

**Town of Perinton
Recreation and Parks Department**



2023-2024 Community Garden Report

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About the Community Garden



In 2011, the Town of Perinton Community Garden was established. Located in Potter Park, the community garden was once the original site for a WWII Victory Garden. Victory Gardens were planted by community members coming together to ensure adequate food supply for civilians and troops.

The Town of Perinton Garden offers 105 8ft x 4ft plots to community members, where they can grow vegetables, herbs and flowers. The garden also offers eight (8) pollinator and herb gardens, a vertical garden, and a vermiculture composting system.

In 2024, the community garden created a set of goals that aligned with its mission and vision.

Community Garden Mission, Vision and Goals

Mission

The Town of Perinton Community Garden seeks to steward the beautification of a safe, positive, and healthy space for members to deepen their connections, knowledge and grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

Vision

The vision of the Town of Perinton Community Garden is to celebrate the rich heritage of 'Victory Gardens' by nourishing community connections with educational programs, food donations and sustainable living and gardening.

2024 Goals

- Donate 100 pounds of food to nourish the community
- Repair and replace damaged garden boxes
- Establish a perennial herb garden
- Establish a native garden
- Establish a pollinator friendly garden
- Install rain barrel

Community Garden Members

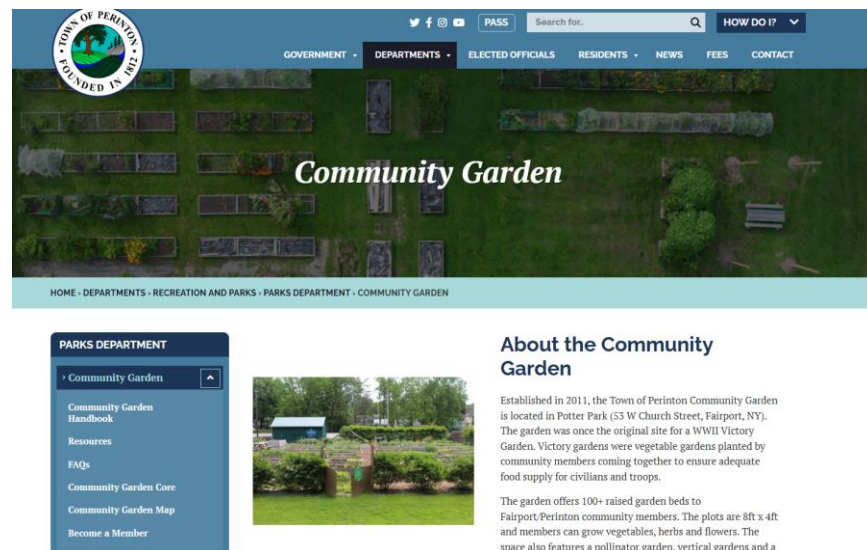
In the 2024 growing season, the community garden had 54 members. Of the 54 members, 15 or 28% were new members and the remaining 39 members or 72% renewed from the 2023 season.

Eleven (11) members vouched to volunteer 15 hours each this season. Collectively core members contributed over 70 hours volunteer hours. The core members had tasks such as watering the community beds and vertical gardens multiple times a week, assisting with special events, helping members with their beds, leading garden workdays, planting and harvesting community beds and managing the vermiculture composting system. The delegation of these tasks was a huge success.

Community Garden Improvements and Projects

Community Garden Webpage

With the help of the Digital Media Coordinator, the community garden webpage was updated. Information on becoming a member and registering for a community garden plot was posted on the page. A drop-down menu with quick links to the community garden handbook, resources, FAQs, and the garden map was created. A garden resources page was established that contains links to general information as well as gardening books, farms and farmers, YouTube resources, conservation, invertebrates, garden supplies and information on planting, harvesting and seed saving.



Pollinator Beds (Community Beds) & Vertical Gardens

In 2023, 6 new community beds were established, and two existing beds were revamped. During the 2024 season, these community beds as well as the established vertical gardens were planted with flowers, herbs and vegetables. Several species were native to the US and northeast. All the vegetables planted in the community beds and the vertical gardens were used for donations. Donations included romaine lettuce, Mexican gherkin cucumbers, potatoes, radishes, cilantro, dill, tomatoes, squash, and kale. Birdhouse gourds were planted for a project collaboration with Johanna Perrin Garden Club. Garlic was planted in the fall of 2024.



Donation Station & Donations

For the 2024 season, a donation weigh station was set up in the tool shed for produce. The station included a scale, a log to record the weight of the donations and labels for each item donated. Members brought extra containers and bags that were used to separate donations into individual quantities. From May to October, Core members would drop donations off six days a week at a free food pantry in the Evergreen East Apartment complex in Fairport, NY.



In 2024, the community garden donated 30 varieties of produce totaling over 319 pounds

2024 Donations By Month	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Weight(lbs)</u>
May	7.6
June	30.8
July	120.1
August	77.8
September	47.2
October	36.1
<u>Total 2024</u>	<u>319.6</u>

Bed Replacement

In November 2024, the Junior and Senior Youth Committee for Fairport United Methodist Church constructed beds for the Community Garden. Working together, 18 youth and five adults spent 3 hours building 26 new beds. These beds will be utilized to replace damaged beds in 2025 and for accommodating members who benefit from having a bed height totaling in 20 inches.



Seed Saving Project

The seed saving project was established in the fall of 2024. Throughout the 2024 growing season, seeds from the community beds were saved. These seeds will be packaged, labeled and distributed to the community through collaborations with local organizations and entities for free. The mission of this project is to distribute free seeds to encourage community members to plant beneficial flowers, herbs and produce to

