



Dear Gardeners,

Happy New Year! We hope all your holidays were happy and that 2025 brings you and your loved ones good health and prosperity. We have been very busy at the community garden, as we are in the peak season for gardening in south Florida. So much news to share with you all!

Garden Bed Updates: All 23 beds have been built, filled with organic soil, and numbered at the **Ann Wasserman Memorial Community Garden**. As of this typing, all but 3 are now occupied! At the beginning of the gardening season, we welcomed our very first member. She has a beautiful bed that is full of mustard greens, herbs, tomatoes, and other assorted veggies. It has been wonderful to have her! Our newest member has not started her bed yet, but is eager to learn all about south Florida gardening and growing her own food. We can't wait to help her on this journey. The other beds that were unoccupied have veggies and herbs growing that we decided to plant for a few reasons: first, we grew many starter plants (tomatoes and peppers!) from seed and needed to give them a home. Second, a need to keep the nutrient-rich soil in the beds thriving, third, we want the growing garden to attract visitors, future members, and pollinators! Lastly, we are simply addicted to gardening and love watching little seeds become gorgeous and nourishing food. We have many varieties of tomatoes, carrots, lettuces, herbs, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, beans, peas, radishes, and more growing and cannot wait to share them all with our community. Our plan is to sell the vegetables to donate the money back into the garden, but also to partner with a local food bank to donate fresh produce to them. We still have 3 beds available, and we will be building more beds, including handicapped accessible ones. Please reach out if you are interested. 🌱

Garden Workdays: This garden is truly a community-led labor of love. If you have been out there with us, thank you! If you would like to join us, our volunteer workday calendar is always updated on our website, so please check it often to see any changes. For 2025, we are working every **first** Saturday of the month (instead of the second Saturday) from 9-11 a.m., once the heat kicks in (around May) we switch it to 8-10 a.m. We have been weeding and mulching around the fruit trees (2


of the mango trees are flowering!), weeding and stamping out invasives around the Florida native pollinator garden, planting seeds, pruning, and refilling the rain barrels-which is how this garden has anything growing-the garden's small battery charged Ryobi pump has proved invaluable! 🍌

Volunteering: Once again, a huge thank you to **Hands on Broward** for being a fantastic platform for volunteers to find us. We have been SO lucky to have the most amazing people come to the garden and dedicate their time, energy, and sweat! We cannot express enough how grateful we are for every single volunteer that comes to the garden to help us. Please check our website for upcoming volunteer opportunities, use the Hands on Broward link, or the General Volunteer link. We provide water and snacks, so please bring a refillable water bottle, if possible. If not, we have cups. We also provide gloves to borrow while working, but you are welcome to bring your own. A hat and sunscreen are also key, even in the “winter”! Hope to see you there. 😎

Events: We will be participating once again for the annual **Weston World Fest** sponsored by The Arts Council of Greater Weston. This fantastic family event takes place on Sunday March 2, 2025 12-4 p.m. at Weston Regional Park. Check out their website for additional information: <https://www.1weston.com/> This is the 4th year we are participating and it is always a great gathering of our international community. There is also food from local restaurants, booths representing various cultures, music, and more. We always have seeds and a fun gardening activity for all. Come see us! We also have some ideas for events we want to hold at the garden, so please check our website for announcements and details. Stay tuned! 🎉

Special Reports: We would like to thank our local resident and art student Greta Reichenbach (also my daughter ;) for painting the radish logo on the side of the container in the garden. It is always a welcome and colorful greeting.


We are going to be diving into researching and writing Grants to raise more funding to build up our infrastructure. Because the garden is located “off the grid” inside the park, it is an expensive job to install electricity, which we also need to

run an irrigation system. Our wish is to complete this task using solar power, so we can truly stay with our desire to be sustainable. It is costly. Our future plans for the garden are to focus on engaging community members with access to onsite workshops, youth education programs, community service, food pantry and school partnerships, and more. But in order to support all this, we need a more solid infrastructure. We will get there, but it will take time. To quote one of my favorite advocates for people, animals, and the environment, Jane Goodall, “If you really want something, you’re going to have to work hard, you’ll have to take advantage of every opportunity, but don’t give up”. Again, thank you to everyone who has supported this garden, monetarily or otherwise. Amazing things are happening there. 

Social Media: Please visit us on **Facebook** at Weston Community Garden Society, or **Instagram** weston_community_garden

Thank you to our supporters and volunteers who are making this garden a reality! This assistance is invaluable, and every volunteer is needed and appreciated. If you would like to support the garden too, by donating, volunteering, or both, please visit our website at <https://westoncgs.org/>

Did you know?

Basil and onions deter pests, as well as improve the flavor of tomatoes when planted nearby. 

Yours in Gardening,
Gina

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A few snapshots of the Ann Wasserman Memorial Community Garden:







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