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Challenge

Research a garden in your community, whether a student/school garden, public community garden, or even neighbor's garden! Meet with someone who works in or leads the garden to discuss implementing regenerative organic practices. Use your teaching tool and any other information you've learned to convey its importance. Be sure to document the process with pictures and/or video.

If they agree to begin implementing regenerative organic practices, register their Climate Victory Garden [here](#).

Write a reflection about this experience. What was their reaction? Will they switch completely or start to implement some practices?

For this challenge I chose to have a conversation with my friend's grandfather, Charles Foster. He was a farmer in the hood river valley before he moved to Bloomington to be near his family. He has been growing a vegetable garden for the past decade or so. He enjoys gardening, and has been harvesting tomato seeds that have been in his family since the 1930s. After we introduced ourselves, I asked him several questions about his garden and his knowledge of regenerative agriculture.

First I asked how large his garden was, and where it was located. He showed me around the house to his garden, which was growing the crops snap peas, lettuce, spinach, zucchini, bush acorn squash, green beans, carrots, tomatoes, parsley, chives, rosemary, basil, tarragon, and sage. He produces enough to put some food on the table during the growing season and enough to freeze for food over the winter.

I then asked about what he knew of regenerative agriculture. He told me he knew a bit, as he had retired from farming just as it was beginning to be introduced into the area he is from. He told me that while he started out using a little organic manure on this garden, he quickly switched away, and instead used compost. He told me that he would look into implementing some changes to make his garden more regenerative, but he claimed that it was unrealistic to implement changes like crop rotation on such a small plot of land. He did say he would look into planting more biodiverse species in the plots, removing his neat monocultural rows. I would consider this a victory for sustainability, but it will not become regenerative unless he begins implementing practices like cover crops in the off seasons, as right now he has exposed dirt in all but the growing season.

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His Vegetable beds, with the bulk of his produce

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His herb pots, producing many of the seasonings he uses in cooking