

Community gardens come to Colchester

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The Colchester Sun

This spring, Colchester gardeners will be able to grow their vegetables side by side with their neighbors in the newly organized Macrae Farm community gardens. The gardens are hosted by the Winooski Valley Park District and managed by the Colchester Land Trust.

The impetus for the project came from the public. "About a year and a half ago the Colchester Land Trust held a community meeting," said Emily Gennari, a Colchester Land Trust board member. "Having a community garden was one of the things that came out of the meeting."

The Colchester Land Trust received grants from the Friends of Burlington Gardens and the New England Grassroots Environment Fund to help with start-up costs of the project.

The only community garden in the town of Colchester, it will offer 20 full-size 25-foot by 25-foot plots, available for \$45 each; half-size plots will go for \$25. The newly plowed 30,000 square-foot area will be fenced in and two 33-gallon water tanks will be onsite for the gardeners to use.

"It has exceptionally rich soil," said Gennari.

The organizers expect the gardens will foster a sense of community. In addition to the fee, gardeners will be asked to volunteer for two work days: one in the spring, assisting with putting up the fence, and another in the fall, participating in a final harvest and removing fence mesh.

"One of the things we're hoping for is to have a picnic table so that we'll be able to have a community gathering place for local gardeners," said Gennari.

Organizers would like people to register for their plots by mid-May, as they expect the farm plots to be worked by June 1. Registration forms are available on the Colchester town website at www.town.colchester.vt.us, at local grocery stores, schools, the library, town office, police station and on The Colchester Sun Web site at: www.colchestersun.com. You may call 862-6960 for more information.

The Macrae Farm community garden is located in the Winooski River Park District at the end of Macrae Road (off Prim Road), past a "dead end" sign and adjacent to the parking lot.



Pam Vicek, Cindy Haselton, Brian Costello, Emily Gennari (all Colchester Land Trust members) are shown with Charles Krumholz on his tractor and Jennifer Ely executive director of the Winooski Valley Park District at the Macrae Farm Community Garden.

[Link to Macrae Farm Form](#)

