



July 2022

Portsmouth Community Garden

A place to grow

We sure get sun at the garden! Our plants, and members, continue to delight in the location as evidenced by the riotous green rectangles of our plots. Work days have gone smoothly to date, plans and fundraising for phase 2 progresses, and early harvest has begun.

Action Items

Thank you to all of our garden members for prompt attention to the following updates and action items:



- **Sign up for Work Days** — Every gardener agreed to spend three shifts of two hours each to help maintain the garden.
 - To remain eligible for membership for the 2023 season, all current members must complete three work days. If you have not yet completed or signed up for your work days, please complete the [sign-up form](#) now.
 - If you have trouble finding an open slot or need a different time, reach out to Jennifer at jennifercontrupi@gmail.com.
 - **Option** – Wood chips are here! We continue to receive loads and need help spreading them ~6-8 inches thick. Start at the fence line and work your way towards the middle of the garden. Send your time spent raking to jennifercontrupi@gmail.com to get work day credit.
- **Learn how to prune for healthier plants** – As air circulation is crucial to the health of our plants,

Message from our Board Chair

Tricia Donohue shares ...

“While working on getting this garden off the ground, I sought advice from current community garden leaders. Time and time again, I was told that the greatest obstacle I would encounter would be dealing with garden members who neglected their plots. I am thrilled to say that this has not been a problem at our



*garden! All of our members continue to take excellent care of their beds and I cannot tell you how many people have commented on how beautiful and bountiful the garden looks. **So, a great big thank you to all of our members ... we truly appreciate your efforts!**”*

Speaking of bountiful, I think that many of us, myself included, were a bit overzealous and planted more than our beds could handle. Check out the videos under Action Items to learn how to prune.

We continue to move ahead with our plans to expand the garden for next Spring. Before we do that, we will gather your feedback via a brief survey to find out what is working for you and what you would like to see for next season.

check out the following videos to prune summer squash/zucchini and tomato plants with confidence:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICPaEhDEuBc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoNY9BiDQF8>

- **Conserve water** – Make sure to turn off the water at the faucet when you are done using the hose and water at the base of your plants!
- **Fight food insecurity** – Share your surplus vegetables back to the community.
 - Drop off at the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center at 125 Cottage Street from 9-5 Monday through Friday or 8:30-10:30 weekends. If outside of those hours, leave donations on the table by the front door. Our local seniors are delighted to receive fresh veggies!
- **Member spotlight** – If you would like to introduce yourself via the newsletter, it's as simple as answering a few questions via email and submitting a photo. [Contact us](#) if interested.

*We are in a drought and so frequent waterings are necessary. It is best to water deeply and at the base of your plants. That means crouching down to put the water where it is needed. **Watering from above is not effective.** Avoid getting the leaves of your veggies wet as that practice invites diseases and wastes a lot of water. Remember, we are paying for our water usage, so we must do our best to conserve!*

If you stop by the garden to water your bed and see the community plots, the long, narrow bed along the fence and M1, looking dry, please feel free to water them as well.

*We continue to work hard to monitor and remove knotweed, please see the update below. **I have one big request ... use the knotweed bin for knotweed only.** Compost bins are in the planning process following receipt of a grant. Please "carry out" all weeds until then.*

Thank you and happy gardening!"

Want to Help?

We need help!

Our website helper moved to the West Coast, so if you have 4-8 hours a month to help update the site, [contact us](#).

- As noted above, spread woodchips as they arrive in large piles.
- Donate financially to help us build Phase 2, consider exploring your company's programs to support local nonprofits and/or matching donation options and/or connect us with others who might be interested. The Portsmouth Community Garden is registered as a 501c3 organization.

Phase 2 Update

Plans continue for phase 2. Note the following updates:

1. A garden shed will house shared tools, a notice board, and more. Planning is underway and we may have a financial supporter. More to come!
2. We look forward to scheduling build out days to complete the total 75-90 beds to get people off the Wait List and into the garden (for next year).
3. The jump start on the wood chip spread will help kill the grass and let us dive right in to the bed builds.
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Knotweed Update

The NH Department of Agriculture weighed in about our knotweed situation.

- If you see an orange flag in your garden, it was because we pulled out a knotweed in that spot.
- Please **DO NOT** remove these flags. They are acting as a marker, which will allow us to monitor these spots for recurring growth.
- If you find knotweed in your bed, please remove it (getting as much of the root as possible) and **place an orange flag in that spot**.
- You will find extra flags in the long community garden, by the front gate.
- If you have pulled knotweed in the past, please send how many to us at communitygarden603@gmail.com.
- **Please place knotweed only in the labeled bin!**



Knotweed bin

Take out your garden waste, please

Join us for a Community Garden Event

Show off our beautiful garden – On **Sunday, August 7** from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., we open the garden to the community and our 40+ donors, who made this garden a reality. We list all of our donors on the [Donate + Donor](#) section of our website. Help spread the word about the open garden event and feel free to attend to share your garden success with visitors. We plan to list this information in the Portsmouth Herald and City of Portsmouth newsletter and to share via social media.

Member Photos

Thank You, Bees!



Pea Pod Perfection



Bountiful Basil



Head Lettuces

(Debra Kam photo credit)



Shishito Peppers

(Debra Kam photo credit)



We Love Our Volunteers



Marco Gross-Santos



Donata Random



Portsmouth Rotary Club

Our Mission

To create a community space where individuals and local organizations can grow food in a peaceful, respectful and inclusive environment



Find us on Instagram and Facebook – search “portsmouthcommunitygarden.”

communitygarden603@gmail.com portsmouthgarden.org

Thank you for helping us grow!
Send your [garden photos or content for future editions](#) of the newsletter.
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