



# Portsmouth Community Garden – October Newsletter

*A place to grow*

Happiness is harvesting vegetables from your own garden ... who said that? Likely the 70+ Portsmouth Community Garden members who participated in the second season at the garden! As we wind down the season and start to look ahead to next year, the Board of Director members are available to answer questions or help out, simply [reach out](#) if you have any questions or recommendations for how to improve the gardening experience in 2024.



## Key Updates

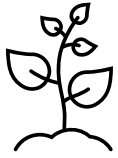
- **End of Season All Member Workday and Potluck Celebration** – Join us from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Sunday, October 29 to put your garden plot to bed and make the garden “ship-shape” for winter. The *voluntary* end of year celebration features a potluck luncheon that runs from noon to 2 p.m. Come to work OR to celebrate the end of the season. Bring your family and friends along with a dish to share. (Note that this celebration replaces the October Happy Hour.)
- **Tips for the Busy Compost Time** – Breaking down our beds provides lots of green matter that will turn into wonderful compost for us to use in 2024. Please cut any items into smaller (~6 inch) pieces before placing them in the holding bin to the right of the compost bins.
- **Pergola Framework in Place** – A special thank you to **Chris Duprey** and **Adam Marcioneke** who joined Board Members **Tricia Donohue** and **Jenn Cotrupi** to prepare the framework for the pergola. The garden is one step closer to the vision of a shaded space to cover the picnic table and hold up grapes and other climbing vines.
- **Successful October Work Day** – During the October 5 Work Day, five members spread three yards of new soil to create a strawberry bed on the far left side of the garden and create a new bed outside the fence, see photo to the left. The outside bed now hosts our pollinators plants, leaving more room inside the fence to plant edible plants in our "member bed." This member bed (the long bed to the left of the gate) will have raspberries, blueberries, strawberries and herbs for all

members to enjoy at any time. We also planted 50 cloves of garlic there which will be ready next July. If you have any suggestions for other things to plant, [let us know!](#)

- **Have a Heart Trap Success** – Despite the fact that our fat and happy neighborhood bunny had the run of the entire garden, he/she couldn't pass up the cut up apple in the trap. Thank you to **Kearn Knowles** for reporting on the trap success on the same day it was set and to **Andrew Cotrupi** for relocating the rabbit.
- **A Glimpse of Next Season** – 1) Current members can start their beds as early as they wish next spring. Please be aware of the last frost date. This year's late frost killed many tomato and cucumber plants. 2) Current members who are coming back next season (we asked all to **respond by October 1**) are welcome to plant a winter cover crop or garlic in their beds if desired. 3) Expect a request for the garden annual fee in the spring. 4) The Board of Directors plans to hold another early spring educational event with updates, lessons learned from this season, and ways to improve upon the garden experience.
- **500+ Pounds to Gather** – Thanks to the generosity of our gardeners and time spent collecting from the designated beds, the Portsmouth Community Garden donated 500+ pounds of surplus harvest to the local foodbank, Gather, to help fight food insecurity in the region. Great job and thank you!
- **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 annual fee are available if someone has financial difficulties.



Raspberries for All – Help Yourself to these Sweet Treats!



## Photos

**Our Gardener-in-Chief and the  
New Plaque**



**Happy Brussel Sprout Harvest in  
Action**



**September Gardener Happy  
Hour Fun**



## 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](mailto:communitygarden603@gmail.com)

[portsmouthgarden.org](http://portsmouthgarden.org)

Thank you for helping us grow!  
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