

GRANT FUNDING FY 19-20: \$69,500

BAYER USA FOUNDATION
DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION
TOWN & COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB
TRIANGLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BURT'S BEES GREATER GOOD FOUNDATION
AMERICORPS
NC FARM TO SCHOOL

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES



WE WELCOMED A NEW PAVILION (WITH BATHROOMS!), 7 BOER GOATS,
AND BROKE GROUND ON OUR POND REHABILITATION PROJECT.

CTNC
AMERICORPS
SERVICE MEMBER
2019-2020

TAMARYA SIMS



**WHAT DID YOU MOST ENJOY
LEARNING AT THE HF?**

I enjoyed learning how to inspect the beehive and how to make farm life fit into school standards.

FAVORITE HF PRODUCE!

My favorite things to find were eggs, mushrooms, and honey. (oh yeah and those asparagus and strawberries are out of this world!)

HUB FARM MEMORY:

I don't have just one! Going in the beehives, hanging with scholars from Eno Valley, and picking up my first chicken.



**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE
PART OF SERVING AT THE HF?**

Being so close to the school and learning from the school system, teachers, and students/scholars. I took a scholar on their first hike and I will remember that forever.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

After I "graduate" from CTNC AmeriCorps, I will be taking on a full time job as a Community Farm Associate at Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in Asheville, where I plan to continue to make farm education accessible to all.

UNC CHAPEL HILL APPLES INTERN SUMMER 2020

FREYA PATEL



FAVORITE PART OF THIS INTERNSHIP?

I was always learning something new. Every week there would be new tasks to complete. Sometimes the skills were practical such as learning how to manage a garden or build and install a chicken coop laying box. Other times the skills were more conceptual, such as learning to manage several deadlines or how to prioritize a task list. I was even able to pick an independent project and follow it through to completion which was an incredibly valuable experience.

WHAT PRODUCE DID YOU MOST ENJOY?

I most enjoyed the honey and strawberries! The honey was delicious and it was so cool to get honey directly from the bees. I had never even seen a beehive or honeycomb before so it's definitely something I'll never forget. The strawberries from the Hub Farm were so sweet and I enjoyed being able to pick them and take them home the same day - they made a great snack!

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED LEARNING?

It was so much fun learning all about beekeeping (even though I'm still scared of being stung) and learning about how to take care of the chickens and ducks. I also enjoyed learning about gardening and seeing the plants grow week by week.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As a rising senior, the next step for me is to work towards graduating in Spring 2021 and receiving my Bachelor's in Statistics and Biology. I haven't decided exactly what field I want to work in yet, but I definitely want to be able to make a positive impact on my community.





FRIENDS OF THE HUB FARM BOARD 2019-2020

The Friends of the Hub Farm is a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization that supports the educational mission of the DPS Hub Farm through fundraising and advocacy.

MARTHA PRITCHETT	JOCELYN GLAZIER
LINDA TUGURIAN	DEBBIE SEARS
FRAN CULLEN	MIKE DUPREE
KATHERINE GILL	SARAH YELTON
MERIDITH PUMPHREY	MEGAN EILENBERGER
JENNIFER VUILLERMENT	

MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

The Friends of the Hub Farm recognizes and thanks their generous members for their support of support the Hub Farm's mission to expand access to outdoor learning for the students of DPS and the great Durham community!

Flower Members

Jill Watson	Connor Johnston
Timothy Turkington	Tre Shaw
Shelley Turkington	Liz Dea
Jon Stonehouse	Joel Johnson
Debra Stonehouse	Colleen Ellis
Elizabeth Pritchett	Avery Ellis
Carol Donin	Joanne Liddle
Julie Pack	Rodger Liddle
Keith Morris	Donna Deal
Clare Matti	Andrea De Jesus
Blaise Cote	Elizabeth Donahue

Sunshine Members

Martha Pritchett
Frances Cullen
Steve Unruhe
Jennifer McGovern

Root Members

Geoffrey Seelen
Bo O'Reilly
Maggie Heraty
Deborah Dobbins
Brenna Copeland
Nicole Connelly
Leigh Bordley
Clay Bordley
Susan Antle

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

VISIT: [HTTPS://DPSHUBFARM.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/JOIN-US/](https://dpsHubFarm.WildApricot.org/join-us/)



OUR STAFF

ASHLEY MEREDITH, PROGRAM MANAGER

HANNAH BALL-DAMBERG, FARM EDUCATOR

MELISSA AMOABENG, FARM EDUCATOR

TAMARYA SIMS, '19-'20 AMERICORPS SERVICE MEMBER



CONSERVATION
TRUST FOR NORTH
CAROLINA





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