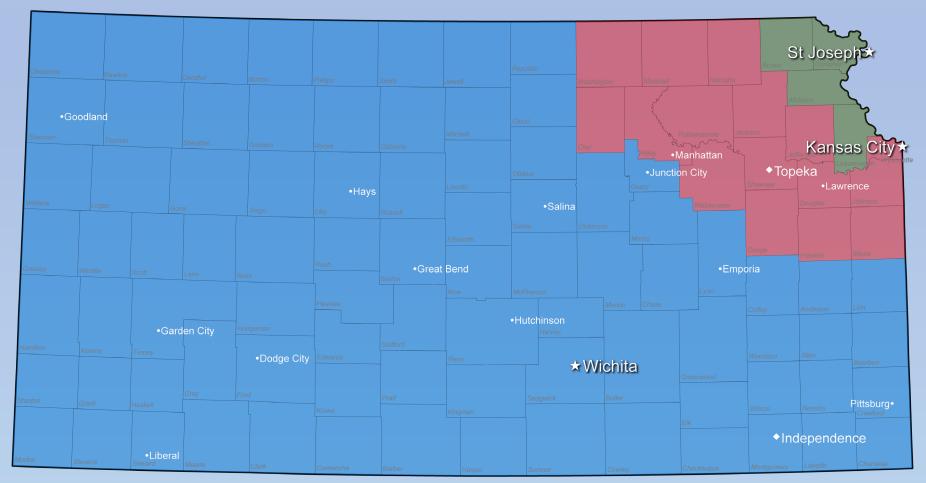
# Addressing Hunger in the Heartland

April 26, 2023

### **Three Food Banks Serve Kansas**







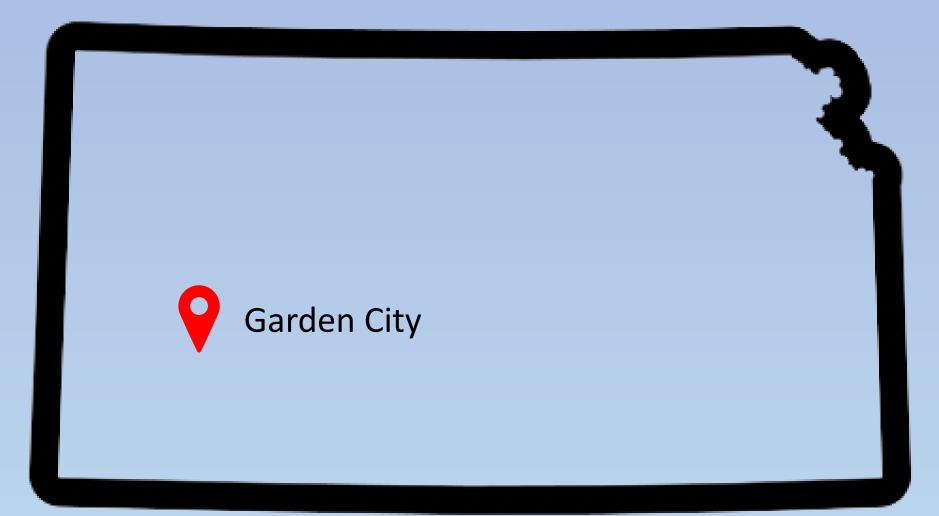
Building Hunger-Free Community

#### **State of Kansas - Food Bank Service Areas**

The Kansas Food Bank based in Wichita, Harvesters Community Food Network based in Kansas City, Mo., and Second Harvest Community Food Bank based in St. Joseph, Mo., are all member food banks of Feeding America, the national network of food banks. Each provide services to hundreds of member agencies across the state of Kansas, including: food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, schools, and many others who are all engaged in providing help and bringing hope to our fellow Kansans who find themselves in need.

★ Home City ◆ Satellite Location ◆ Major City

## **Exciting News!**



### How a Food Bank Works



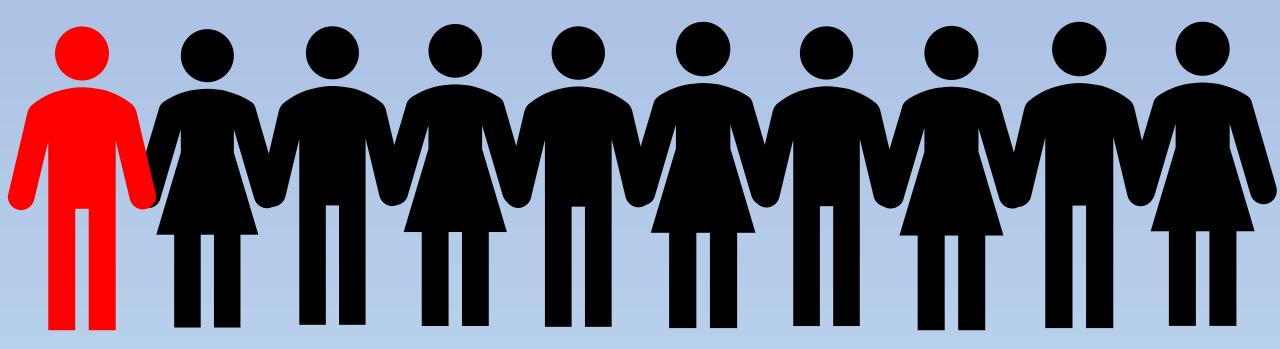
## Pandemic Response



### Kansas Food Source

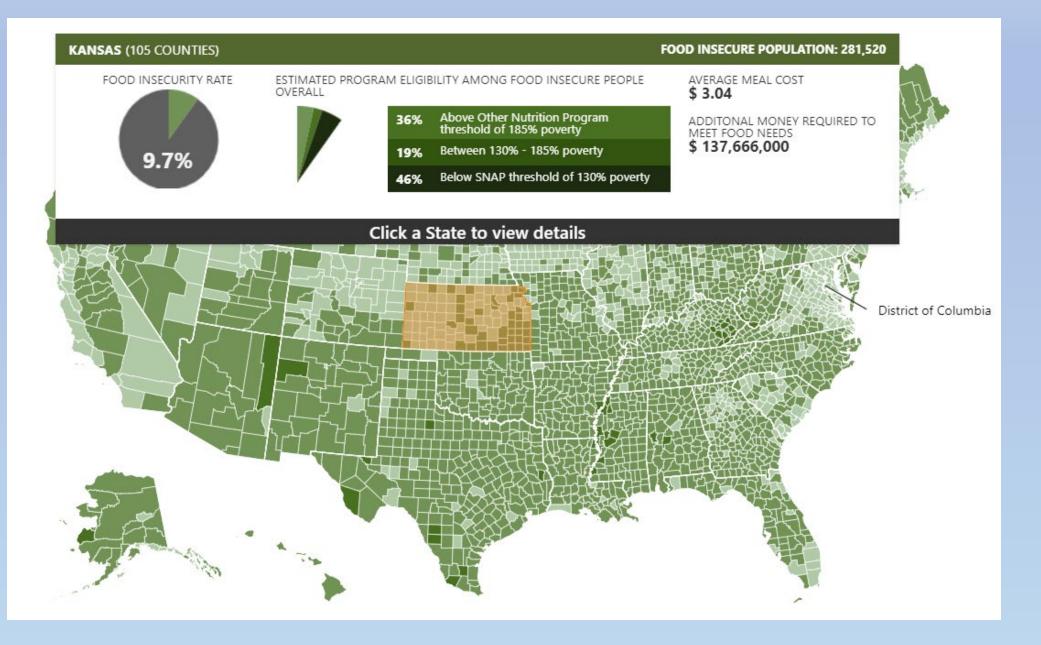


### Household Hunger in Kansas



### 9.7% of Kansans are Food Insecure

#### Map the Meal Gap





In the 2022 Fiscal Year, SNAP helped 195,800 Kansas residents, or 7% of the state population (1 in 15)

**Source**: <u>Center on Budget and Policy Priorities</u>

## Childhood Hunger in Kansas

14.6% of Kansas Kids are Food Insecure



## Food Banks Helping Schoolchildren









# Summer Feeding Program



- USDA Sponsored
- Sites including libraries, schools, churches, and community centers
- Meals served in congregate setting and non-congregate rural areas

#### <u>USDA – Summer Meals Site Finder</u>

# Food Bank Shopping List

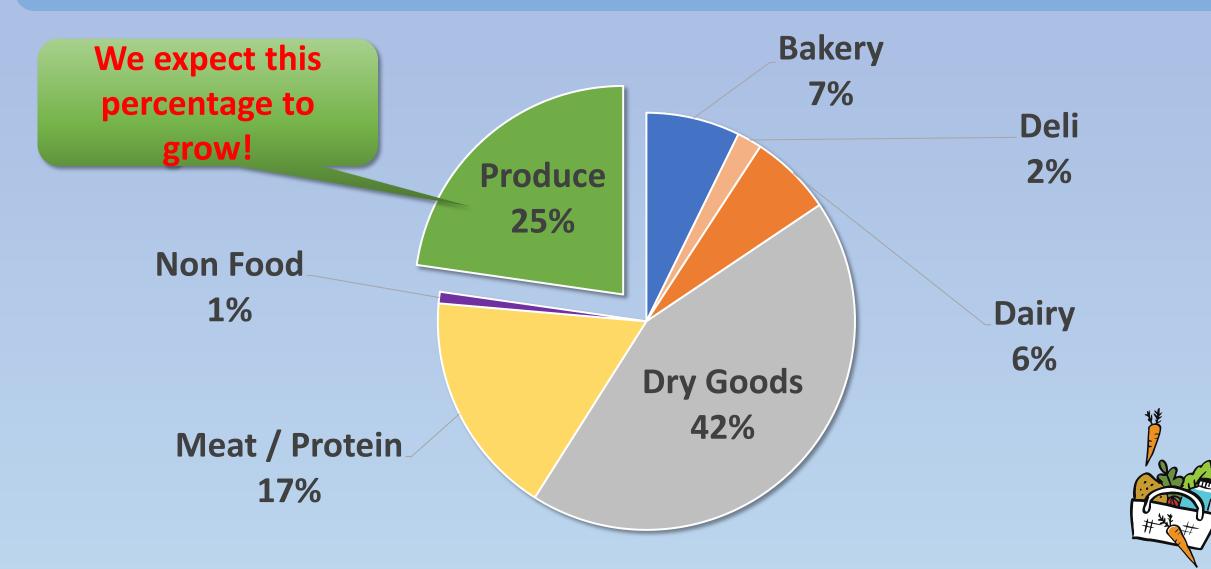
#### What **<u>NOT</u>** to Collect:

- Items in glass containers
- 50 pound bags of sugar, rice or flour
- Bottled water
- Perishable items that require refrigeration
- Home Baked goods
- Expired food

Shopping List
Canned vegetables (low sodium)
Canned fruits in 100% juice
Dried fruit (no added sugar preferred)
Canned chicken, tuna, salmon (packed in water)
Brown nice
Whole grain pasta
Dried or canned beans (low sodium preferred)
Peanut, almond, or sun butter
Canned soup (chicken, tomato, or vegetable)
Cereal - hot and cold (whole grain, low sugar)

6 - +

# What Type of Food was Distributed







# The Importance of Fresh Foods









The Big Garden, A Healthy Congregations Program

**Molly Baurain** 

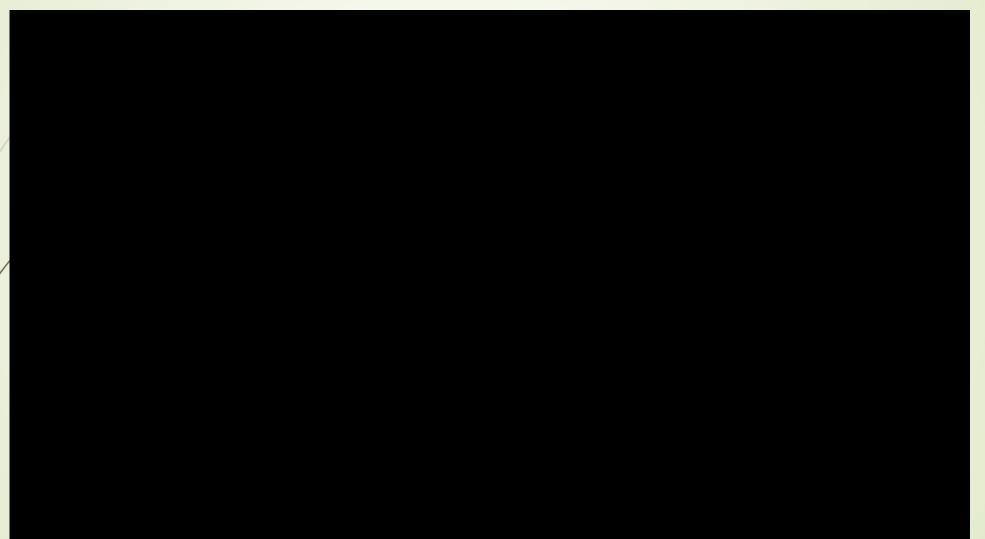
KS Program Manager



#### **Planted by United Methodists**



### The Big Garden



#### How we address Food Insecurity....

- Educational workshops on growing food, cooking, food preservation, and more.
- Farm to School program
- Grow Your Own: 10-week school curriculum
- Garden to Table: afterschool classes at middle schools in Omaha Public Schools
- Giving Grove fruit orchards
- Community Garden builds
- Plant Sale
- Seed Swap
- New Roots Internship- 12-week paid summer internship for young adults

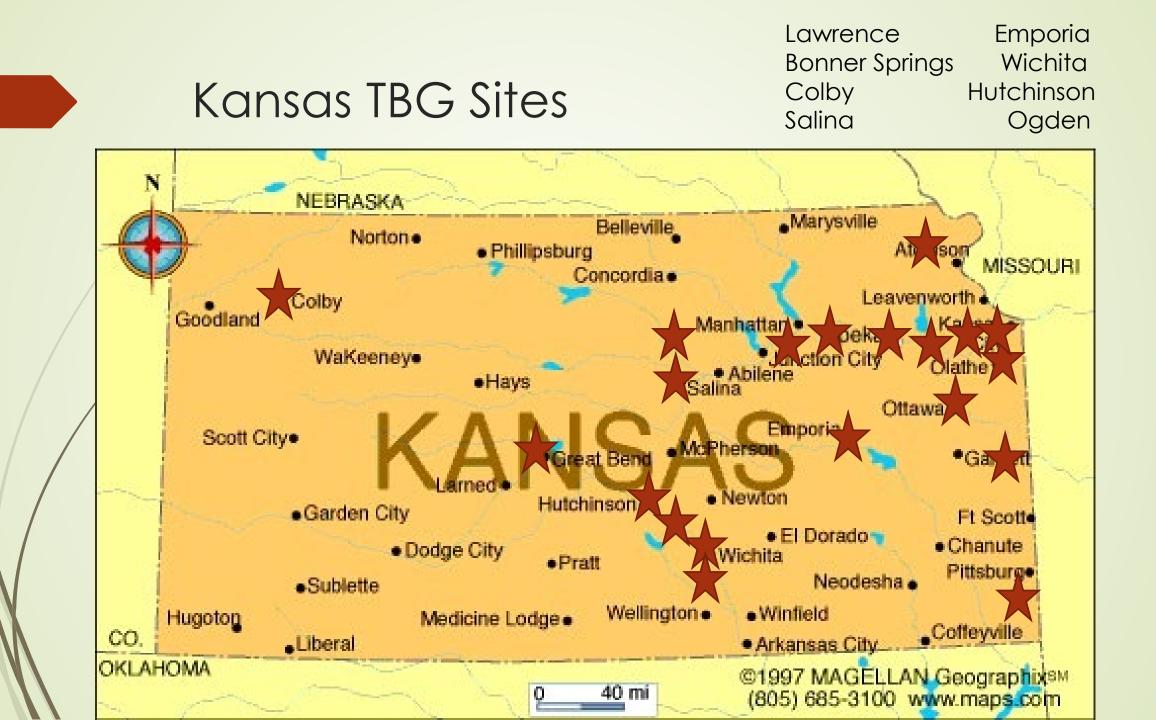
#### The Big Garden (TBG) History

- Founded in 2005 by United Methodist Ministries in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Established more than 200 community gardens in Nebraska, Kansas, and Southwest Iowa.
- In 2009, TBG began establishing gardens in eastern NE and northeastern KS. Became an affiliate of the Giving Grove program in 2018 and started planting orchards in Omaha.
- October 2019, KS Program Manager began for the purpose of expanding community gardens & orchards in Kansas & Nebraska through the UMHMF's Healthy Congregations Program.
- Partnership with Stilwell UMC in Stilwell, KS to provide office space, storage, and program support.

### **KS SCOPE OF WORK**

- Community Garden Program
- Giving Grove (started fall 2020) in rural KS & NE
- As of Spring 2023, 20 fruit orchards planted
- 32 active UMC community gardens in KS & NE
- Each site is managed locally to meet local needs.









#### Gardens/Orchards

- Located on UM church property or a partnership with a local community site.
- Portion of produce must be donated to the community. Most gardens donate 100% of their produce to those in need.
- Existing community gardens may apply if they haven't previously received the Healthy Congregations CG grant or GG special grant.
  - One-time grant opportunity.
- Model: (1) Individuals/groups rent a raised bed for a fee or no fee. (2) Mixture of Raised beds and Donation garden. (3) 100% Donation garden.

#### **COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANT**





#### \$2,700 for garden infrastructure:

- Raised beds
- Fencing
- Garden Shed
- Water installation
- Irrigation & Tools

#### **COMMUNITY GARDENS**



#### **COMMUNITY GARDENS**

Does not cover on-going expenses: such as water, seeds, plants & mulch after the 1st year of construction. Can use HC annual grant \$\$ to pay.



### How to Get a Garden!

- Church must be registered with the UMHMF's Healthy Congregations program.
- To Apply, visit <u>https://healthfund.org/tbgapp</u>
- Apply in late winter/early spring if you want to plant in spring or early summer. Application period is ongoing.
- Deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup> for summer planting.
- Grant awards- maximum \$2,700 to cover construction costs over 3 years.
- Existing gardens are eligible to apply to expand or improve existing infrastructure if they haven't previously received the grant.
- Garden will need to become self-sufficient after 3 years.
- TBG will provide ongoing assistance, horticulture expertise, and spring workshops for garden leaders.

#### Giving Grove Grant- Orchard Program



#### 10 fruit trees for FREE through Givin Grove HC Special Opportunities!

- 200 fruit baskets per site average
- Value: \$5,000
- Apples- Semi dwarf
- Pears- European & Asian
- Peaches
- Cherries- Bush & Tree
- Raspberries & Blackberries
- Strawberries
- Paw Paw, Jujube, Persimmon
- Nuts: Chestnut, Pecan, Walnut



### How to Get an Orchard!

- Church must be registered in HC program.
- To Apply, visit <u>https://healthfund.org/ggapp</u>
- 2 planting opportunities a year: Spring (mid-March to early May) and Fall (early October to late November)
- Spring Applications are due March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Fall Applications are due September 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 2 self-appointed Orchard Stewards. Tree stewards agree to ongoing training and maintenance of the orchard.
- Attend New Steward Training (offered twice a year) & other tree maintenance workshops.
- 10 Fruit Trees for FREE! All materials & tools needed for planting day will be provided.
- Portion of produce is donated to those in need.



# Topeka Collegiate School

Apple, Enterprise- Ripens late September

Apple, Sundance- Ripens early October

Sweet Cherry, Black Gold- Ripens early June

Sweet Cherry, Black Gold- Ripens early June

Pear, Blake's Pride- Ripens mid-August

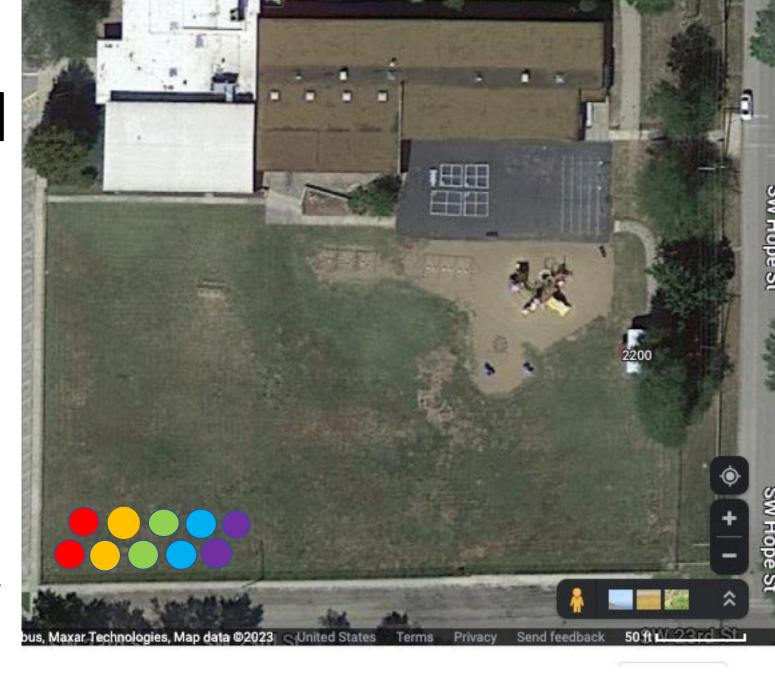
Pear, Sunrise- Ripens early August

Jujube, Li- Ripens late September

Jujube, Lang- Ripens early to mid-September

Paw Paw- Ripens mid-August

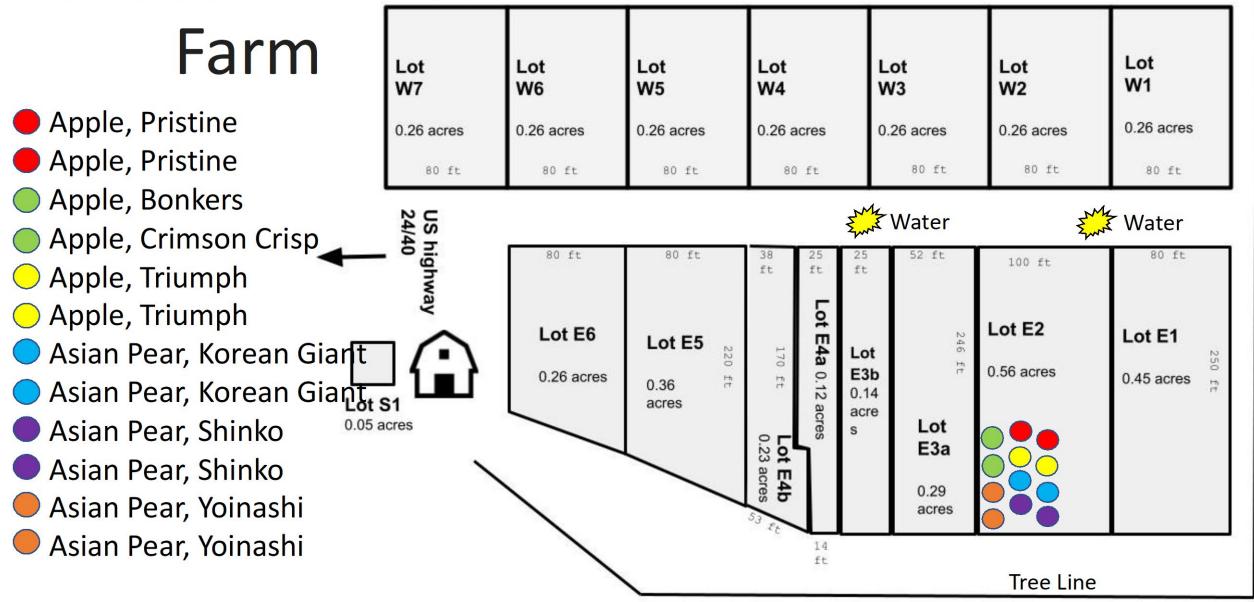
Paw Paw- Ripens mid-August



#### Community Incubator Farm-Lawrence, KS



### Nanasoohan<u>nea</u>

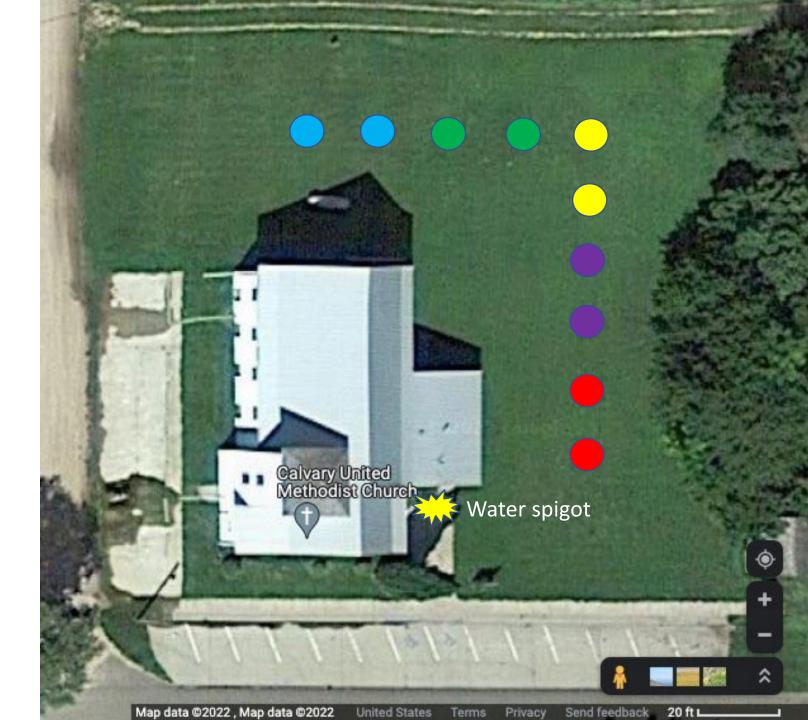


#### Methodist Churches- Taylor, NE



#### Calvary UMC Taylor, NE

Apple, Sundance Apple, Sundance Apple, Liberty Apple, Liberty Apple, Enterprise Apple, Enterprise Asian Pear, Chojuro Asian Pear, Chojuro Asian Pear, Yoinashi Asian Pear, Yoinashi



#### **Community Partners**

Habitat For Humanity-Topeka, KS

Abundant Harvest Food Kitchen- Emporia, KS

Joy Meadows Foster Care Services- Linwood, KS

Gil Carter Initiative-Topeka, KS

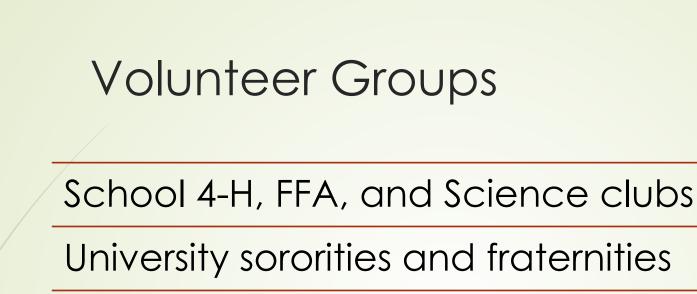
Hutchinson Park & Rec-Hutchinson, KS

Columbus Park & Rec- Columbus, KS

Ogden Elementary & Ogden UMC- Ogden, KS

Topeka Collegiate School-Topeka, KS

Oakland Community Garden-Topeka, KS



Church youth groups

Local public servants (police, firefighters, mayor)

Master Gardener groups

Garden clubs

Local businesses

Rotary club

#### Thank you!



MOLLY BAURAIN
KS Program Manager
913-897-2418
mbaurain@biggarden.org

Stilwell UMC 19335 Metcalf Avenue Stilwell, KS 66085