



## MISSION

The mission of the Barrington Community Garden (BCG) is to provide a warm, inviting place that offers Barrington residents plots for organic gardening, promotes and serves as a hub for relevant community activities, builds community, and grows food for distribution to area residents in need.

## JUSTIFICATION OF NEED

Establishment of the Barrington Community Garden is proposed for a portion of the 29-acre parcel of land along Wampanoag Trail (Plat 15, Lot 5), which was purchased by the town in 2003. This land has been used since the 1940s for agricultural purposes by the Vitullo family, and similar uses likely date back to the initial European settlement of Barrington in the 17th century. The Barrington Community Garden land is well-situated for a community garden due to its sunny position, its access to groundwater through an existing well, and ready access from Wampanoag Trail.

Although there is an existing community garden at the town's Walker Farm, it is unable to provide gardening plots to all interested Barrington residents. There are a limited number of plots available at Walker Farm (25) and the plots have a slow rate of turnover. Because the Walker Farm property was purchased with federal funds, all state residents are eligible to lease a plot at Walker Farm. As a consequence, Walker Farm has been predominantly used by out-of-town residents since the farm was first opened to the public in the 1970s. Conversely, the land on which the Barrington Community Garden is proposed was purchased with town funds, so there is no requirement to make plots available to out-of-town residents. The Barrington Community Garden can give priority to Barrington residents.

## OBJECTIVE

The Barrington Community Garden will be a community gardening space for all ages where residents can produce their own food, learn practical gardening skills (including organic vegetable, herb, and fruit cultivation, composting, seed starting, and seed-saving), and interact with other Town gardeners, all while developing a respectful relationship with the natural world and its processes. Community gardens are proven community builders that provide a place for social interaction, education, and celebration.

A community garden can offer the following benefits:

- Promote the cultivation of nutritious and organic food, and the associated health benefits of a better diet;
- Create opportunities for recreation, exercise, volunteering, mentoring, and education;
- Encourage self-reliance and independence from the industrialized agricultural system;



- Help conserve resources, preserve green space, and support insect, bird, and wildlife ecosystems; and
- Provide opportunities for inter-generational and cross-cultural connections.

Plots at the Barrington Community Garden would be leased to Barrington residents on an annual basis for a small fee. Lessees would be required to follow certain policies, including abstaining from the use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides; participating in garden maintenance tasks for common areas; respecting others' garden plots; and not using the Barrington Community Gardens for commercial purposes (except where allowed).

Among the features envisioned for the Barrington Community Garden are the following:

- Individual plots to be leased annually to Barrington residents on a first-come first-serve basis for a small fee.
- Dedicated garden plots that are handicapped accessible.
- Garden plots dedicated for use by Barrington schools, if desired.
- A community medicinal and culinary herb bed.
- Community food areas, containing fruit bushes, fruit trees, and other perennial edibles, such as rhubarb and jerusalem artichokes.
- Garden plots dedicated to cultivating produce for donation to local or state food banks.
- A collection system by which lessees can donate extra produce from their own plots to food banks.
- Security through the installation of fencing around the community garden.
- A source of water for garden use through an existing shallow groundwater well and a to-be-installed distribution system.
- An on-site storage shed for storage of communal maintenance equipment (lawn mower, shovels, hoes, etc.).
- A shade structure (gazebo) for relief from the sun and for the holding of community workshops on sustainable gardening practices, composting, seed-starting, seed-saving, and other subjects.
- A rain-proof community bulletin board to serve as a point of information-sharing and communication with other Barrington Community Garden members.

The focus of activities to be conducted in the first five years are presented in the following section.



### **YEAR 1 – SPRING 2013 TO SPRING 2014**

- Establish the Barrington Community Garden Implementation Committee (existing committee to be opened to new members).
- Prepare for and conduct fund-raising and grant-writing to meet the funding needs of the first two years, at minimum.
- Develop Barrington Community Garden policies and membership documents.
- With Town assistance, construct a gravel parking area.
- Establish garden features, including installation of temporary fencing, marking of garden plot areas and pathways, and sheet-mulch the pathways with cardboard/newspaper overlain with wood chips or hay.
- Till and amend at least 12 public garden plots and 2 handicap-accessible garden plots.
- Install water distribution system from existing well.

### **YEAR 2 – SPRING 2014 TO SPRING 2015**

- Open garden to community members.
- Review and amend, as needed, the Five-Year Plan and administrative procedures.
- Continue fundraising activities for Year 3 needs.
- Till and amend additional garden plots.
- Plan for specialty plots (e.g., open garden, herb garden, pollinator garden, children's garden).
- Plan for donation plots and systems for distribution.
- Construct or procure a community storage shed with a small greenhouse area for seed starting.
- Plan for implementation of community ecological trails.

### **YEAR 3 – SPRING 2015 TO SPRING 2016**

- Review and amend, as needed, Five-Year Plan and administrative procedures.
- Continue fundraising activities for Year 4 needs.
- Till and amend additional garden plots, as dictated by needs and demand.
- Prepare and plant specialty plots (e.g., herb garden, pollinator garden, kid's garden, open garden, additional handicap plots, if needed).
- Prepare and seed/plant donation plots.
- Pursue leasing of the southwestern plot (Plot C) for commercial organic agricultural use.



#### **YEAR 4 – SPRING 2016 TO SPRING 2017**

- Review and amend, as needed, the Five-Year Plan and administrative procedures.
- Continue fundraising activities for Year 5 needs.
- Till and amend additional garden plots, as dictated by needs.
- Construct/procure community gathering space (shade structure).
- Pursue/implement leasing of the southwestern plot (Plot C) for commercial organic agricultural use.
- Evaluate best use of western plot (Plot B).

#### **YEAR 5 – SPRING 2017 TO SPRING 2018**

- Review the existing Five-Year Plan and administrative procedures and develop plan for years 6–10.
- Continue fundraising activities for Years 6+ needs.
- Till and amend additional garden plots, as dictated by needs.
- Implement use for western plot (Plot B).