



# Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County

Each year over 400 youth participate in their Garden & Outdoor Education programs

There are gardens at both the Centre Street and Spruce Street locations offering the gardening experience to all the club members.



**RUTGERS**

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**RUTGERS**

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UToVH5I\\_QGA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UToVH5I_QGA)



# History of The Clubs' Gardens



## **2016 - 2018:**

The Boys & Girls Clubs received the land from the City of Trenton, raised funds for construction and worked with landscape architect to create a garden and outdoor learning center.

## **2019:**

Winter - Spring: Construction and planting was completed by contractors and volunteers.

Spring: Grand opening of Centre Garden and Outdoor space. Tomatoes, garlic, herbs, flowers and Spring bulbs were planted the first year.





# The Garden 2020

In January 2020 club members reviewed seed catalogs, create pictures boards with their selections for the 8 vegetable beds.

March 2020: Club closed

May 2020: 2 Master Gardeners planted the 8 beds with the hope the Club would open for Summer Camp.

June 2020: Summer Camp opened and campers spent the summer watering, picking and tasting many different vegetables.

Fall 2020: The garden continued to produce many vegetables. The club members planted garlic and flowers.



# The Garden 2021



In January 2021 Garden Manager and Master Gardeners created a new plan: adding new beds, strawberries, and revisiting composting,

March 2021: Seeds were planted inside the club

April 2021: Hardy vegetables planted

May 2021: Tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, melons and herbs planted

June 2021: The campers spent the summer watering, picking and tasting. Collards were a hit.

Fall 2021: A second garden plant was created for the Spruce Street site. Volunteers prepared the site and constructed the new raised beds.

Centre Street: Garlic and other bulbs planted.





## Partners:

- Master Gardeners
- Garden Clubs
- Isles
- Corporate Sponsors





Inform all Club members, families, staff, and friends about the garden program, invite into the garden with their kids.

Take the time and effort to build relationships with Garden Clubs, other volunteer groups, Faith based organizations, local businesses, nurseries, local radio and TV stations

Tell the story of the garden and the kids experiences through Social Media and word of mouth

The benefits to doing these activities are a creation of a pool of volunteers, more donations and awareness of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County





Flowers add beauty to an urban setting and are enjoyed by the neighborhood.

An unique fence was created by a local artist with bicycle parts.

There are native and rain gardens to encourage pollinators.

Zinnias, sunflowers and other flowers are planted for the picking and sending home.

# Thank you!



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION