



Portsmouth Community Garden – September Newsletter

A place to grow

The harvest is in full swing at the garden! Help yourself to the **ripe tomatoes** at the end of the community bed to the left as you enter the garden gate. As **delicious melons** from that same bed ripen, they will be available in the shed. *Feel free to take one home.* As always, the members of the Board of Directors are available to answer questions or help out, simply [reach out](#) if you have any questions.



Key Updates

- **Gardening Tip** – Consider visiting your bed **twice a week** during peak harvest season to ensure vegetables aren't dropping. Please place rotten fruit and vegetables in the holding bin to the right of the compost bins.
- **Upcoming Work Day and Watering** – Consider joining the next work day on **Thursday, September 14** from 4 – 6 p.m. if you still need hours. Connect with [Theresa Garabedian](#) if you are willing to water the Gather beds to the right as you enter the gate. You can log that time as your volunteer hours!
- **Pergola Coming Soon** – With help from a grant from Whole Foods (shout out and a big thank you to garden member and Whole Foods professional, **Shawn Parkhouse**, for making the connection), our pergola is on order. We need members with pergola installation skills, so please [reach out](#) if you fit the bill.
- **Have a Heart Trap Monitoring Needed** – Keep an eye out for our neighborhood bunny as we hope to successfully lure it into the trap near bed 4J. As a reminder, at least one rabbit remained in the garden when volunteers installed the higher rodent barrier. Please [reach out](#) if you see one in the trap so that we can quickly and humanely proceed with the relocation.
- **End of Season All Member Workday and Celebration** – Mark your calendars for the final workday and potluck celebration on **Sunday, October 29**. Members with hours still to contribute and anyone who would like to help put the garden “to bed” will meet from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.,

followed by a voluntary pot luck luncheon. Last year's event was a lot of fun, so consider joining us. Watch for more information about garden closing details and an earlier "start" date for the 2024 season. *You asked, we listened!*

- **Additional Gather Pickup Day** – Note that due to the generosity of our amazing gardeners, we will **drop off surplus harvest to Gather on Thursday afternoons as well as Monday afternoons**. If you have extra to share (on a voluntary basis only), drop it in a box in the shed. (Cool packs available in the cooler starting at 10 a.m. on Sundays, consider saving lettuce/kale/herbs until then.) We've **donated ~220 pounds to help fight food insecurity** in the region so far this season!
- **The 2024 Wait List** – If you know anyone who might like to garden with us next year, please spread the word and have them [apply for the Wait List](#) on our website. Sponsorship funds to pay for the \$40 annual fee are available if someone has financial difficulties. On a related topic, please [let us know](#) by **Sunday, October 1** if you cannot garden with us next year.
- **Member Happy Hour** – Plan to stop by the garden from 6 – 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month during the season ... the next Happy Hour is **September 21**. This completely voluntary event provides an opportunity to meet your garden neighbors, share tips, or simply say hello. We'll save the potluck element of the event for the end of the season celebration. Bring your own water or beverage.



Message from our Chair, Tricia Donohue

Our second season is quickly coming to a close and so I have been reflecting on how it went. The Board of Directors and I are always thinking of ways we can make the garden better, and in doing so, I think sometimes we over-complicate things. I have heard some feedback that the rules that are meant to keep the garden running smoothly can sometimes be confusing. If you have any questions about anything, from member work hours to the compost system or even how to manage your bed, know that we are here to help. As they say in school, there are no stupid questions.

*We monitor our [email](#) daily and someone from the board will get back to you within a couple of days. Just as important, if you have any recommendations or thoughts about the management of the garden, please let us know! Recently a member suggested that we leave a copy of the newsletter in the shed for reference, and we adopted that suggestion – the newsletter is now pinned up to the bulletin board. **We would love to hear your feedback.***



Photos

**August Member
Happy Hour Fun**



Perfect Insta-worthy Pesto
Basil shared by Debra Kam



Gorgeous Garden #7



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!
Portsmouth Community Garden • September 2023