

The Pollinator Garden

The "Pollinator Garden" was established in the fall of 2016, through the very dedicated efforts of Penn State Master Gardeners and volunteers.

In the spring of 2017, this garden was certified as a pollinator garden by Penn State, and later certified as a "Monarch Way Station."

It is a beautiful and relaxing area apart from our vegetable garden for visitors to the public library to enjoy.



Aaron Witherite, a Boy Scout in our community, chose our pollinator garden as his Eagle Scout Project. He and his team installed pavers along the walkway.

Eagle Scout Jack Umbaugh erected a fence along the back and sides of the garden.



The Garden Project

at the North Pocono Public Library
(Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania)
began at a planning meeting in the fall of 2014.

Objectives were twofold:

One, to transfer a large piece of barren land behind the public library into a "giving" garden which would provide organically grown vegetables to meet a need for fresh produce at the local food pantry.

Two, to provide a "learning" garden where children along with their parents and grandparents could learn about gardening and nature.



Since that 2014 meeting, the garden has grown into a community-wide focal point; seen daily by young and old, visitors, and residents of the community. It has become a multidimensional giving and learning center.

Responses include:

"I have been planting my tomatoes wrong all these years – never planted deep."

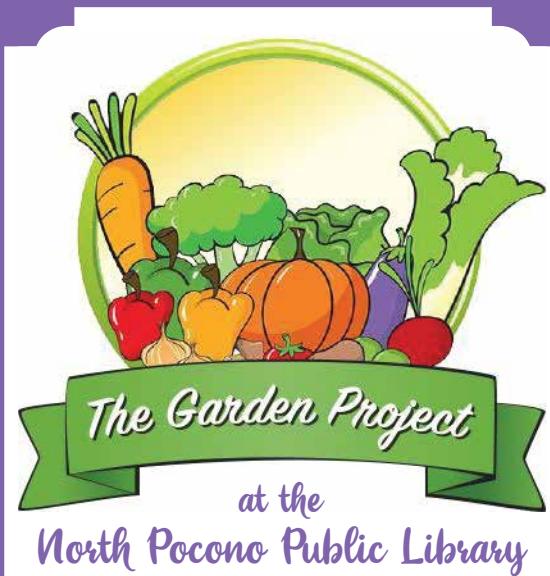
"I am starting my compost bin this season."

"I did not know carrots grew like that."

"I never knew you could plant all those vegetables from seed."



If you would like to volunteer or to donate,
contact projectgardennp@gmail.com



2016

PSU Master Gardener
Search for Excellence Award
2nd Place - Community Service

2019

David Gibby
International Search for Excellence Award
2nd Place

Moscow Borough "National Night Out"
Special Recognition Award

Come Join Us in the Garden

The Giving Garden

The "Giving Garden" consists of 21 raised beds, most measuring 4 ft x 12 ft, a handicapped-accessible planter, and a composting system.

The beds were built by volunteers and are filled with rich soil and aged horse manure donated by local community members.

There are at least 2 volunteers at the garden daily – more on planting and harvest days. Throughout the growing season, a log tracks what gardening chores were done, what questions need answering, and records any diseases, insects etc. observed in the garden.



Volunteer hours
since 2019:

955

Lbs of food donated
since 2015:

5415

Approximately 225 families select from the weekly harvest delivered to the pantry.

Volunteers who deliver the vegetables have told of the joy the participants express to be able to add fresh vegetables to non perishable boxed and canned foods to create healthier meals.

Families have been introduced to new vegetables such as kale and Swiss chard, new varieties of tomatoes, freshly picked lettuce, potatoes right from the ground, and varieties of winter squash.



Kids Dig It

The children's summer program, "Kids Dig It," partners with the North Pocono Public Library story hour.

The children meet inside for story time and afterwards proceed outside to the garden for their Dig It session. Topics include: the parts of a plant, pests and guests in the garden, colors in the garden, and sunflowers.

The children pick strawberries, carrots, snap peas and beans. They have helped to harvest potatoes, onions, carrots and beets.



Memorial Garden

Dedicated in July 2021 in memory of Gail Schuit, an adored library employee.

Apprentice Garden

The "Apprentice Garden" program began in the summer of 2017 as a way to reach out into the community and educate families on growing organic vegetables. Families are chosen based on responses to application questions, library involvement, and their commitment to the maintenance of their gardens. Each family is provided with two raised garden beds, soil and compost, plants and seeds, and access to tools and water.



Volunteers and master gardeners provide assistance, support and guidance each step of the way during planting, growing, and harvesting.

At the end of the growing season, raised beds are installed at the homes of the families for the next growing season.



Community Workshops

Educational classes are offered free of charge to the public by master gardeners and volunteers.

Some topics are "Growing Tomatoes," "Putting Your Garden to Bed" and "Support our Pollinators and Get Your Garden Certified."