

We Have a Permanent Fence!



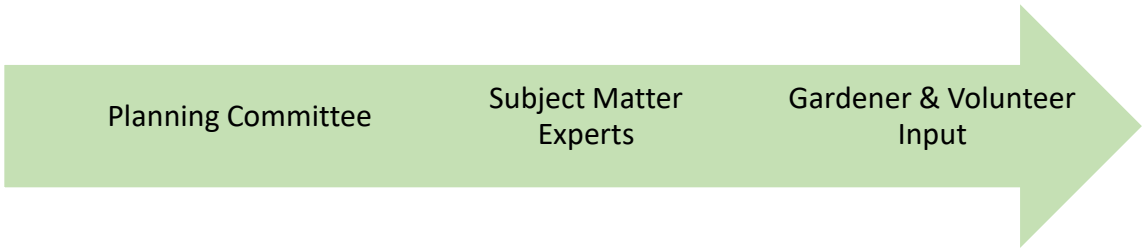
We begin our fourth season with a permanent deer proof fence! Thanks to everyone who helped make our dream a reality. We could not have done it without your support and contributions!

The garden has been expanded by 3,400 square feet. This will allow for more beds, as well as additional space for future garden projects and educational events.

The Lewes Community Garden is committed to creating a sustainable community garden to share knowledge of organic gardening practices, to provide accessible garden opportunities for people of all ages and abilities and to grow nutritious food to share with those in need.

Lewes Community Garden Developing Strategic Plan

Last year Lewes Community Garden (LCG) formed a new planning committee to develop the organization's first strategic plan. The purpose is to provide a framework for creating a sustainable organization as well as manage garden improvements and expansion. After a series of work sessions, the group has made progress on an initial draft. The next step is to engage subject matter experts on the Steering Committee and various LCG committees to flesh out details. Next the draft will be shared with LCG gardeners and volunteers for feedback. The goal is to complete the plan covering 2023-2024 by the end of 2022.



Organic Gardening

Soil Preparation

The cornerstone of Lewes Community Garden's (LCG) mission is organic gardening. Soil preparation is key. The UDE Cooperative Extension provides soil testing. See [Delaware Soil Testing Program | Cooperative Extension | University of Delaware \(udel.edu\)](#) for more information. Soil can be improved by adding organic matter such as compost and manures.

Compost is decomposed organic matter such as leaves or vegetable scraps that, once broken down, turn into humus. Decomposition takes place through the work of microscopic organisms including fungi and bacteria and larger organisms such as earthworms, sow bugs, millipedes, and others. LCG maintains its own composting system.

The goal is to continually build up the soil. Healthy soil includes earthworms, bacteria,

algae and fungi. The soil can be supplemented by adding earthworm castings, fish and seaweed extracts, eggshells, and coffee grounds.

Pest Control

Another key component of organic gardening is organic pest control. No chemical that could harm the ecosystem is permitted. Common pests such as aphids can often be managed within a healthy ecosystem where beneficial insects such as lady bugs can feed on the pest insects.

Leaving plenty of space between plants is important in organic gardening. Companion planting can also be considered.

The combination of healthy soil, along with pollinators and beneficial insects within the ecosystem makes for a successful organic garden.



Beneficial Lady Beetle



Patrick Gaffney with Compost



Beneficial Garden Orb Spider

Beneficial Insects

Most insects are not pests! They play useful roles in the garden. Our challenge is to distinguish between good and bad bugs. There are three categories of beneficial insects: predators, pollinators, and parasitoids.



Lady beetle heading for a meal of aphids

Predators include lady beetles, lacewings, praying mantis, predatory ground beetles and predatory mites. Many predatory insects eat a wide variety of other insects while others, like lady bugs, eat mostly aphids. Some are predaceous in the immature and adult stages while others are predators at either the larval or the adult stages.

Even though spiders are disliked by many, we need them in the garden for pest control. Some are active hunters, constantly searching for prey while others sit in webs waiting for their prey. A third group sit and wait to attack prey that get close.

We are familiar with **pollinator** insects such as bumble bees, honeybees, butterflies, and certain species of flies. Many predatory and parasitoid insects play a secondary role as pollinators. For example, lady beetles, lacewings, predatory wasps and hover flies feed on nectar and pollen and help to pollinate a variety of plants. Adult parasitoids, like tachinid flies and parasitic wasps, play a similar role as pollinators as they also feed on nectar.

Parasitoid insects parasitize other insects. The immature stages develop on or within its host, eventually killing it. Parasitoids may attack all stages of their host (eggs, larvae, nymphs, pupae, adults). They include Braconid wasps that target caterpillars, and tachinid flies that targeting caterpillars.

For more information and photos about the large variety of beneficial bugs, their life stages, and the different roles each play in the garden please see the links below:

- [Attracting Beneficials.pdf \(wsu.edu\)](#)
- [Beneficial Insects - Predators, Parasitoids and Pollinators \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- [UC IPM Poster: Natural Enemies of Plant Pests \(ucanr.edu\)](#)
- [pnw550.pdf \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)



Wasp larvae have already killed the tomato hornworm
Leave it on the tomato so the wasps can hatch



This praying mantis is always welcome at LCG

Garden Meetings & Workdays

The Lewes Community Garden holds regular garden meetings the third Saturday of the month, from April through November. The April and November meetings are also workdays when the members of the garden volunteer to help with maintenance. Some tasks accomplished on garden workdays include weeding and mulching the common areas, maintaining the organic compost area, and maintenance of the fence and garden property. Workdays may also be scheduled when specific tasks need to be addressed during the gardening season.

The monthly meetings are a time for the gardeners to get together and review what's been going on in the garden over the previous month. There is an educational segment, typically about an organic gardening topic, and a review of any insect pests or diseases that need to be addressed. This is also a time for gardeners to ask questions of those with more experience as well as socialize with the other gardeners.



Garden volunteers provided refreshments at the May meeting
Kevin Sheeran, Silvia Ritchie, Lee Peters, Beth Klinger, Tina Maclary



Master Gardener, Ana Dittel, demonstrates how to plant tomatoes – trim bottom stems & plant in a trench if leggy to create a strong root base

Watch for a new bulletin board kiosk at the garden in June. It will house information about organic gardening for gardener and community use, updates on current pest control issues in the garden and changing garden news items.

Native Plants “Outside the Fence”

Lewes Community Garden (LCG) sits on 0.8 acre of land in the Great Marsh Park. Leased by the city of Lewes it includes both the fenced-in vegetable garden area and the surrounding native area bordered by the running trail. Outside the fence, LCG members have been working to remove invasive plants such as Bradford pear and Phragmites, while protecting native plants such as American holly, loblolly pine, oaks, and sassafras. We have also planted two areas with native plants that support pollinating insects. Additionally, another natural area hosts marsh mallow, sumac, chokecherry, dogbane, and other native plants.

Are you wondering how encouraging the growth of native plants and pollinators relate to organic vegetable gardening? Organic gardening plays a part in restorative gardening and landscaping, which aims to develop sustainable and ecologically beneficial approaches to how we grow our vegetables and landscape our homes. As these efforts progress, LCG hopes to provide examples of native plant landscaping that may inspire gardeners and visitors to make suburban landscaping more ecosystem-friendly while continuing to educate our gardeners and the community about organic gardening.



Master Gardener, Cindy Porter,
volunteers outside the fence

Garden Stats

- 48 total beds
- 4 new gardeners & their partners in 2022
- 53 total gardeners
- 10 people on waitlist
- 11 volunteers
- 472 pounds of produce donated in 2021

Community Outreach



Cass Ripley, of Teach a Person to Fish (TAPTF), explains his organization's mission at the LCG May Garden meeting. LCG Garden volunteers tend their bed for donation to TAPTF and the CRC. See [The Teach a Person to Fish Society – Sustainability Powered by Community \(taptfsociety.org\)](https://taptfsociety.org) for more information.

Lewes Community Garden donates vegetables weekly to the Community Resource Center (CRC) [Helping Those in Need | Rehoboth Community Center.](#)

This year we will start a new project donating non-perishable snacks and breakfast items to the Westside New Beginnings Youth Center day camp in Rehoboth Beach [\(20+\) West Side New Beginnings, INC. | Facebook.](#)

Lewes Community Garden provides sponsored beds for low-income families interested in growing fresh vegetables.



Ana Dittel and Yolanda Diaz, a sponsored family, at the May Garden meeting

Donations always welcome:
Lewes Community Gardeners Fund
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Lewes, Delaware 19958



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[Lewes Community Garden](#)