



June 2022

Portsmouth Community Garden

A place to grow

With Opening Day behind us, gardeners settled in to plant their gardens, meet their “neighbors” and water away. Seedlings and seeds, vegetables and flowers, garden art and smiles abound!

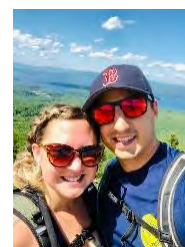
Action Items



- **Wanted ... Help updating the website** – If you know your way around a computer and have a couple hours a month to help update/expand the website, we need you!
- **July Flatbread fundraiser** – The amazing, community-oriented Flatbread organization not only makes incredible pizza (and salad), but shares a portion of sales for nonprofit organizations. Spread the word far and wide to order or dine-in from there on Wednesday, July 6 (hours and details to follow).
- **Remember the June 15 deadline** – If a member registered for a garden, but has not yet planted, the plot goes to the next person on the Wait List and the garden fee goes into the Phase 2 fund.
- **Sign up for Work Days** – Each gardener agreed to three two-hour shifts when they registered. If you have not yet done so, please complete the [sign-up form](#) now.
- **Join us for a 20-minute Garden Tips talk on Thursday, June 16** – Tricia Donohue, Board Chair of the Portsmouth Community Garden, will share garden tips on trimming basil for prime growth, tomato sucker pruning, and more at 5 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Member Spotlight

Meet Ari Ragonese and Daniel Riedlinger



Stop by plot 4D to check out what’s growing and to say hello to Ari and Daniel! When not gardening, Ari helps out high school students in Rochester where she serves as a counselor and Daniel is a sourcing manager for Tilson Technology and a former Navy submariner.

Background

Ari grew up between Portsmouth and Hanover, NH, while Daniel hails from Baton Rouge, LA. Ari moved from NYC to Portsmouth to be close to family ~five years ago. Daniel arrived with the Navy three years ago, fell in love with Portsmouth (and Ari) and decided to stay.

Fun when not gardening

Ari is busy growing a tiny human and caring for their baby dog, Romeo. She loves to crochet while Daniel is into fish tanks and can be found swimming on the Great Bay Masters team.

What are you most excited about growing this year?

“We are excited to try our novice hands at gardening this year! When we learned that the community was coming together to bring this opportunity, we jumped at the chance. We have both been looking for ways to become

- **Connect with a more experienced gardener** – Let our fabulous Membership Coordinator, [Anna Verrocchio](#), know if you'd like her to connect you with another gardener to learn more about successful gardening.

more involved, meet new people, and incorporate more sustainability into our lives."



Knotweed ... NOT!

Very unfortunately, the soil delivered to our garden included the invasive knotweed plant. We must remain vigilant to eradicate it. Review the detailed instructions sent to you dispose of the knotweed in the designated bin. Thank you!

Take Action Now – Stop the Knotweed!

Unfortunately, we have found some Japanese knotweed, otherwise known as bamboo, in our garden beds that appear to have come from the soil delivery itself. Our soil supplier uses highly recommended, but these things can happen.

What can you do? Luckily, we can act now to eradicate this weed from your beds. This means we require you to look for the plants near the soil you use your beds. With effort, we can take care of it. This process and soil's have to deal with it in future seasons.

How to Remove Knotweed:

- ✓ Before you can remove knotweed, you need to cut it up through the soil using a sharp tool (like a shovel) - the soil with knotweed is not to be used in the garden.
- ✓ Pull the knotweed and gently fill the whole plant up with your hands in a cleaning motion.
- ✓ Place the whole plant with its roots in the plastic bag placed near the garden bed (see photo). Do not place in your garden bags.

Additional Instructions:

- If you only pull the plant without getting the root system, then the plant will quickly grow back. It is really important that you get the whole plant!
- Use your hands to get the root and be sure that you hear it all. The root may be deep, so you may have to reach in to get more knots.
- No pesticides can be used in the garden, so this hands-on work is vital!

Reminders

- Please do not bring pets to the garden.
- Please do not smoke in the garden.
- Make sure the gate is tightly locked when you leave.
- Keep your plot and area tidy, e.g., do not leave anything by your plot. Our future shed will provide some storage space.
- Carry out all garden debris. (We won a grant for a compost bin program, more details to come soon!)
- Given the knotweed situation, please do not mulch (e.g., with straw) this season. If you have already done so, you do not need to remove it, but please check underneath for knotweed.



Phase 2 Update

- While we pause to plant and enjoy the garden, we continue to plan for next steps including the following:
- Build a garden shed to house shared tools, post notices, and more.
- Expand the number of beds (estimated final total 75-90) to meet the demand of the 25 person Wait List and more.
- Install rain barrels and compost bins.

Fundraising

The Portsmouth Community Garden is registered as a 501c3 organization.

- Consider exploring your company's programs to support local nonprofits and/or matching donation options.
- Let us know if you have a connection to a local company that might want to help the

- Build a pergola with a picnic table and install benches.
- We continue to fundraise and submit grant applications as we prepare for the work of Phase 2. Volunteer days will occur in late fall or early spring to expand the Portsmouth Community Garden.

Portsmouth Community Garden grow ... or to individuals.

- Watch for a community fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Portsmouth. A portion of all orders associated with the Portsmouth Community Garden will benefit the garden!

Tips and Garden Etiquette

Consider the following tips:

- **Grow big basil** – Snap of the top of your basil plants to help them continue to grow.
- **Avoid fungus** – Remember to avoid the leaves of your plants when watering at night. If you water in the morning, the sun will dry out the leaves, but if you water at night the plant’s foliage may stay wet throughout the night which creates an ideal environment for disease. If you do water at night, try to water at the base of your plant to avoid this.
- **To water or not to water** – Don’t water someone else’s garden unless they have asked you to do so! Feel free to find a “garden buddy” to water for you!
- **Happy Pride Month** – Enjoy celebrations across the city in support of our LGBTQ+ neighbors and allies. The garden follows City of Portsmouth guidelines to not affix unauthorized signs or décor on the fencing although garden members are welcome to respectfully decorate their beds. If the lovely windsock we removed is yours, please reach out before July 1.
- **Conserve water** – Make sure to turn off the water at the faucet when you are done using the hose and consider watering at the base of each plant in your plot!
- **Fight food insecurity** – Surplus vegetables will be shared with local organizations, including Gather, that prepare meals for the community. Watch for details as we get closer to the harvest!



Member Photos

Time to Grow ... It’s Official!



Opening Day Fun



Well-Organized Rows



Flowers and Veggies



Opening Day Action



We Love Our Volunteers



Sheri Nadeau



Matt Oriente



Stanford Cross

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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