



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lower Paxton unveils Township's first community garden in partnership with Central Dauphin SD *Registration open for residents who want one of 50 plots*

Lower Paxton Township, PA (March 20, 2025) – Lower Paxton and Central Dauphin School District officials unveiled the Township's first community garden today, announcing that residents can now register for one of the 50 plots.

The **Lower Paxton Community Gardens**, at 4905 Haverford Road, is located on almost an acre on the southeast corner of E.H. Phillips Elementary School. Entry is through the adjacent parking area owned by Pennswood Apartments & Townhomes, which is allowing gardeners to use the lot.

- Lower Paxton residents interested in obtaining a garden plot can learn more and register by visiting **bit.ly/LPCommunityGarden**
- Two garden plot sizes are available: 10' x 20' for \$20 for the season and \$30 for a 20' x 20' plot.
- The garden will operate from March through mid-November.

"The Lower Paxton Township Community Gardens allows residents to grow fresh produce, learn about sustainable practices, and build stronger connections with their neighbors," said Supervisor Paul Navarro. "We are grateful to the Central Dauphin School District, Pennswood Apartments & Townhomes, and all the volunteers who made this project a reality."

Earlier this year, Township crews cleared the land for the garden and provided perimeter fencing. The garden is the latest project in the Township, which is in the midst of a \$5 million-plus parks upgrade program.

"The garden project is a shining example of the District and Township working together on behalf of the community," said Central Dauphin School Board Assistant Secretary Eric Epstein. "The project was achieved through hard work and dedication of staff and volunteer gardeners."

Township residents and dedicated community gardeners Andrew Silliker and Evelyn Lopatic spearheaded the effort, gathering support over the last year. Through their advocacy group, Cultivating Roots, the pair will help oversee the garden in partnership with the Lower Paxton Parks & Recreation Department, which will manage the gardens. Cultivating Roots will focus on day-to-day activities and providing gardening instruction.

"Lower Paxton and Central Dauphin have graciously supplied a secure place to garden, now it is up to the residents to make this a success," Silliker said. "Community gardens aren't just about plants, however. They are a place to meet neighbors, share ideas, and trade surplus."

Lopatic added that many residents don't have the space for a garden.

"The township has many different ways to recreate, but as many residents live in apartments and shaded yards, there was a definite need for a space to plant," Lopatic said. "Plots are still available, and in the coming months, there will be free workshops and gardening tutorials for the public."

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Lower Paxton Township is the largest municipality in Dauphin County and the 13th largest in Pennsylvania, covering a 28-square-mile area. To learn more, visit www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov and follow Lower Paxton on Facebook @LowerPaxtonTwp, Twitter @LowerPaxtonTwp & Instagram @lowerpaxtontownship



From left: State Rep. Justin Fleming, Former Township Supervisor Robin Lindsey, Volunteer Garden Coordinators Andrew Sillicker and Evelyn Lopatic of Cultivating Roots, Township Supervisor Allen McCormack Jr., CD School Board Member Eric Epstein, Township Supervisor Pamela Thompson, and CD Schools Superintendent Eric Turman.