



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

APRIL, 2022

GOING GREEN WITH GREG

This month the City of Winter Springs shines a light on our Application Specialist Gregory King. Greg works in our I.T department and is approaching his one-year anniversary with the City. His duties include researching and obtaining software packages and implementing them into practice. When asked what aspect of his job he likes the most, he replied

“The aspect I enjoy the most about working at Winter Springs is the work environment. I enjoy seeing the changes made immediately impact the staff and people of Winter Springs.”

With the City focusing on going green and celebrating Arbor Day shortly, Greg was a perfect fit for the employee spotlight. In his free time, Greg enjoys gardening and plant keeping. When asked where he got his green thumb from, he replied, ***“I was exposed to gardening by my grandfather when I was ten years old. Eating a meal that you have grown is what***



started it for me. It made a lot of sense.”

Since then, Greg has followed in his grandfather’s footsteps and started an outdoor garden growing various fruits and vegetables. Avocados, peppers, and his favorite “Yellow Meat” Watermelon are some of his notable crops. Greg’s hobby goes beyond his backyard. He also enjoys plant-keeping indoor species in his house and office! Orchids, succulents, and Iveys are some of his favorite indoor plants. Greg even revived a dying Ivey plant he found on the city sidewalk. This thriving plant now sits in his office as a proud trophy.

Plant keeping did not always come naturally for him. Greg shared that he failed with the first Jade Cactus ever given to him, saying, ***“I was given it and killed it! I overwatered it. I was very upset, so it led me to learn what I did wrong.”***

A great example of trial and error is when bugs overtook Greg’s garden. He noticed all his plants were infested except for his scotch bonnet peppers. Greg made a natural insecticide with the peppers saying, ***“It was a success that came out of failure. I’m a better gardener for it.”***

When asked why gardening is so important to him, Greg shared,

"I think it's important to me because it's a process of eating healthy organic food. There is nothing better than what you plant. You know exactly what was put into that plant. I have a theory if you grow it, it will taste better!"



Growing your fruits and vegetables is a great practice we encourage every resident to try. When you grow your food, you reduce fossil fuels used to transfer produce, minimize the use of pesticides, and save money! When we asked Greg what he would say to someone who is considering plant keeping, he replied,

"I would say try! Go out and buy seeds! I fail 90 percent of the time in what I plant. The 10 percent that succeeds will make you

love it. It's a life lesson, you're going to fail, but you have to keep trying. Failure is inevitable, but success will come. Enjoy the ride."



Greg certainly is enjoying the fruits of his labor, pun intended. He looks forward to harvesting his fruit trees soon. In the meantime, he enjoys his backyard with his wife and family.

Are you inspired to start your garden yet? Here is Greg's secret tip to kicking off a great garden. Because Florida soil is sandy, Greg recommends mixing your soil with compost. Compost is excellent for plants because it retains water and provides nutrients. If possible, buy a compost bin and throw your scrap food and yard waste in it. Composting at home converts what would be in landfills into something practical for our yards.



The City of Winter Springs encourages all residents to do their part in reducing waste and lowering their ecological footprint. By implementing practices such as water conservation, composting, and tree planting, you can make a big difference in your environment. The City is giving over 800 trees to residents at our 2022 Explore Outdoors event. By planting a tree, you can reduce storm water runoff, purify the air, and reduce climate change. Join us on April 30th from 8 AM- 1 PM for fun workshops, interactive animal booths, and activities for the kids.

We hope you enjoyed getting to know our Application Specialist. We plan to highlight more of our amazing City Employees!