



# NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM

## LEARN • GROW • GIVE

## March 2022 Newsletter

### Join us in Welcoming NCF's New Field Manager, Allie Comet



Allie (she/her) has been farming and working in education for over a decade, and is thrilled to join the team at Needham Community Farm. Most recently, she worked as a Garden Educator with CitySprouts, managing public school gardens and providing garden-

based education for students in Boston and Cambridge. She is passionate about building community around land and food, soil health, food justice, and nature connection. She received a BA from Pomona College in Environmental Analysis and a Masters in Teaching in Elementary Education from Brandeis University. Allie currently lives in Jamaica Plain, where she is active in the local Jewish community and social justice organizing.

### Registration is Open for our March Community Events!



**Planning Your Home Garden**, Wed. March 23rd, at 6 PM on Zoom - Presented by NCF's Program Manager Ceilidh Peden-Spear (they/them).

Learn how to plan your own garden so you can harvest your favorite veggies all season.



**Online viewing of *Uprooting Racism, Seeding Sovereignty***, Wed, March 30th at 7 PM - This film, produced by Soul Fire Farm, is presented in collaboration with the Needham Diversity Initiative.

Learn about an Afro-Indigenous centered community farm committed to uprooting racism and seeding sovereignty in the food system. After the screening, join us for a panel discussion with local farmers and food workers.

Events are **FREE**. Registration is open and can be found on our website at [needhamfarm.org/workshops](https://needhamfarm.org/workshops).

### Registration Still Open for our Beginner and Virtual Gardening Classes

[Reserve your spot today!](#)

We are offering a [Monday night Beginner Class](#) starting on April 11th and a [Thursday night Virtual Beginner Class](#) starting on April 14th.

The [Wednesday night Intermediate Class](#) is now full. Please follow the instructions and add your name to the waitlist if

### NCF Welcomes New & Returning Volunteers to the Farm This Spring

interested.

### [Beginner Class \(Monday Nights\)](#)

The Beginner Gardening Class is designed for individuals and/or families - with little to no previous gardening experience - interested in learning about the wonders of sustainable, organic gardening in a supportive, hands-on, and community-based environment.

### [Virtual Class \(Thursday Nights\)](#)

If you've been curious about starting a home vegetable garden but the process seemed daunting, this class is for you! The class is geared toward beginners/advanced beginners interested in starting a 4x4 or larger garden this season.

Full scholarships for our gardening classes are available. If you are interested in a scholarship, please email

[FarmManager@needhamfarm.org](mailto:FarmManager@needhamfarm.org).

## Join our Produce CSA Today!



**Only 9 shares remaining!**  
[Sign Up Here!](#)

Your purchase of a 20-week CSA share gives us a consistent revenue stream and allows us to focus on good land stewardship and growing high quality food.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NCF!

## NCF Seeking Community Preservation Act Funds to Build Public Access Community Gardening Beds

**We need your help!** The Needham Community Farm (NCF) seeks \$200,000 to build 150, 4 by 12-foot, raised beds that would be available to rent to members of the community. Fifteen of the

No experience needed, just an appetite for outdoor farm work. Stay tuned for open weekend and weekday volunteer sessions coming in April. Check our website for updates or complete the [2022 NCF Volunteer Form](#) to be added to our volunteer email distribution list.

## NCF's Second Annual Seedling Sale and Volunteer Opportunity

Save the date! On May 14, 2022 between 9:30 am and 12:30 PM, NCF will hold its second annual seedling sale at the Newman School location. If you are interested in growing seedlings for the sale, please send an email to Joe Leghorn at [jleghorn@needhamfarm.org](mailto:jleghorn@needhamfarm.org).



**DONATE NOW**

Donations can be made on our website at [NeedhamFarm.org/donate](https://www.needhamfarm.org/donate) or send a check made payable to the Needham Community Farm and mail to P.O. Box 920877, Needham, MA 02492.



beds would be 44 inches in height for those who are physically challenged, and 15 beds would be available at reduced or no cost to those who are residents of public housing or SNAP eligible.

On Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 7 PM, the Community Preservation Committee will be holding a public hearing in order to determine the community's interest and demand for community gardening beds. **We urge you to attend virtually** as the hearing room at the PSA building is not large. Key NCF Board members will attend in person. Keep an eye out for an email from us later this week with further information.

## Farm Wish List, Donations Needed!

- Gardening/work gloves (all sizes)
- Tarps
- Wheelbarrows
- Heavy duty shelving (for garage or outdoor)
- Scissors - sturdier the better
- 6' or 7' metal fence posts
- [Large watering cans](#)
- Hand pruners with bypass blade
- Large plastic totes - lids preferred but not required
- 10' x 10' popup tent/canopy
- 6' centerfold folding plastic table

If you have something to donate that is not on this list, please email

[FarmManager@needhamfarm.org](mailto:FarmManager@needhamfarm.org) to see if the Farm can use it.

## Feeding Our Students

### A Look at Nutrition Services in the Needham Public Schools

Thursday, March 24, 2022

7:00 pm on Zoom

#### Speakers

Colin Boisvert, Director

Jen Tuttelman MS, RD SNS, Assistant Director  
Nutrition Services at Needham Public Schools

#### Topics

- o What is the scope of the NPS Nutrition Services?
- o How are student expectations, nutritional needs and requirements balanced?
- o How is the Nutritional Services program funded?
- o How has the pandemic impacted your program?
- o How do you handle food waste and recycling of mealtime materials?



Register with QR code or at:  
Bitly: <https://bit.ly/feedingstudents>



[Register here.](https://bit.ly/feedingstudents)



Our local restaurants have supported our region's nonprofits through the good times – and not so good times. Let's thank them now and Love Local.

Thank you to our 2022 Food Donation Program Sponsors!



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Needham Community Farm



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