

Pumpkin Patch Community Garden 2023 Wrap Up

The Garden Shutdown Plan will consist of two work party weekends: one in mid-September and the other in mid-October. Since most plots will still be producing in September the plan is to work on the general garden and in-between the plots, and October will focus on clearing out beds and preparing them to over winter. In general, then, please be prepared to complete your plot by mid-October. Winter over crops is the exception, yet the rest of your plot should be free of weeds and other plants. We understand that not everyone can be there for all of these hours, but we do need your participations for the time that you are available.

Community Work Parties

Saturday 9/16 8am to noon

Sunday 9/17 10am to 2pm

Saturday 10/14 from 8am to noon

Sunday 10/15 from 10am to 2pm

Of course, you are welcome to clean up your plots and the area around your plot if you are done sooner; and if you do so your help on these two weekend is still needed. We will be inviting the community to join us. More details of what needs to be done will be posted in the Kiosk.

Thank you for participating in this year's garden season. Once again, a wild ride with a cold spring and an extended heat way through the heart of summer. Now we are anticipating an early frost. The Old Farmer's Almanac is forecasting an early first frosts for us, around the second week in October.

We are fortunate to have had a good blend of returning and new garden plot holders, new friends of the garden helping Kathryn, Kevin & Jim weed trimming, Millwood Impact successes, and a good-looking crop in most garden plots. Mid-season we had a pot luck together making new friends and received wonderful input for all who attended. A garden Advising Board was formed and had their

first meeting. Much of what comes below is from that meeting as your survey answers were reviewed.

This spring the garden hosted a Plant Start Sale. Plants were provided by Millwood Farmers' Market Vendors and the Pumpkin Patch. It was a successful event not only selling, but also meeting many of our neighbors in the community and hearing their support for the garden.

While Millwood Impact had a good season; unfortunately, Project ID did not have the opportunity to take advantage of their plots as we are sure they had hoped to. Their one plot raised and provided many Zucchini to the food bank. We will use the information provided about how much time and visits per week gardeners spent caring for their plots to help future gardeners and program endeavors.

The board determined that the first priority was to have a good shutdown and startup next season. The garden plot holders are re-affirmed as the garden's first priority, so from your input we are working on additions of another layer to the boxes that are low, and adding more soil to all boxes that need it. Returning gardeners get first priority on plot signups for 2024, and the board will be working on creating greater visibility for the garden. So, we will need to know your intentions for 2024 before the end of October, and a definite confirmation by the end of February 2024.

Garden plot fees have been @20.00 each since the garden began April 2010, and plot fees do not cover the cost incurred each season. The general response in the survey was positive to paying more for the garden plots. So, the 2024 plot fees will be \$25.00 each helping to close the gap. The board is aware of the need to pursue grants or other fund raising / sponsorship / donation opportunities.