

**PRESS RELEASE: APRIL 7, 2021**  
**OPENING OF COMMUNITY**  
**TEACHING GARDEN-LITERACY**  
**PROJECT: APRIL 15, 2021**



*Ten of the 20 Phase 1 Education raised garden beds have already been installed.*

**Announcing the Official  
Opening of the  
Community Teaching  
Garden-Literacy Project!**

Sponsored by The Indian Lake  
Community Association, Inc.

10:30 to 11:00 - Opening Ceremony

11: 00 to 11:30 - Transplant Demo

12:00 noon - Lunch

Our mission is to build a healthy, connected community by working in cooperation with the Worcester Public Schools and Central Massachusetts Collaborative to provide a living laboratory where students can learn about horticulture, plant science, biodiversity, food and water insecurity, and their impact on land use in the context of Climate Change, and how students can become agents of change with the goal of becoming youthful global citizens.

**April 15, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon**  
Across the Street from 3 West Boylston Drive

***Food will be provided by Angels Answer, Inc.  
Soft drinks will be provided by Polar Beverages***

The following is a list of the Program Development Team, Community Partners, Contributors, Elected Officials, and invited guests who have contributed their time, talent, or treasure to bringing the Community Teaching Garden Literacy Project to realization:

**Program Development Team:**

Carl Gomes, President, Indian Lake Community Association, Inc.  
Richard Cameron, Assistant Director, Woodward Day School  
Andrea Cameron, Forest Grove English Teacher & Curriculum Developer  
Eliza Lawrence, Schools Coordinator, Regional Environmental Council  
Marissa Gallant, Manager of Youth Education, Tower Hill Botanical Garden  
Matthew Morse, Principal, Forest Grove Middle School Principal

**Community Partners:**

Worcester Public Schools, Maureen Binienda, Superintendent  
Regional Environmental Council, Grace Sliwoski, Program Director  
Central Massachusetts Collaborative, Dr. Susan Farrell, Executive Director  
artReach Worcester, Darcy Schwartz, Program Director & President  
Angels Answer, Inc., Linda Lloyd, Executive Director  
Worcester Historical Commission, Wendy Essery, Library & Archive Manager  
Carpenters Union Local 336, David Minasian, Regional Manager  
Dept. of Transportation, James Robida, Assistant Maintenance Engineer  
Worcester Dept. of Public Works, Water Dept., Michael Daigneault, Assistant Engineer  
TD Bank  
Worcester Tree Initiative  
Net of Compassion: Pastor Richard Gonzalez & Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Project New Hope: Bill Moore, Executive Director  
Mark Houghton Jr. Logging & Land Clearing Co., Mark Houghton Jr., Owner  
Hank von Hellion, Popup Managing Director  
FOCUS (Families, Orphans, Children under Stress) Pastor Samuel Kariuki  
Located in Kenya, Africa  
Build the Future – Clive Wetherill, Garden Coordinator, & Thandi Meyiwa,  
Curriculum Coordinator  
Located in Kwazulu, Natal, South Africa

**Contributors:**

Wegman's, Northborough, MA  
Lowe's, Lincoln Plaza, Worcester, MA  
The Home Depot, Goldstar Blvd., Worcester, MA  
Kimberly Shepard  
Lou Anne Branch  
Doherty Memorial High School

**Sponsors:**

Indian Lake Community Association, Inc.  
Carl Gomes, President  
Deborah Van Batenburg, Vice President  
David Bennett, Treasurer  
Andrea Cameron, Secretary  
Ruth Seward, Director  
Sean Rose, Director  
Candy Mero-Carlson, Director

**Invited Elected Officials:**

Congressman Jim Mc Govern  
Ed Augustus, Worcester City Manager  
Joseph Petty, Mayor, City of Worcester  
Representative James O'Day  
Representative John Mahoney

**Invited Special Guests:**

Echo Louissaint, Worcester Fridge  
Maria Revelli, Worcester Fridge  
Andrew Ahern, Sunrise Worcester  
Gwen Weissinger, Sunrise Worcester  
Diane Mohieldin, Indian Lake Neighborhood Watch  
Tony Economo, North Worcester Business Association  
Dave Glispin, Sunshine Signs  
Andrew Minasian, Minasian Asphalt  
James Howard, James Howard Transportation  
Forest Grove School Parents  
Central Massachusetts Collaborative Parents  
Dr, Patricia Suomala, Director of Vocational Programs, Worcester Vocational  
Technical High School  
Beth Proko, Indian Lake Watershed Association