

A Certified Wildlife Habitat

In August of 2006, the Benson-Crump Memorial Community Gardens received its Certificate of Achievement from the National Wildlife Federation, confirming that it is an official Certified Wildlife Habitat site.

Because of the community gardeners' hard work, conscientious planning, landscaping, and sustainable gardening over the past decade, wildlife such as: song sparrows, humming birds, red foxes, owls, toads, rabbits, and butterflies have the ability to find quality habitat - water, food, cover, and places to thrive and raise their young.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

The Benson-Crump Memorial Community Gardens Program offers a wide variety of activities for participants and the general public:

- Community Service
- Mentoring
- Lecture Workshops
- Seed Exchanges
- Autumn Harvest Festival
- Farmers Market Fundraiser
- Hands-On Learning
- Gardening Lecture Series

"A garden is a grand teacher, it teaches patience & careful watchfulness; it teaches industry & thrift; & above all, it teaches entire trust." -Gertrude Jekyll



MILFORD
CONNECTICUT

BENSON-CRUMP MEMORIAL COMMUNITY GARDENS

WITH THE MILFORD
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Milford Recreation Department

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*Working together to grow and
share since 1968.*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Located on five acres along the North Street side of Eisenhower Park, this program, established in 1968, maintains 135 20'x30' plots and has approximately 250 active participants.

The Gardens were named Benson-Crump Memorial Gardens during a dedication ceremony in 2001 for two long-time community gardeners, Edward Benson and Floyd Crump.

They will always be remembered for their efforts and dedication in promoting youth employment and volunteer activity at the gardens as well as for having been two outstanding mentors to many of Milford's youth community groups.

The Benson-Crump Memorial Community Gardens is a multi-generational and multi-cultural program that provides Milford's residents with the chance to meet new people, exercise, learn new skills, enrich the environment, and grow healthy accessible food for themselves, food banks, shelters, local charities, and schools.



The Garden that Gives Back

Over the past decade, the Benson-Crump Memorial Community Gardens Program and the Connecticut Food Bank have enjoyed an active partnership through its participation in the Connecticut PAR (Plant a Row for the Hungry) program. We plant, maintain, and harvest five PAR plots at the community gardens, with vegetable plants donated by local family farms.

All food grown in the five PAR plots is donated to local food banks including, St. Gabe's, St. Mary's, Beth-El Shelter, Milford Senior Center, Home for the Brave, Milford Christian Academy, and Grace Baptist Church. During the 2018 season, 1,536 pounds of fresh organic food was grown and donated to these organizations, so that they could have access to fresh and nutritious food.

The Benson-Crump Memorial Community Gardens Program has been the recipient of the Connecticut Food Bank's Certificate of Appreciation - Plant a Row for the Hungry, each year since since 2013.

We also have many opportunities at the community gardens for Eagle Scout projects. Past projects include an extended in-ground watering system, a new front entrance sign and posts, and an informational kiosk.

OUR ORGANIC COMMITMENT

Back in the early days, Milford's roots were dug deeply in agriculture and many beautiful farms could be found. During WWII, Milford was home to many Victory Gardens.

GOING ORGANIC

In 1991, the Benson-Crump Memorial Community Gardens Program became committed to going organic. With the help of Bill Duesing and NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association), participants acquired the knowledge and skills required to successfully adopt an organic approach.

Today, the results of their continued efforts have produced a "black gold" soil that is thriving with beneficial micro-organisms. From peanuts to artichokes, to heirloom tomatoes, the yields are diverse and bountiful.



DATES AND INFORMATION

The community gardens opens every year on April 1st, Mother Nature permitting, and closes on November 1st. We hold a special extended garlic planting session each autumn for all interested plot holders which runs from November 5th to November 30th.

