



Welcome to the 2023 Community Garden!

Hello Gardening Friends,

Whether you're a longtime member of the Garden or looking to join this year, welcome! It's a new year and a new season, and our Garden is going through some changes. And we invite you to join us in making 2023 our most bountiful year ever.

What do we do in the Garden? Essentially, we grow vegetables to share with our members and when we can, with the larger community. We do this using low-input and organic practices. We work together in our shared plots and we get together to learn from each other, through our experienced and Master gardener members, and via expert-led workshops, and to meet friends and have great times. In 2023 we are determined to be a greater force for good in the community as well, and to harvest enough shared produce in the summer months for donation to the local food bank, to help alleviate hunger in our local area.

In order to accomplish these goals, the Garden Committee is proposing some changes to our membership structure, work requirements, shared harvest distribution system, and other aspects of the garden for 2023, all with an eye to helping us meet your needs and the needs of the larger community for a garden like ours. We welcome your input on any of these.

If you've been with us before, you know that the Garden was founded originally as a cooperative project between the city of Meadville, the MARC, and Allegheny College. For the first few years the College provided generous financial assistance to keep the garden staffed and tended. In 2019, the College handed the Garden over to the community and has directed its resources elsewhere. And then, of course, the pandemic was upon us. The Garden has been a wonderful resource during those odd times, three years now, which have made us all think differently about our lives and our communities. For those of us who stayed with the Garden, it has been a joy, and a comfort, and speaking for myself, a lifeline.

If you are new to community gardening, take a look through this packet for a description of the Garden and what it can offer you. If you like what you see, applications and information about member responsibilities and costs will be available at our first member meeting, March 4, and on our website, <https://www.marc4fun.com/community-garden>.

We cannot survive and thrive without the dedicated participation of all members, however you can and want to participate. Come along with us! We can assure you the strawberries alone are worth it.

The 2023 Garden Committee

Robin Orttung, Coordinator and Head Gardener

Barb Newcamp, Community Outreach

Beth Ryan, Communications