

# About the Garden



# MAIN LIBRARY'S LEARNING GARDEN

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## ABOUT THE GARDEN

Main Library's Learning Garden began in 2023 as a patch of rocky dirt next to the building. There may have originally been some landscaping in that area, but by 2023, all that would occasionally grow in that space were "weeds" that would eventually be sprayed with herbicides. Staff members decided to try and plant something there to prevent the act of spraying. Ideas for what the garden looks like and what grows continue to evolve each season and over time. However, the garden's primary focus is on hosting flowering plants – including some which are commonly considered weeds – which are [native](#) [and naturalized](#) to NC.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GARDEN RIGHT NOW

**11/26/2025**

### **Winter Bedding and Late Fall Tending**

We are heading into the holidays and still have temps that can reach the 70's. Our relatively mild winters mean that the garden could see growth on things like spinach, greens, and brussels sprouts into late December or even early January. The rest of the seasonal plants, annuals, and veggies gave

up the ghost during our freezing temps a month ago. We dug those up and cut others back, then added some ornamental kale and a few days away from the autumnal equinox, but the leaves on the sycamore trees tell me that fall is already here where the land is concerned. Cooler temps and differing daylight hours mean that it's time to begin cutting plants back and prepping plants to overwinter. In this part of NC it could be as late as January before we start seeing any kind of steady, hard cold. This means that there are some fall plants we can put out that thrive in cool temps like greens, spinach, and cabbages. Over Hog Day Weekend, we had a Garden Work Day. We fertilized, weeded, pulled up some veggies that were past their prime, turned soil, and replanted. We've got collard and mustard greens, some spinach, lettuces, beans & peas out in the garden now with brussel sprouts to come. We also put out some annuals like coleus and ornamental cabbage. More to come as well as a plant list update.

## PLANT LIST

### From the back of the building moving towards the library entrance

- end triangle: mustard greens; [lemonbalm](#)
- ground box 1: [solomon's seal](#); [christmas fern](#), [ground cedar](#); fern; [golden alexander](#); [3 varieties of coral bells](#); [columbine](#); [skullcaps](#)
- in and around the raised wood planter: hoary vervain; oregano; [tulips](#); [strawberry](#)
- ceramic fish planter: coleus
- metal planter 1: mustard greens; assorted lettuces
- ground box 2: sugar snap peas; pole beans; spinach; red tabby spinach; zinnia; marigold; serrano pepper
- metal planter 2: collard greens; lettuces; spinach; zucchini
- ceramic planter: roma tomatoes; [purslane](#); coleus
- ground box 3: [purple coneflower](#); [black-eyed susans \(\*Rudbeckia fulgida\*\)](#); [pansy](#); [blue false indigo](#); [golden rod](#); [scarlet bee balm](#)

- ground box 4: [coreopsis](#); marigold; queen anne's lace (wild carrot); [purslane](#); [common spiderwort](#); ornamental cabbage; black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*); [blue sage](#); [calico aster](#); [blazing star](#);
- ground box 5: black eyed susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*); ornamental cabbage; zinnias; brussels sprouts
- accessible parking square: [creeping heliotrope](#)
- ground box 6: collard greens; marigolds; sugar baby watermelon; rosemary; zinnia

## WELCOMING WEEDS

### Preserving some wild and uncultivated plants “aka weeds” in the garden

Uncultivated plants that people typically regard as weeds are useful and essential parts of a healthy ecosystem. They add nutrients to soil, help to break it up, and hold it in place to prevent erosion. They help support plants, insects, animals, and fungi in an ecosystem, contributing to the overall biodiversity of an area. We are preserving some of these plants to support biodiversity and learning about how they contribute to our ecosystem.

Wild plants found in the garden may be: [purslane](#); [henbit](#); [cleavers](#); [black medic](#); [sow thistle](#); [common vetch](#); [wild lettuce](#); [chickweed](#); [wood sorrels](#); [shepherd's purse](#); [persian speedwell](#)