

Kids Corner Newsletter



Fall 2024



Hawthorne Community Garden is located at 970 Goffle Road next to the Ambulance Corps Building and the 9-11 Memorial site. The community garden site was chosen because of its easy access to the community in terms of location and resources.

Whether you grow patio plants or have your own garden you may delight in the array of plants and vegetables grown in Hawthorne's Community Garden.



In the Spring 2014, the Green Team designed and built Hawthorne's Community Garden which consisted of 16 raised garden beds made from recycled/repurposed materials. Residents choose between two different size garden beds: 4' x 8' x 12 inches high and 4' x 12' x 12 inches high. In 2024, the garden was expanded to 22 garden beds. Gardeners are awarded vacant beds based on a lottery. Applications are available on the Boro's website when they become available. Each gardener pays an associated fee and deposit.

The community garden implements only friendly environmental practices. It is completely fenced in to thwart unwanted guests such as groundhogs and squirrels. There are two water sources and hoses available as well as a bin for tools.

Early Crops

There is a wide variety of plants in the garden. Planting starts in early May giving ample time for cold weather crops such as lettuce, peas, beets and carrots.



Summer squash was abundant this year, 2024. The delicate flowers, which are also edible, yield slender vegetables of green and yellow.

Cucumber plants also enjoyed the rainy conditions this summer.



Summer's Best

Beans and peppers are popular with the gardeners. They are sturdy and grow well together. Bush beans are compact and produce large quantities.



Green and red, jalapeno, chili and yellow wax peppers are hardy and produce many peppers especially in late summer.



Eggplants are less hardy but still are popular. Their purple flowers produce a stunning aubergine.



Fan favorites

The favorite crop by far is the Jersey tomato! Beefsteak, Rutgers, Heirloom, Cherry and San Marzano can be found this year. These luscious fruits are long awaited by many residents. They have an unmistakable sweetness that can only be grown right here in NJ.



Herbs and Flowers

The Community Gardeners are creative and often select herbs and edible flowers to brighten up their space. Among them are dill, basil, lavender, alyssum nasturtium. Horseradish and garlic have also seen success in the garden. Marigolds are a favorite and they serve as a natural insect repellent.



Giving Back

When crops become abundant, the Green Team hosts Giving Tuesday and surplus produce is donated to the Hawthorne's Food Pantry. Since 2016 to 2023, we have donated a total of 327 lbs. of fresh produce for our residents of Hawthorne. More is being donated in 2024!

*Check out the Community Garden and
perhaps you will be inspired to be a gardener yourself!*