Willett Pollinator Friendly Garden Narrative

The Willett Pollinator Friendly Garden is located along the north edge of the school between the school and Sycamore Park. There was a school garden started in this area years before, but it had long since been untended and plants were no longer there or were struggling from neglect; the space is on Sycamore Park land and we were told by a parent who was working with the gardens at the time that the City of Davis allowed the school to use the space at least 10 years prior. The current garden focuses heavily on native pollinator plants (goal of 80%) and other plants are included for interest and uniqueness. The garden is also planted mostly with perennial plants, spaced to allow plants to reach full size at maturity without pruning necessary, with just a few areas where annuals can be added for color and interest (sunflowers, zinnias, coleus, gomphrena, poppies, marigolds, pumpkins, gourds, watermelon, wildflowers etc).

The revitalization of the Willett garden program started in the Fall of 2023; dead or diseased vegetation was removed, soil amended with many tons of compost, new plants installed, and infrastructure--such as path stakes, dripper system, and mulch--set out. Starting Fall 2024, educational signage was provided in the garden for self-directed learning and the area next to Catalyst mulched. In Spring of 2025, replacement plants were installed for any that had died, two more picnic tables appeared, ropes were repaired, additional drippers installed and timer replaced.

Edits: Jessica Lundberg 4/28/25