



November 3, 2019

## Community Garden 2019 Growing Season

All 50 plots were rented out during the 2019 growing season with a waiting list of potential gardeners. Of the 50 plots, 34 were actively worked by enthusiastic gardeners. All gardeners struggled with the crazy weather this season. There was non-stop rain in spring and early summer which caused flooding at the gardens. This presented challenges for many a gardener but some very creative solutions were designed to combat these challenges. Some gardeners dug out their plots and created raised beds with channels dug out for water drainage. Other gardeners installed double raised beds which allowed plantings to stay out of the sitting water which provides extra protection from rabbits and other animals that can be a challenge for gardeners. Mid to Late summer brought hot dry weather and the gardeners needed to water regularly. This taxed the water available in the well at the community gardens. Good news, through grant money the community gardens will get hooked up to the main water supply. This should make the 2020 growing season more reliable.

Other exciting news at the community gardens, was the installation of the pollinator garden by the Mt Laurel Green Team located in Section 1 plot #8. This project was funded by a grant from Sustainable Jersey. Volunteers have cleared the plot and planted native plants and other pollinator friendly plants. Plant selection is to support pollinators from spring to fall. Keep an eye out for all the bees and butterflies the pollinator garden will bring to the gardens.

Other Community Garden improvements include the rehab of the rain garden with two new viburnums and installation of the rain garden sign that includes a link to educate homeowners on how to install a rain garden.

[http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain\\_Gardens/RGWebsite/misc/rqmanual-UW.pdf](http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/misc/rqmanual-UW.pdf)

The Meadow Garden had 120 daffodils, 150 crocuses, and 120 anemone bulbs in the fall plus milkweed seeds.

Grant money from Sustainable Jersey will also be used to install trees along the driveway in the spring of 2020.

We look forward to the 2020 Growing Season!

~ Mount Laurel Green Team

