



GREENWICH COMMUNITY GARDENS
COMMUNITY BENEFITS STATEMENT
for Bible Street Community Garden, Cos Cob, CT

GREENWICH COMMUNITY GARDENS is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to creating sustainable community gardens that provide the opportunity for local residents to grow or have access to organic vegetables, herbs and flowers in ways that promote community building, garden education, exercise, health and wellness. Our first community garden in Greenwich, The Armstrong Court Community Organic Garden, has been in existence for 5 years. At over 15,000 square feet, this garden boasts over **125** 4'x8' raised beds, a pergola & picnic benches, native, butterfly & herb gardens, a newly-designed pizza oven, and two garden sheds filled with tools & wheelbarrows.

Our proposed second garden—The Bible Street Community Garden—will increase the number of available community garden plots in Greenwich to over 200 and allow even more citizens to grow food for their families and neighbors. Greenwich Community Gardens has delivered over 800 pounds of fresh produce to the Neighbor to Neighbor food pantry over the past three years, providing nutritious food to over 1,000 people who depend on this service weekly. Creating a second garden in Greenwich will expand the capacity of our organization to address health and hunger issues, not only at the level of individual families who garden with us, but also through increased donations to the food pantry.

A community garden can certainly address many issues, as we have seen over the past five years in Greenwich. We have found that community gardens are a meaningful resource for **ALL** members of the community to:

- Grow fresh, local, and safe food that is produced without negative impact on the environment
- Relieve hunger and reduce family food budgets, providing fresh food for those in need through donations to Neighbor to Neighbor
- Improve health, nutrition and well-being, helping to combat obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes
- Enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation, exercise, and therapy for all ages
- Foster environmental awareness, facilitating connections and interactions with nature
- Share a love of gardening
- Participate in garden education, taught by local garden experts on various, related topics
- Strengthen and beautify neighborhoods and promote community development
- Cultivate friendships and multi-generational and cross-cultural connections
- Conserve energy and resources by shortening the distance from “food to fork”
- Help restore oxygen to the air we breathe and help to reduce pollution
- Create community service and volunteer opportunities that bring students, scouts, service groups, and community partners together to enjoy nature and contribute to the quality of life in our town and the welfare and self-reliance of people in need

It is the intention of **GREENWICH COMMUNITY GARDENS** to be excellent stewards of one-acre of the Montgomery Pinetum property at 129 Bible Street by creating a community garden for the residents of the Town of Greenwich. In keeping with the provisions of the deed by which Colonel Robert H. Montgomery and his wife, Eleanor, donated this property to the Town, we plan to develop a “a park or garden”, “for the pleasure and education of the public at large.” Furthermore, in keeping with the Preservation Recommendations in the Town’s Historic Landscape Report we can provide for the Town “the possibility of developing new garden spaces, such as...a butterfly garden, a bird-friendly garden, a vegetable garden and a community garden site.”