



Carrboro Community Garden  
MLK, Jr. Park  
1120 Hillsborough Road  
<http://carrborogarden.org>  
[cgc@riseup.net](mailto:cgc@riseup.net)  
919-647-9633



Can you spy one of the garden's visitors?

### Get Involved!

- **We need your help!** Your donations will help us buy:
  - 550-gallon cistern: \$350
  - Fencing materials: \$150
  - Organic matter: \$150
- Come help in the garden! Join fellow gardeners on **Saturdays from 9am-2 pm.** MLK, Jr Park: 1120 Hillsborough Road (1.5 miles past Weaver Street Market down N. Greensboro Street).
- To receive emails about CCGC, please email us at [cgc@riseup.net](mailto:cgc@riseup.net).
- Visit our website for more information, pictures, and recipes!



Lush abundance manifests.

## Agri-Culture: Community Garden Provides a Missing Link

The Carrboro Community Garden Coalition (CCGC) is the shared dream of a number of individuals who have been involved in local efforts to nurture sustainable ways of living. Jay Hamm moved to North Carolina in 1997 to study permaculture and sustainable agriculture with local farmer Harvey Harman, owner of Sustenance Farm. Harman promotes a vision of gardening that reaches beyond basic growing techniques to emphasize "creating the world that we want to live in." Because of his exposure to Harman's broad social vision, Jay felt that something was missing when he subsequently grew food for farmer's markets, restaurants, and community-supported agriculture (CSA) groups. Missing a deeper connection with others—what Jay calls the "culture" piece of agriculture—led him to turn to community gar-

dening.

Having long been surprised at the absence of a community garden in Carrboro, Jay, Sammy Slade and others launched a community garden in 2006 at the Carrboro Greenspace, a 10-acre area in the heart of Carrboro that is also home to the ReCYCLERY and other innovative local initiatives. When this space was no longer able to be used for gardening, Jay, Sammy, and others began to search for an alternate community gardening site.

Pooling their skills, passion for community-building, and understanding of what it takes to grow a garden, the group identified the current CCGC location. Working with Carrboro's Board of Aldermen and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the CCGC group brought to

light the value of a community garden for Carrboro, and eventually reached an agreement for interim use of a portion of the future Martin Luther King Park on Hillsborough Road. Although getting the CCGC up and running has involved a lot more work than what any of its founders initially imagined, the garden's potential for meaningful community involvement has become increasingly apparent. As Jay observes, "Gardens excite and also humble us—in the garden, we're all equal, all learning, growing, sweating, digging potatoes...Gardening is a basic human thing."



Jagmeet Mac, Christopher Guidry, April McGreger, Christian Molina, Chris Richmond, Lucy Wilson, and Peter Brayshaw take a break at the end of new rows.

## The Garden Grows

\$1400 has been donated to spur the growth of the garden. The money was used to buy a dump truck load of composted cow manure, fencing, cedar posts, tools, and to rent a tiller. In addition, the CCGC volunteer gardeners filled beds with dozens of plants. What might you find when you visit? Basil, yarrow, zinnias, tomatoes with accompanying marigolds, yellow wax

beans, rattlesnake pole beans, okra, crookneck squash, lantana, hubbard winter squash, bush beans, lemon balm, thyme, hyssop, zucchini, cucumbers, crimson sweet watermelon, ambrosia, cantaloupe, Japanese eggplant, habanero peppers, jalapeños, basil, cayenne, flowering tobacco and more.

We are expanding the garden's size from 2,500 square feet to 6,800 square feet and we need

to raise \$1000 more to fund this expansion of the garden. Donations will help us accommodate our ever-growing community of gardeners, and pay for expenses associated with the installation of our donated solar well pump. Our needs also include more fencing and cedar posts, roof gutters, rain barrels, a hammock, picnic tables, and another load of manure. These investments will serve the garden for years to come.

**Gardener Profile**

Claire Viadro began looking for a community garden after hearing a story on public radio about the Anathoth Community Garden in Cedar Grove. A 46-year-old mother of two boys (Logan, age 7 and Casey, age 3 1/2), Claire was eager to find somewhere to learn how to garden alongside her children. The new Carrboro garden has allowed Claire to realize some of her goals.

Along with other first-time gardeners, working in the garden allows Claire to learn “remedial” gardening skills. Equally importantly, the garden gives her children the opportunity to play in the dirt, watch things grow, and learn where food comes from. The Carrboro gardeners have also pro-

**The Viadro Family: Garden Fresh Eyes**

vided Claire’s family with access to a welcoming, diverse, and multi-generational group of people who share a passion for local and sustainable food.

After the plot was tilled on the garden’s first day, Logan and Casey were especially thrilled when a big dump truck arrived with a load of cow manure to enrich the soil. Logan enthusiastically helped spread the manure with his red wagon and shovel, re-



Casey, Claire, and Logan pick the garden’s first eggplant!

porting afterwards, “That was FUN!” Both boys have enjoyed planting seeds, spreading leaf mulch, and even pulling weeds. They feel particular pride in the cucumbers that they helped plant. The family’s continued involvement in the garden inspires the rest of the CCGC gardeners to retain a childlike enthusiasm for each new task and discovery.

**In Gratitude:**

A genuine grassroots and collaborative effort created the Carrboro Community Garden, for which we are full of gratitude. We also feel proud, empowered, and hopeful for the future of communities and community gardens everywhere. The generosity and support of our friends, families, fellow citizens, and local businesses have made it all possible, along with the sweat of the community gardeners. Of the \$1400 that has been raised for the community garden, donations ranged from \$3 - \$200, most of which was given before we even broke ground. We also received donations of seeds, plants, discounts, dump truck delivery, tools, many professional volunteer hours, and much more. We hope

all of our supporters are as excited by the success of this garden as we are. We are thankful to you all:

**Friends of CCGC**

The Town of Carrboro, The Carrboro Board of Aldermen, Carrboro Facilities, Tonya Hamm and Susan Wells, Ladonna Galleti, Shirley Couter, Patty Rekindle, Jeff Dotson, Deborah Amaral, Karen Kelly, Sarah Howe, Jan Berger, Donovan Zimmerman, Tamara Sanders, Claire Hartman, Queen of Sheba, Earl and Nita McGreger, Lex Alexander, Grant Tennille, Blan Holman, Phil Blank and April McGreger, Elaine Thomas, Lindsay Griffin,

Erin Griffin, Matt Gocke, Ali Cerulli, Lantern Restaurant, John Mariani, Chris Guidry, David Delveccio, Ed Witkin (Carrboro Solar Works), Christopher Wedding, Brian Kinahan, Michael Bade, Michael Whitmire, Peter Brayshaw, Jagmeet Mac, Claire Viadro and David Valleroy, Risten Cook (Castlerock Gardens), Becky Taylor, SCI Rental Equipment, Chris Richmond, Bruce Payden, Chris Carter, Anne Warshaw and Kevin Webb, George O’Neil (Lil’ Farm), Sarah Blacklin (Maple Spring Garden), Sami Grover, Lucy Wilson, and, importantly, all of the gardeners who have made it happen.



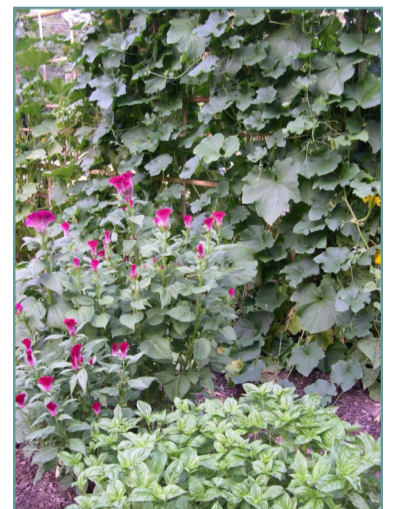
Yard long beans, cantaloupe, flowering tobacco, zinnias and marigolds grace the garden. The cedar posts add to the beauty of the perimeter.

**What’s your favorite thing we’re growing in the garden?**

- “community, friendships, and empowerment” Jay
- “community and the food to feed it” Sammy
- “eggplant and melon” Logan and Casey



Garden expansion! With help from Fred Hagenberger, CCGC added 4,300 square feet to the existing 2,500 square feet to accommodate the growing number of volunteers and fall crops.



Basil, celosia, hubbard squash and luffa gourds complement each other. The squash reaches fifteen feet into the air, attached to trellises of bamboo.