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## About the Community Garden



In 2011, the Town of Perinton Community Garden was established. Located in Potter Park, the community garden was once the original site for a WWII Victory Garden. Victory Gardens were planted by community members coming together to ensure adequate food supply for civilians and troops.

The Town of Perinton Garden offers 105 8ft x 4ft plots to community members, where they can grow vegetables, herbs and flowers. The garden also offers eight (8) pollinator and herb gardens, a vertical garden, and a vermiculture composting system.

In 2025, the community garden created a set of goals that aligned with its mission and vision.

## **Community Garden Mission, Vision and Goals**

### *Mission*

The Town of Perinton Community Garden seeks to steward the beautification of a safe, positive, and healthy space for members to deepen their connections, knowledge and grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

### *Vision*

The vision of the Town of Perinton Community Garden is to celebrate the rich heritage of 'Victory Gardens' by nourishing community connections with educational programs, food donations and sustainable living and gardening.

### *2025 Goals*

- Donate 250lbs of food to nourish the community
- Repair and replace damaged garden boxes
- Create additional garden plots
- Complete shade canopy
- Seed Saving Project

## **Community Garden Members**

In the 2025 growing season, the community garden had 55 members. Of the 55 members, 13 or 24% were new members and the remaining 42 members or 76% renewed from the 2024 season.

Ten (10) members vouched to volunteer 15 hours each this season. Collectively core members and 5 additional members contributed over 80 hours throughout the season. The tasks of volunteers included assisting on community garden workdays, collaborations with local organizations, watering community beds and vertical gardens, distributing donations, assisting garden members with their plots, and

## **Community Garden Improvements and Projects**

### *Seed Saving Project*

Established in the fall of 2024, the mission of the seed saving project is to distribute free seeds to encourage community members to plant beneficial flowers, herbs and produce. Throughout the 2024 growing season, seeds from the community beds were saved. These seeds were packaged, labeled and distributed to the community in 2025 through collaborations with local organizations and entities. During the 2025 season, 1328 packages of 14 varieties of seeds were distributed. This amounted to more than 39,000 seeds. Volunteers of all ages assisted with collecting seeds and packaging them. In 2025, 18 varieties of seeds have been saved. These will be distributed in 2026 and planted within the community garden for future seed saving.



### *Perimeter Fence*

The Perinton Town Board approved the installation of an 8-foot-tall woven wire and wood fence surrounding the full perimeter of the garden. The project was undertaken and completed in June to address persistent deer pressure, which had been a major challenge for gardeners in previous years. With the new fence in place, the garden now benefits from a sturdy and visually cohesive barrier that successfully deters deer. As a result, the crops have experienced far less damage, allowing for improved growth, higher yields, and a more reliable harvest.

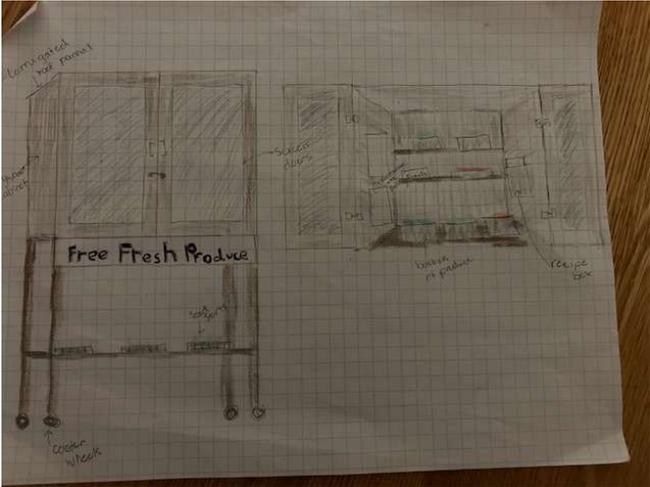


*Community Garden Food Stand*

In early 2025, the Parks Department was contacted by a Girl Scout working toward her Gold Award—an achievement that requires an 80-hour, self-directed service project that provides a meaningful and sustainable benefit to the community. As part of the award process, she was responsible for identifying a genuine local need, developing a project to address that need, and demonstrating leadership by planning, building, and managing the initiative from start to finish.

Collaborating closely with Parks Department staff, she created detailed design sketches for a free produce stand to support the community garden. Her plans featured cabinet-style doors, interior shelving for produce, a designated area for recipe cards, and caster wheels for easy mobility. After refining her design and selecting appropriate materials, she constructed the stand herself. The completed structure—painted, sturdy, and thoughtfully organized—was set up just outside the community garden fence.

After installation, she monitored the stand and gathered feedback from the community. Through this effort, she successfully fulfilled the Gold Award requirements and created a meaningful, lasting resource for the community.

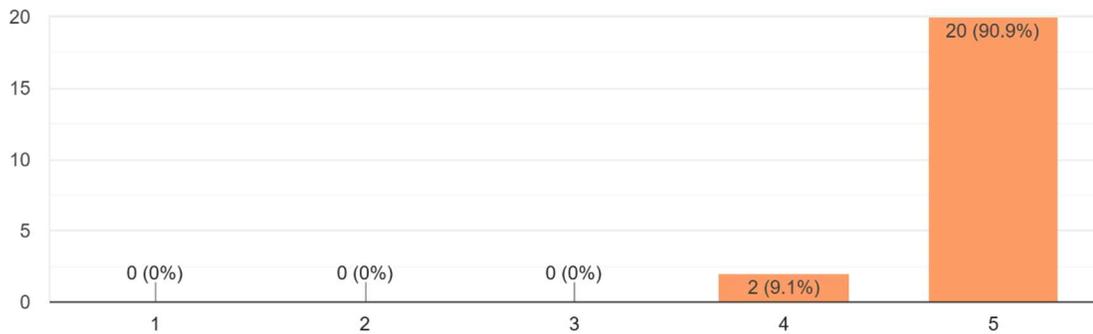


## End of the 2025 Season Analytics

An End of the Season Survey was distributed to all (55) garden members using google forms, 22 responses were received. Please find responses to several survey questions below.

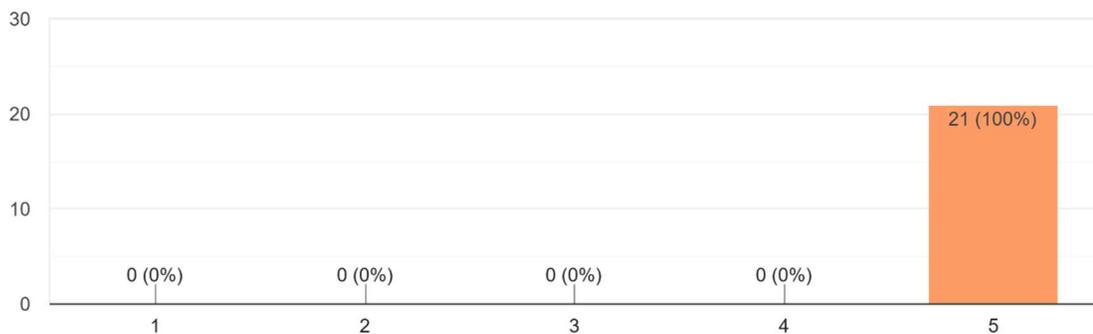
How did you feel about your experience as a garden member this season?

22 responses



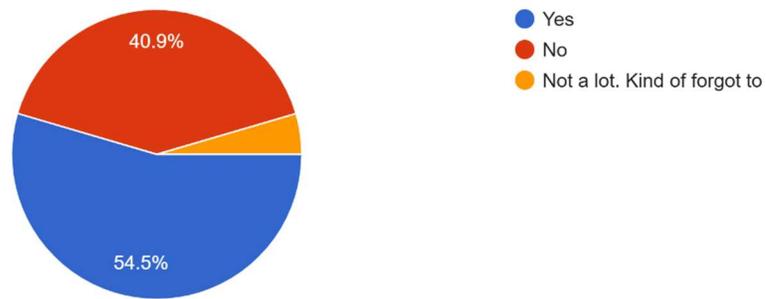
How did you feel about communication related to the garden??

21 responses



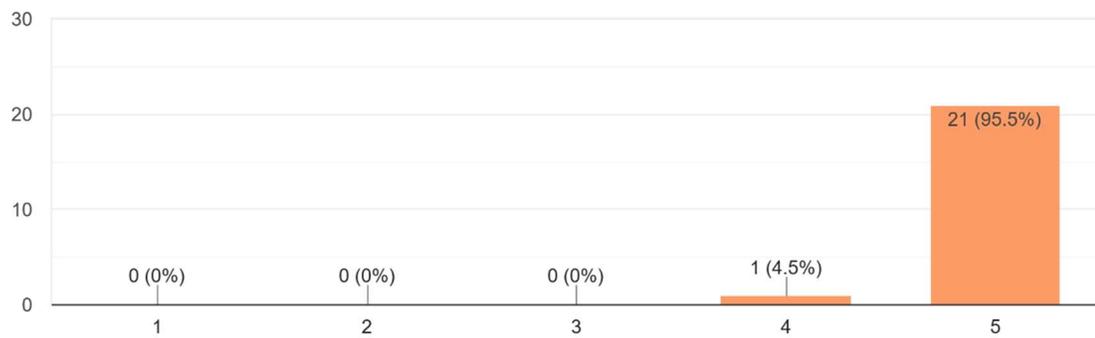
### Did you utilize our community garden webpage?

22 responses



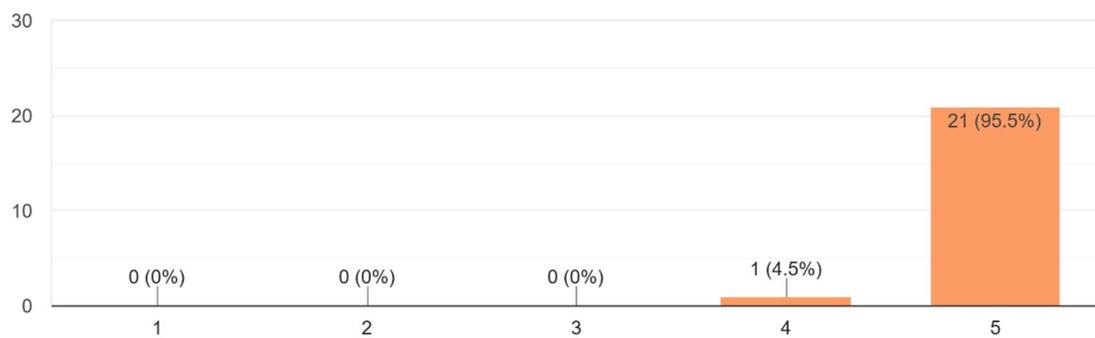
### How did you feel about tools accessible to you in the garden shed?

22 responses



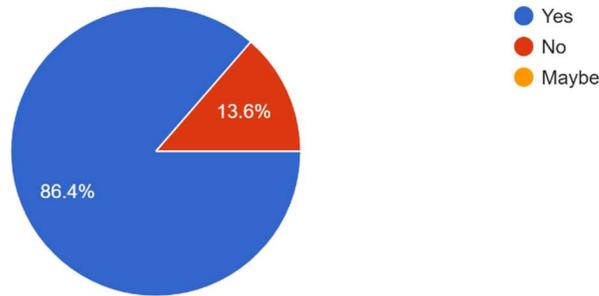
### How did you feel about the compost that was offered during the growing season?

22 responses



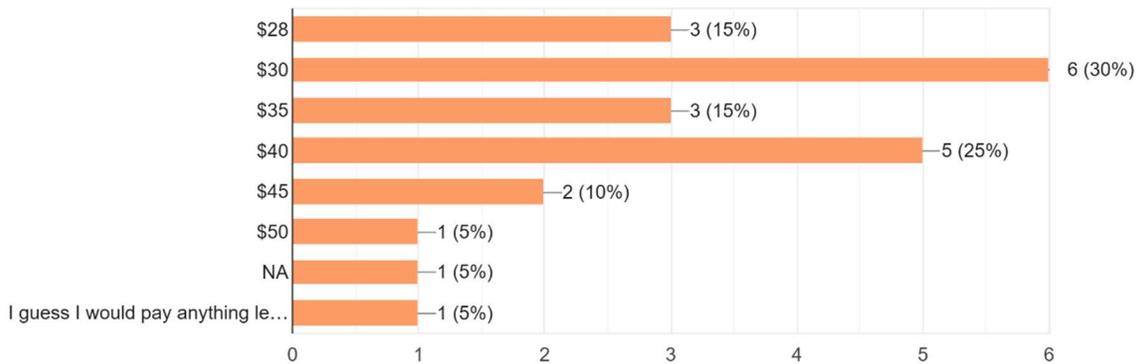
Do you plan to renew your membership for the 2026 growing season?

22 responses



How much would you feel comfortable paying for a 8ftx4ft plot per season?

20 responses



## What was the **highlight** of your gardening season?

A bountiful harvest!

Seeing the fence

The new infrastructure updates - most importantly the beautiful fence

Learning from Mackenzie about seeds, planting, companion plants, the donations

Really just watching the changes as they've evolved.

Seeing the high fence going around the perimeter of the garden.

That wonderful new fence. Everyone will agree on that.

Success of succession planting and learning from my attempt at growing Three Sisters.

Watching the plants growing

Sharing, learning new tools, and teaching my little one

Love the new fence

Quality of bed

Seeing the fence go up!

the fence!! It changed everything for the better.

Fence Install

The new perimeter fence was a great addition as it provided a much-needed deterrence to deer and other animals, and it gives the garden a better look.

Meeting new gardening friends and sharing tips for success.

Seeing things grow from seeds! Also loved the workdays

Better harvest this year than last year

Having the fence to keep the deer out

## How can we **improve** for the **2026** growing season?

I think everything is perfect! The new fence is tremendous. Thank you for all the effort to obtain funding for this.

More plots, more people involved

All is well

None that I can think of.

Can't think of anything to add. It was great!

With this being my first season I really need to think about this. I've been busy learning from my own plot.

The fence was # 1. Having bees in the garden. I've seen bees in other community gardens, particularly Victory Gardens. We should high light the fact that this is a Victory Garden, coming out of WWII.

I would like to see some reminders in your emails prompting early season gardeners to know when to safely start their gardens with different types of vegetables and flowers. You do some of this, but I would like to see more.. I wonder if there's any way to make the extremely water saturated grass to be resolved

Consider holding volunteer workday on a Saturday, or late afternoon/evening hours

It is perfect.

Awesome job with emails and communicating

You're a wonderful leader, hope to see you 2026

Relocate the community food stand that is currently outside the garden to a higher visibility location.

let's clean up the lilac hedge by removing junk trees and weeds

I've been Disabled this year. A second level raising the Garden Bed will help as we age. Just some plots

I'd love one or two more social events, just to meet people in the garden

Nothing that I can think of

We used to have master gardeners available to answer questions. That would be nice.

## From the 2025 season, is there anything you would like to see **sustained for 2026?**

Everything!

Mackenzie.. wonderful spirit, great communication and her energy

None

None.

The donations. Loved the stand made by the Girl Scout.

Everything! The price, the access to equipment, the garden work group, donations, seed gathering.

Sunflowers.

we need to keep that fence in tiptop shape so it will last for many years to come

My first season in the garden so everything

No

Arches with tomato and sunflowers beautiful

Community stand, donations

I love that we share food with the community, especially through the food stand in Evergreen East. Definitely want to see that continue. Also think the seed saving and sharing with the community is a great idea that should continue.

Keep adding new gardens

everything. Especially MacKenzie.

The compost drops are a great benefit.

Would like to continue sharing gardening best practices with community gardeners from other towns.

Work days, CG stand (!!), Mackenzie's awesome and informative emails, garden tours

## What **goals** would you like to see for the **2026 Community Garden Season?**

I know it is a tremendous job to keep the garden running smoothly....and I think it is great as is. All of the new features have added to the growing experience.

I love that Mackenzie cross pollinated with the community with the Girl Scouts making the veg stand. Would love to see more of that

Grow more Learn More

Not returning.

My goal is to spend more time there. I'm retiring at the end of the year and would like to volunteer more. (Need to get more serious about our vermiculture and utilizing worm castings!)

The covered area would be nice to see finished. Or maybe enlarge the area Maybe some gardening presentations to assist people in knowing more about planting from seed, or just deciding what to plant. Some people would like to know more about garlic and how to grow it and cure it.

We need to retain you. Hope you are not going to be leaving.

Improved rain collection (gutter drain into barrel?), host a Mindfulness or yoga in the garden event, plan Community Garden 2 in another park/community center due to popularity and for those wanting multiple lots.

Picnic area I garden or bench for a quiet cozy shaded area, maybe a way to make the fence more aesthetically pleasing/less like prison yard.

Not sure

Continue to increase the food donation goal, provide educational seminars for members to help them improve their garden output.

Maintain the excellence

Is there a way to get plugged in with some local home gardeners to tour their plots? Maybe a community dinner that we host (open to larger community)?