



Read the news article carefully. Classify whether each statement is a **FACT** or **OPINION**, then explain your reasoning in full sentences.

News articles mix reporter facts (verified data) with opinions from sources. Look for: statistics = often fact; quotes with "I think/best/should" = usually opinion.

Green Thumbs Transform City Lot



Willow Creek, October 2024 — What was once a forgotten, overgrown city lot has blossomed into a vibrant new community garden, officially opening its gates to residents this past Saturday. The "Willow Creek Harvest Garden" now boasts 30 individual plots, offering local families and schools a chance to grow their own produce and connect with nature.

City Councilwoman Elena Rodriguez, who championed the project, stated, "This initiative received overwhelming support, with 120 volunteers dedicating over 500 hours to clear and prepare the land. The total cost, funded by a state grant, was \$15,000." She added that the garden is a testament to what a community can achieve when working together.

Local resident Maria Santos, who secured one of the first plots, shared her excitement. "This is the most wonderful thing that has happened to our neighborhood in years! It's going to make our community healthier and more beautiful," she exclaimed, busy planting kale and lettuce. "Everyone should have access to fresh vegetables like this."

The garden committee plans to host monthly workshops on sustainable gardening practices, composting, and pest control, with 15 workshops already scheduled for the upcoming year. A recent survey showed that 85% of registered plot holders are new to gardening, highlighting the educational impact of the project.

Garden coordinator Ben Carter believes the Harvest Garden will become a model for other neighborhoods. "I truly believe this garden will foster a strong sense of community



and teach valuable life skills to children," he said. "It's absolutely crucial for urban areas to have more green spaces." 🌱

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) "The 'Willow Creek Harvest Garden' now boasts 30 individual plots." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**?

- A Fact B Opinion

(2) "This is the most wonderful thing that has happened to our neighborhood in years!" Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**?

- A Fact B Opinion

(3) "A recent survey showed that 85% of registered plot holders are new to gardening." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**?

- A Fact B Opinion

(4) Explain why 'The total cost, funded by a state grant, was \$15,000' is a fact.

(5) Find a statement in the article that **SOUNDS** like a fact but is actually an opinion. Explain your thinking.



(6) Why do journalists include opinions in news articles? What effect does this have on readers?

