

GARDEN GAZETTE

Official Newsletter of The Junior League of Boca Raton Community Garden

The mission of the Junior League of Boca Raton Community Garden is to cultivate the spirit of community and enhance quality of life by creating and sustaining an organic garden of vegetables, flowers, plants, and trees. The garden fosters environmental sustainability and stewardship, advances horticultural and nutritional education, provides a beautiful and natural retreat, and produces a healthy supplemental food source for its gardeners and the hungry.



Junior League of Boca Raton Community Garden

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Join our Facebook Group

Search for Friends of the Boca Raton Community Garden and answer the questions.

This page is not an official page of the Junior League of Boca Raton or monitored by their social media team. Any views and comments expressed by users on this Facebook group are those of the users and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Junior League of Boca Raton.

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Garden Plots, Bricks and Benches

Support the Community Garden

Garden plot yearly leasing is assessed on a first-come, first-served basis. The plots are posted and can be viewed on jlbr.org. New leases start August 1, 2022.

- 4x4: \$75 per year
- 4x8: \$100 per year
- 4x12: \$125 per year

All Gardeners must agree to the [Garden Agreement and the Release of All Claims](#).

Purchase a brick and/or bench and support the Junior League of Boca Raton's Community Garden. The bricks are available for purchase on jlbr.org.

- 4"x8" Brick \$100
- 8"x8" Brick \$175
- 8"x8" Brick w/logo \$250
- Bench \$1,250

Questions please contact garden@jlbr.org.

Meet Your JLBR Community Garden Co-Chairs

Melanie Kamburian

My name is Melanie Kamburian and I have been a resident of Boca Raton since 1980. My love of nature has grown greater over the years as has my love of healthy living. I started my own organic garden and have been growing my own vegetables and herbs for several years. Gardening is my greatest passion! My goal again this year is to help gardeners successfully produce organic foods for their families and feed the community. Additionally, with the support of the Junior League of Boca Raton, City of Boca Raton, Master Gardeners and Community Sponsors we are able to incorporate a butterfly garden located west of the tennis courts here in Meadows Park! I can't think of a better way to teach our children the importance of growing native trees and pollinators then to have our very own habitat for our beautiful butterflies. I am looking forward to working with everyone this year on an amazing and exciting project. I know we will be enjoying another fruitful year at the Community Garden! When I am not here at the Community Garden you can find me working in the dietary supplement industry as a paralegal. I am very lucky to have an employer that is so supportive and I really enjoy maintaining my employers garden plot here in the Community Garden. When I am not working I enjoy gardening, cooking, traveling and spending time with family and friends. I look forward to meet each of you!



Souna Koolik

My name is Souna Koolik and I have lived in Boca Raton since 2010. Before that I lived in Monterrey, Mexico for twenty years where my husband and I raised our family. I am a mother of four, grandmother of one (soon to be 3 by the end of this summer!) I have a master's degree in Photojournalism from the University of Texas at Austin and have worked as a writer and photographer, so you will definitely see me out in the garden shooting photos. I am a lifelong gardener, competitive tennis player, avid reader, new birder, and proud member of the Junior League of Boca Raton. This is my second year on the Community Garden Committee, and my first as Co-Chair with Melanie Kamburian. I am looking forward to developing and expanding the Butterfly/Pollinator Garden on the West side of the tennis courts, tending to my own plot here in the Community Garden, working with fellow gardeners on composting, and planning monthly gardening workshops and events for our community. I hope to see you all around the garden--it is a magical place and I am so happy to be a part of it. Come say hi if you see me around!



Message from your Chairs

"We are happy to provide you with assistance and answer any questions! Feel free to email us anytime at garden@jlbr.org." Melanie and Souna



Feeding the Community

Boca Helping Hands

10% of all fruits and vegetables harvested by individual garden plots are donated to Boca Helping Hands. Boca Helping Hands (BHH) is a community-based nonprofit that provides food, medical and financial assistance to meet basic human needs as well as education, job training and guidance to create self-sufficiency. Through its various programs, BHH assists over 27,000 people annually. BHH distributes more than 80,000 pantry bags each year at five Palm Beach County locations and serves over 90,000 hot meals annually, six days per week. In addition, BHH sends weekend meals home with food-insecure elementary school students via the BHH Backpacks Program and assists working families with the rising cost of childcare through the Children’s Assistance Program (CAP). For more information, please visit BocaHelpingHands.org. “We are so grateful for the Junior League of Boca Raton and their commitment to feeding our community through the Community Garden,” said Bill Harper, Boca Helping Hands Director of Food & Warehouse Operations. “The donations from the garden are an instrumental part of preparing more than 1,300 meals per week in the BHH kitchen for families in need.”



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
BOCA RATON

Butterfly Garden

Project Update

Good news! We planted a variety of beautiful native host and pollinator plants and trees in the pollinator area west of the tennis courts! We also installed three butterfly arbors which provide butterfly accents to be intertwined with passion vines. We will soon be adding mushroom trellises to provide elegant support for smaller vining plants. We are also currently obtaining proposals to have an irrigation system installed.



Water the Butterfly Garden

We Need Your Help

We need help daily watering the newly planted flowers, trees, and bushes in the Butterfly Garden on the west side of the tennis courts.. Thank you!





What's on the Menu

What to plant in Summer

Vegetables: A handful of vegetables and fruits will do well in the summer heat, including pineapples, passionfruit, papaya, sweet potatoes, tropical spinaches, southern peas and okra. Some spring crops like peppers and eggplant may continue into the summer. As long as the plants are healthy, there is no need to remove them if they are still producing.

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, ginger, summer savory, cumin, Mexican tarragon, oregano, mint and rosemary. [Reference](#)

Taking a Summer Break?

If you prefer to give your garden a rest during the summer, take advantage of the summer sun to solarize the soil. This kills nematodes, weeds, and other harmful pests with heat.

Helpful Vegetable Gardening Guide

Grow your Skills

Growing Vegetables Gardening Guide for Beginners, [please click here](#).

Solar Solarization

Control soil-borne pests with solarization during hot summer months

The hottest days of summer are coming with temperatures in the 90's with heat indexes above 100. While some may find it too hot to work in the garden, you can put the climbing temperatures to use and solarize your garden.

Soil Solarization is an environmentally friendly method of using the sun's energy to battle pests such as bacteria, insects and weeds in the soil. The process suggests covering your weed-clean plot with a transparent air-proof plastic to accumulate solar energy, which raises soil temperature. Soil solarization improves soil chemistry and protection from soil erosion. The major purpose of soil solarization is to kill weeds and pests with the obtained heat.

For soil solarization success, take advantage of the hottest season, which is usually the summer months of June, July and August. Effective solarization takes 4 to 6 weeks to get your garden ready for fall planting.

For more information, [click here](#).



Important Reminders

Thank You for your Support

1. Please check your irrigation:
 - a. Check your timers. Batteries should be replaced yearly.
 - b. Are you using a soaker hose? Please use a leader hose to connect to your soaker hose to ensure water is evenly distributed inside your garden plot to avoid water accumulation and flooding. We recommend using thread tape to securely fasten your hose connections.
 - b. Please adjust your water pressure so water does not spray and encroach onto your neighbor's garden plot.
 - c. It is recommended to water no more than 30 minutes in the morning and early evening during this time of year. Over watering will result in withered vegetation, disease and mold growth.
2. Please help us keep out the wildlife by keeping the garden gates closed at all times.
3. If you witness suspicious activity by non garden members who are watering plots using hoses and/or harvesting plants, kindly advise them the garden plots are individually leased and to please respect the garden by not touching garden plots as set forth at the garden entrances.
4. 10% of all fruits and vegetables harvested by individual garden plots are donated to Boca Helping Hands. Please see page 5 in the Handbook for Gardeners for more info. Please remember to state your donations are from the Community Garden when you sign in to ensure your donations are tallied to the garden. Kindly submit pictures of your fruits and vegetables for publicity purposes along with your receipt to garden@jlbr.org. Boca Helping Hands Hours of Operation are Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM, Saturday 9:30 AM - Noon, Closed on Sunday.
5. Please respect gardener's plots- do not touch their plants or irrigation systems. Thank you!



Garden Composting

Join our committee

Please send an email to garden@jlbr.org if you are interested in helping and/or joining our garden compost committee.



Upcoming Event

Social Hour with the Gardeners

We invite you to gather among your fellow gardeners and JLBR Community Garden Co-Chairs for a social hour to be held monthly at the Community Garden! Let's share our thoughts and gardening experiences with fellow gardeners. This will be a special treat for our new gardeners to learn about helpful gardening tips! Please bring a chair, a snack to share and something to drink. Stay tuned for more details!

