

Seedlings for Garden Begin to Germinate

Seeds have sprouted, plants are potted, and development is under way at Shalom Park Community Garden.

The garden, located near the Levine-Sklut Library and the Dumas Activity Center, is part of the Shalom Green initiative to improve environmental awareness and increase sustainability at Shalom Park.

Teenage summer campers planted a variety of fall and winter vegetable seeds in August while Rabbi Jonathan Frierich taught them about Jewish laws related to protecting the Earth. The seedlings were later transplanted into small pots by members of the garden committee. Teaching religious values is one of the missions of the garden.

When completed, the garden will include raised beds and trellises for the vegetables, which will be distributed by Friendship Trays and the Jewish Family Services Food Pantry. The garden's infrastructure also will feature a shaded work station and benches for sitting and enjoying the flowers, trees, and herbs.

The plantings will include fruit trees such as fig and pomegranate, grapevines, and herbs such as lavender, parsley, rosemary, and sage that have relevance to the Jewish faith. A variety of leafy



Planting seedlings.



Seedlings going in.

In summer, vegetables will be harvested and flowering perennials and herbs will be in bloom.

In autumn, asters and pansies will blossom while winter vegetables such as onions, garlic broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce will be planted.

The garden will provide bursts of color throughout the winter thanks to Arctic Fire Dogwoods, pansies, and Lenten roses. Primrose will bloom in March.

The garden is being built by community volunteers under direction of consultant and designer Bobbie Mabe and the Shalom Park Garden committee. Anyone interested in helping to build structures or plant the garden on October 4 should contact Yonathan Thull at catalyst.ahelpinghand@gmail.com.

and flowering perennials will ensure attractive spaces in the garden throughout the year.

In spring, early vegetable starts will include tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, snow peas, and the herbs. Also grapevines, shasta daisies, black-eyed Susans, and cone-flowers.

The garden could also use your help in the form of donations to build additional garden features.

- * \$72 will buy a tree
- * \$162 will pay for a bench
- * \$360 will buy a raised bed
- * 720 will pay for a trellised bed

All donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to the Foundation of Shalom Park with "community garden" in

the memo line and mailed to Foundation of Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Road, Suite 102, Charlotte, NC 28226. ✪

Shalom Green Challenge

Wondering how you can do your part to protect the planet? Take the Shalom Green Challenge. Shalom Green and LJCC Cares are teaming up to offer families and individuals the opportunity to go green at home. Register to receive monthly challenges - connected to Jewish values - to live more sustainably. Learn about important environmental topics and Jewish values related to them; discuss with family and friends how you can get involved; act to live more sustainably at home; unite through special events and social media with other families who share your interest. For more information or to sign up, email Julie Rizzo, LJCC Director of Social Action, at julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org.



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