10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces

Ridgefield Submission - 2021

Since 2018 Ridgefield Conservation Commission has been leasing land on McKeon Farm Open Space for $1 to Cornerstone Home & Gardens, a 501c3 with a mission to “provide an opportunity for individuals with Autism and related disabilities to develop their full potential through day programs. Cornerstone will create a unique environment in which our participants can experience real life work opportunities in the areas of gardening & farming, building and grounds maintenance, landscape design and public relations.”

The program participants and other community volunteers (including from the schools, Boy Scouts and Lion Hearts Club) grow common vegetables and herbs such as tomatoes, squash and basil. In 2020 the Garden joined forces with a town social services initiative called, "Dirty Hands, Full Plates," which donated fresh produce to pre-selected families in need around the area. They will continue that collaboration in 2021.

The Town highlights this program on its website and in materials referencing McKeon Farm. Below are some photos of the growing space from the group’s Facebook page.





