



Portsmouth Community Garden – April Newsletter

A place to grow

It's spring! Welcome returning and new garden members. The snow is almost entirely gone from the corners of the garden, the new shed is in place, and work commences on the Phase 2 build out of the remaining garden beds very soon. The wait list is empty with all applicants now officially garden members. A few beds are still available!



Key Garden Dates and Topics

- **Member Volunteer Day** – Join us on **Saturday, April 29** from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. to finish preparations for the season. Time spent working on this day counts towards your six hours of required “Work Day” time to support the garden.
- **Existing Gardener Garden Access** – If you had a bed last year, please start gardening on **Saturday, April 29**. This is a couple days ahead of the originally planned start day to let you leverage the weekend. Help yourself to two buckets of compost to refresh your soil. The entry code remains the same.
- **Opening Day** – Join us on **Saturday, May 13** from **x-x** for the official opening day celebration. Purchase seedlings from **xxx** and Portsmouth Community Garden t-shirts, stickers, and more. New gardeners learn which bed is theirs and the entry code.
- **Work Day Sign Ups** – Each garden bed requires three Work Day shifts (six total hours) of community work. This year, it is easier than ever to select your hours. Note the following: 1) visit the website and click on the [Sign Up Genius link](#), 2) sign up via the link when Volunteer Coordinator, [Jenn Cotrupi](#), sends you an email reminder, or 3) check out the white board in the shed to choose talks and report your hours. Work Day efforts keep the garden ship shape for all!



Corporate Earth Day – Build Out Day

Throughout the day on **Friday, April 21** (rain date April 28) two local corporations, Lonza Biologics and Service Credit Union will supply 20+ volunteers for the morning and afternoon shifts to complete the garden bed build out and start to fill the beds with loam and spread woodchips to serve as a weed barrier.

- **We need tools on hand** – If you have a wheelbarrow, heavy rake, shovel or pair of saw horses that you could lend the garden for our Earth Day Event, please sign up via the [Earth Day Sign Up Genius link](#). The link includes detailed instructions.



Successful All Hands Meeting and Seedling Seminar

Will Lowenthal, Master Gardener – UNH Cooperative Extension and head of the Derry Community Garden, reminded all in attendance that spring is right around the corner. Despite a snow squall, 40+ current and incoming gardeners joined for an All Hand Meeting that covered important upcoming dates, progress on the garden's Phase 2 build out plans, and a review of what worked well and what can be improved upon this year in the garden. (No rotten vegetables in the beds!) Will's fantastic and in-depth seedling seminar provided step-by-step instructions for different ways to start seedlings. The lively Q&A session was a bonus and we hope to have him back! Seedling starter handouts will be available in The Shed.



Garden Member Leaders – Thank You and Yes, Please!

Social Media/Photos Committee

Thank you, **Ari Ragonese**, for leading the social media charge. You may have already noticed Instagram updates with Facebook soon to follow. Like to take pictures at the garden? Are you active on Facebook or Instagram? Please send your photos to [Ari](#) throughout the season. Note that photos may appear in social media, garden newsletters or presentations.

Grant Awareness Committee

We need someone to create a simple listing of when local grants are available and when content is due. This isn't a fundraising role, but will help us stay organized and not miss out on easy opportunities to obtain community support. [Please let us know](#) if you have a couple hours a month to help.

Food Donation Committee

Thank you, **Maureen McDonald**, for agreeing to coordinate the Gather surplus harvest collection and drop off. If you are able to help by picking up the surplus and driving it to Gather (an ~20 minute commitment), please contact [Maureen](#).

- Note that we will have a shelf in the shed to collect clean, cherry tomato containers to separate the harvest into smaller batches for ease of Gather shoppers. Please start putting these aside for the garden.

Event Committee

Like to organize parties and events? We need people to help the Board members plan fun events for the whole garden community. [Please let us know](#) if you can help with one or several events during the year.



Photos

Happy Board Member, Beth Hartnett, with Reeds Ferry Shed Builder



Daniel Riedlinger and his Garden Helper Enjoy the All Hands Meeting



Master Gardener, Will Lowenthal, Shares His Knowledge During the Seedling Seminar



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.”

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portsmouthgarden.org

Thank you for helping us grow!

Send your [garden photos or content for future editions](#) of the newsletter or social media.

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