



NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

LEARN • GROW • GIVE

December 2022 Newsletter

Notes from the Board President



As the growing season winds down, my attention turns to the Farm's 2022 accomplishments for which I am particularly grateful. This year, we secured a 10-year land lease with the Town of Needham. This land security opens up many new possibilities such as

growing more food, applying for grants for which we now qualify, and utilizing additional space for educational and recreational purposes. In parallel with this, we secured funding from the Town's Community Preservation Fund to build 150 raised gardening beds. Starting with the 2023 growing season, Needham residents will be able to lease 12 feet x 4 feet gardening beds. Tours of this magnificent and dramatic expansion start in early February. Look for announcements in our monthly newsletter. Worth highlighting, in 2022 we presented over 12 free educational programs to the community designed for a variety of ages, interests and time-availability. In January we will unveil our plan for the 2023 (Free) Community Education Series.

We could not have accomplished our work this year without the dedication and passion from our farm staff Allie Comet, Field Manager; Ceilidh Peden-Spear, Program Manager; Courtney Sodano, Development Director; and our 2022 Interns Amelia, Sam Margolin, Emily Byers, and Hazel Hornick. Equally hard working is our Board of Directors who contribute their individual superpowers, offering strategic guidance and hands-on involvement on everything.

Running a small, nonprofit community farm is truly a team sport and we need help from everyone! On behalf of the Farm staff and Board of Directors, I express our gratitude to all of you: donors, volunteers, business sponsors, grantors, partners, interns, customers, and students who helped us flourish this year. Thank you!

Grow Your Own Microgreens: Sign Up Now!

NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

GROW YOUR OWN MICRO- GREENS

Join Program Manager, Ceilidh Peden-Spear (they/them) to learn how to grow healthy + inexpensive microgreens in winter. All you need is a sunny window.

1/21/23 - 11AM

Select the link below to register for this **free** community event!

Featuring:
Arugula!

Learn how to grow fresh, flavorful micro-greens all winter long! An inexpensive way to get your fresh veggies - all you need is a sunny window and some soil. All other materials will be provided prior to the class. Pickup location for materials will be sent via email before event date.

This class is for all ages, but children under 10 should be joined by an adult. [Sign up now!](#)

Sign up!

It's Annual Appeal time! We couldn't do all of our important work without you! Please make a donation if you can today.

Donations can be made at any time by clicking on the button below, by visiting our website at NeedhamFarm.org/donate or by sending a check made payable to the Needham Community Farm

In 2023 in addition to launching new initiatives, we will continue to offer our signature gardening classes, provide volunteer opportunities for families, individuals and corporations and grow fresh, safe food for people in our community through our CSA, Mobile Markets and the Needham Community Council's Food Pantry.

We do need your continued involvement and support. Here are four (4) ways to get involved and help us grow in 2023 and beyond:

- **Learn:** [Sign up](#) for the January 2023 Microgreens class (free) and watch for registration for other free classes!
- **Volunteer:** Mark your calendar for March 15, 2023 when we will release Spring volunteer dates!
- **Share:** Tell a friend, neighbor or family member about the work we do in the community and have them join our mailing list.
- **Donate:** [Donate today](#) to help us continue our good work! We need everyone's help this year.

If you have not already done so, please make a donation to support the Farm today so that we can continue to grow in 2023 and beyond.

With gratitude,

Susan Shaver
NCF Board President
sshaver@needhamfarm.org



Unseasonably warm weather means our lettuce was continuing to grow into December

[Donate Now](#)

NCF Garden Planning 101

Learn all about how to plan your veggie garden from experienced farmer and gardener, Ceilidh. This is your year to create your own veggie garden! Registration will open next month for this upcoming virtual workshop. Save the date: February 15th, at 6 PM on Zoom!



Coming Soon: NCF's NEW Community Garden Beds!

NCF is thrilled to shared that construction for the NEW Community Garden Beds is well on its way! The 150 garden beds - which will be available to rent starting this spring - are currently being constructed on a .5 acre plot next to our production fields. The project is expected to continue through the winter, with a tentative completion date of February 2023. Stay tuned for more information, links to register for a bed, and more!



December view of the fields at Pine Street

Volunteers - We Need You!

Attention farm enthusiasts and winter warriors! Starting as soon as the snow falls we will need volunteers on stand by to help us remove snow near and on top of our high tunnel. This is a great volunteer opportunity for an adult or a responsible high school student looking to earn community service hours. Also, a great way to exercise your dog or kids! It can take up to 60-90 minutes for heavy storms, snow must be cleared within 24-48 hours of the storm.

If you love New England winters and want to help please email Ceilidh at cpedenspear@needhamfarm.org. Please put "High Tunnel Shoveling" in the subject line.



Bed construction underway!



The bed area being filled and tamped with gravel, prior to bed construction

Community Events



**NEEDHAM
DIVERSITY
INITIATIVE**

Join NDI Needham for a meaningful morning of music and inspiration in honor of Martin Luther King Jr Day.

Time + Location:
Jan 16, 2023
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Needham High School

For more information, [please go here.](#)

Thank you to our 2022 Food Donation Program Sponsors!



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Needham Community Farm



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