

**FINAL REPORT 4-15-12 – in blue copy**

**1. Name of project and amount of grant:**

Name: Pocket Park / Community Garden in the Village of Philmont.  
 Amount: 1,540.00

**2. Name and phone number of person submitting report.**

Peter Buckbee. 518 672 7984

**3. Use of grant money, itemized by payee and purpose of expenditure.**

This project was completed in September 2011.

Use of Fund for Columbia grant money was as follows:

1. Payee: Karin Heide date 8/3/2011-10/19/2011 \$220 purpose: Landscaping consultant
2. Payee: Peter Buckbee date 8/3/2011-10/19/2011 \$1,320 purpose: Landscaping consultant

**3. PB Inc garden match of \$368 – paid to Morag Hann 11/2011 – Landscaping consultant / plants**

Because the project is incomplete, the funds have not yet been spent. Below is the original proposed budget. It is still our intention to use the funds as specified below.

	requested	committed	committed	committed	
ITEM	Columbia Fund	APFPA	NYMS	PB Inc	Program
	Request	Match	Match	Match	Total
Landscaping consultant / (62 hrs)	1,240.00		1,250.00		2,490.00
Planting materials	300.00			300.00	600.00
Gardening tools		400.00			400.00
Flagstones				550.00	550.00
Fencing			750.00	2,500.00	3,250.00
Soils, composting materials, mulches				750.00	750.00
Excavation and Stone Work			3,500.00	2,500.00	6,000.00
Trellis			250.00		250.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,540.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>5,750.00</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>	<b>14,290.00</b>

**4. Detailed narrative description of implementation of the project, including any revisions from original proposal. Please include the number of people who participated in or were affected by the project, if applicable, and the nature of that participation.**

This project reached, and exceeded, the original goals laid out in the proposal narrative and copy/pasted below:

Original goal: APFPA and up to eight interns will join an overall project team consisting of an urban designer, Norman Minzt; landscape designer, Morag Hann; stone mason, Tim Smith; hardscape general contractor, Hemlock Hollow Farm (Sam Wright); staff of Philmont Beautification, Inc.; Philmont Village Trustee, Larry Ostrander, and the Main St. program Streetscape Committee chaired by Mayor Speed, in a substantial revitalization project aimed at turning a public area/small pocket park located on the Main St at the corner of Summit St. (land recently leased by the Village of Philmont to the Philmont.

**Goal achieved:** All team participants originally outlined came together to produce the substantial revitalization project creating a beautiful small public park with stone steps and crafted columns leading up to a community garden now named the Firehouse Tea Garden which is to be used for staging public workshops for growing teas and herbs; a community garden program which can foster a greater

understanding of how herbs and teas can benefit families coming together to share in a growing experience; and health related topics based on the benefit of including fresh herbs and teas into a regular diet, for cooking, and for treating health related symptoms, and many other uses.

**BEFORE:**



**IN PROGRESS:**



**AFTER:**



**Village Pocket Park**



**Stone steps leading to the herb garden**



**Protective barrier planters**



**New retaining wall & columns**



**Firehouse Tea Garden ready to plant**

This project is still in progress. The original proposal was for a mid-June start date 2010. This was delayed, however, because the construction hardscaping of the Pocket Park/Community Garden was behind schedule and because funding didn't come through until late July. By that time both the availability of the gardening consultant and the season placed limitations on the project's development. During the months of August and September 2010 perennials purchase by PB Inc under the NY Main St. Streetscape program were planted with the landscape designer, staff of Philmont Beautification, Inc., two volunteers and the gardening consultant and wall beds were mulched in the pocket park garden. In mid-October the landscape consultant worked with a group of six teenagers and one staff from Berkshire Farm cleaning up and preparing the ground in the community garden. After that it got too cold to work outside. Gardening was picked back up in April and May 2011. Weeds were pulled, and ground was cleared. Two volunteers assisted the gardening consultant. Work will be continued in July –September 2011 including: Finish clearing and evening ground in Community Garden, order soil to be donated by GrowMax, refine garden plans with PB Inc and community volunteers, hold a community garden outreach event with PB Inc to shape community garden beds, and plant transplants to get the garden going with community volunteers. Work on a plan for going forward with PB Inc. to involve creating a volunteer community garden team aimed at sustainability of the garden.

**5. Assessment of effectiveness of project toward meeting its goals.**

The transformation of this once seldom used Village Pocket Park and the reclamation of wasteland to turn into the community-based Firehouse Community Tea Garden has acted as a catalyst of hope, health, and beauty, encouraging community participation in creating a sustainable garden, for mounting and staging garden/growing related community workshops, and for providing a restful and peaceful space on the Main St where people can gather, socialize, and discuss the next steps for creating a successful community-based garden where families can come together in the process of growing a garden that can also serve their food needs and health education. The project additionally provided a platform for participants to work in team format with Philmont Beautification, Inc., staff and volunteers, effectively building a good foundation for the future of the community garden, programming, and a shared experience of accomplishment for all participants.

Although this project is still in process, it has made steps towards meeting its goals. It has served as a pilot project for APFPA, it has begun to shape the community garden and, most importantly, it has made an impact in young people's lives. When I worked with the teenagers from Berkshire farm, I witnessed a complete transformation from the time they arrived and when they left. They came quarreling, uninterested and skeptical in the work. After a few hours of working with their hands they had relaxed, were working together harmoniously, and took pride in their work. They left with renewed energy and optimism. This gave me total faith in the mission and potential of this project. I look forward to more opportunities such as that one.

**6. If the project is not yet completed, please provide the projected completion date.**

The project was completed in September 2011.

The projected time frame to finish the described work is August/September, 2011.