



Newhall Fields
Community Farm

2024 SEASON REPORT



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Dear Farm Community,

I am excited to present the first annual report for the 2024 season at Newhall Fields Community Farm. This project has been a true labor of love and determination from the start. Over the past five years, the farm has made incredible progress. That wouldn't have been possible without all of you.

Whether you volunteered on or off the farm, attended a workshop, donated, participated in our farm share program, or supported us on social media, your involvement has been invaluable. We look forward to sharing with you the achievements made this past season thanks to your generous support. Our goal is to carry this positive momentum into the next season, continuing to expand our production and welcoming even more of you to the land.

Farm Love,

Jeannette McGinn.

Director



Newhall Fields
Community Farm



OUR MISSION

Newhall Fields Community Farm strengthens the community by creating access to healthy food through sustainable agriculture, volunteer-powered farming, and outdoor education.

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It doesn't seem that long ago that an advisory committee was formed, from different groups around the city, to discuss and brainstorm a vision for the farm. Now, not that many years later, our thoughts, ideas, and dreams have come full circle. Kudos to everyone who worked so hard to create a working farm that helps support hunger in this city. Also, a safe place to volunteer and learn about what teamwork is.

Deb Eskenazi, volunteer and photographer



A YEAR OF GROWTH

🌿 In 2024, the farm increased its cultivated bed feet of vegetables by 71% bringing the total to 5,485 bed feet.

🌿 This expansion led to a 68% increase in food production, resulting in a total of 11,845 pounds of fresh produce.

🌿 We added regular deliveries to two new hunger relief partners, Beverly Bootstraps and The Salem Pantry. 68% of our total produce, or 8,045 lbs, went directly to these food pantries – nearly twice as many pounds as the 2023 season.


🌿 We expanded our farm share program to serve 33 local families, who received a total of 2,180 pounds of food throughout the season. We also continued participating in the SNAP CSA pilot program run by the MA Department of Transitional Assistance.

🌿 We estimate that 80% of our produce reached low and moderate-income families in the North Shore area.







THIS SEASON IN THE HERB GARDEN


 In addition to increasing the supply of fresh herb bunches to our farm share customers and hunger-relief partners, the farm successfully piloted its first season of herb drying and processing.



 Enabled by the new herb garden hoop house, our volunteers and staff harvested and dried 175 pounds of culinary and medicinal herbs, totaling 35 pounds of dried herbs and roots.

 These dried herbs were included in our farm shares, donated to community fridges through our partnership with Chickadee Spice Co., and sold as a fundraiser to help boost farm revenue.



 The herb garden joined the United Plant Savers Botanical Sanctuary Network, and became a partner in education member.



PARTNER IN EDUCATION
MEMBER

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

High School Saturdays

We provided 18 two-hour community service sessions for local high school students during the shoulder seasons. Thirty students earned 140 community service hours at the farm.

Volunteer Hours Donated

Over 240 volunteers contributed more than 2,500 hours to this community farming project.

Northeast Arc Program

The farm welcomed two groups of adults with disabilities from NEArc each week, led by our Program Coordinator. Participants engaged in long-term projects while learning about agriculture, conservation, and job readiness.

Youth Crew

In partnership with the MassHire YouthWorks Program, the farm employed a cohort of 10 local high school students over eight weeks during the summer. This season, the group was primarily made up of returning students, including three sets of siblings.

USDA People's Garden

The farm was approved to join this network that connects gardens across the country that produce food, practice sustainability, and bring people together in their community.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

🌿 This season, Lindsay came on board as the Program Coordinator, where she was responsible for curating programs and strengthening the farm's relationship with NEArc. Lindsay also hosted field trips and community service days.

🌿 Keeley joined as the Farm Assistant, working directly with CJ, the Farm Manager. Their role involved tackling field work, washing and packing the significant increase in produce, and leading volunteer groups.

🌿 Teebh returned for her second year as the Youth Crew Leader. With the rapport she established from the previous season, she effectively mentored and guided the students throughout their work on the farm.





FARM EVENTS

We love engaging with community members both on and off the farm. This season, we hosted eight programs and events.

- North Shore Children’s Museum “Meet a Farmer” Day
- Spring Ahead Community Gathering
- Lynnfield Health Expo - Plant Sale Fundraiser
- Picnic Luncheon Learn
- Pop-Up Farm Stand
- Bridgewell Day of Giving
- Make Your Own Fire Cider Workshop
- Fall Together Appreciation Celebration
- Herbstalk’s Wintergreen Herbal Market

Our plan for next season is to add even more community events, including additional workshops in the herb garden.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS COMMUNITY FARM

We couldn't do it without you!

360 Finance
A&J King Artisan Bakers
Babson & Company
Beverly Bootstraps
Bridgewell
Brooksby Farm
Brown Elementary School
Chickadee Spice Co.
Citizen's Inn Haven from Hunger
City of Peabody
Devereaux School at Waring
Eastern Bank
Edex Provisions
Endicott College
Essex County Greenbelt
Fitzgerald & Sons Excavation
Granite Coast Brewing
Green Beverly
Herbstalk
MA Master Gardener Association
Mass General Brigham Hospital

New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
Northeast Arc
North Shore Bank
North Shore CDC Youth Build
North Shore Children's Museum
North Shore Community College
North Shore Farm & Food Coalition
Oh Jolie Catering
Palmer Pond Botanicals
Peabody Chamber of Commerce
Peabody Veterans Memorial High
Peabody Council on Aging
Peabody Rotary Club
The Salem Pantry
Salem State University
Throne King
Tillie's Farm
Trader Joe's
Uncommon Feasts
United Plant Savers
Wilmer Hale
Wolf Hill Garden Center

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

City of Peabody
City of Salem - MassHire YouthWorks
Community Development Block Grant
Daughters Chapter 120 Charities
Essex County Community Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Giving Fund
J.B. Thomas Lahey Foundation
J.P. Morgan Charitable Giving Fund
Linda Levis Ladd
MA Master Gardener Association
National Resources Conservation Service
New England Biolabs
New England Food Foundation
North Shore Bank
Sarah G. McCarthy Memorial Fund
Schwab Charitable Fund
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Tamarack Foundation
Target Corporation
The Thirteen
Tremont Street Foundation
Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn
Williams Miller Family Foundation

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Newhall Fields
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