The Merrill Community Sharing Garden: Involving the Community in Sustainability
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My Goals
• Become familiar with gardening and the Merrill community.
• Plan a garden club for the neighborhood children.
• Involve the community with the sharing garden through my work at the Community Center and the Garden Club.

The Sharing Garden
• Located in the Merrill neighborhood on Porter Avenue and Nelson Avenue.
• Encompasses about 5 city plots.
• Produces a wide variety of fruits and vegetables for the community members to harvest.
• Provides a beautiful community space.

The Garden Club
• Saturday mornings from 10 am-12 pm for school aged children (ages 5 and up).
• Children were introduced to the basics of gardening through participating in activities such as planting, weeding, watering and mulching.
• Healthy snacks were also provided, which gave the children a chance to taste new fruits and vegetables.

The Merrill Community Center
• Offers free summer camp programs for children ages 5 to 13.
• Community center children participate in a 2 hour program on Wednesdays where they learn about gardening, nutrition and the general plant growth process.

Community Center Activities
• Children maintained gardening journals which they added to on a weekly basis.
• Interactive educational activities in the classroom in which children learned plants parts, tool safety and the basics on plant growth.
• Hands-on activities in the sharing garden, such as weeding and planting.

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Garden Club Activities
• Planting flower baskets.
• Weeding the garden beds.
• Mulching the melon patch.
• Preparing the garden beds for planting.
• Learning basic tool safety.
• Making plant markers.