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Maine Foodscapes Information Page

Mission, Values, & Program Areas:

We are a federally incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2018 with a mission to improve community food security and well-being throughout Southern Maine. We build vegetable gardens throughout Cumberland, York, Oxford, & Androscoggin counties. We value equity and inclusion and envision a world where everyone has a seat at a table and access to healthy, nourishing food.

Each spring, our Foodscapes Garden Project (FGP) connects Mainers experiencing low income with the tools they need to start growing their own food. Through the FGP, we partner with families to build raised-bed vegetable gardens & offer ongoing gardening mentorship. We also offer consultation and installation services for community organizations (e.g. social service nonprofits, affordable housing communities, schools, recovery homes, assisted living homes) interested in starting, expanding, or revitalizing community garden programs. **Since 2018, Maine Foodscapes has installed over 350 raised vegetable garden beds across 51 towns, serving over 400 individuals and utilizing over 800 hours of volunteer support.**

Maine Foodscapes also offers regular cooking and wellness programming for youth & adults at various gardening and kitchen venues such as Fork Food Lab (free for FGP Gardeners). Organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine have hired Maine Foodscapes to offer ongoing educational and therapeutic programming in garden-based settings for youth and seniors.

The Foodscapes Garden Project (FGP) Truck Campaign:

Each Spring, we rent or borrow a truck to transport 80-100 yards of compost blend, tools, wheelbarrows, hemlock lumber, and the other materials necessary to construct garden beds at residential homes and community sites across Southern Maine. We are so excited to

continue the Foodscapes Garden Project (FGP) in 2022 and beyond, **but there is a vital piece missing. We need a reliable 1-ton dump truck capable of hauling our daily garden building materials.** We are moving to purchase a used vehicle in quality condition, and are fundraising March - June to enable this purchase. The Truck Campaign is our most significant current need, as this piece of equipment is key to the sustainability of the FGP.

Community Partners:

Since 2018, our funders have included: [Tom's of Maine](#), [Newman's Own Foundation](#), [Horizon Foundation](#), [New England Grassroots Environment Fund](#), [Allagash Brewing Co.](#), [FoodCorps Alumni Grants Fund](#), [Portland Greendrinks](#), and [Martin's Point Healthcare](#). We have also worked closely with local organizations, including: [Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District](#), [Cumberland County Food Security Council](#), [University of Maine Cooperative Extension](#), [Fork Food Lab](#), [Edgewood Nursery](#), [Opportunity Alliance](#), and [Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine](#).

With our new AmeriCorps VISTA partnership with Goodwill Northern New England, and through our ongoing internship opportunities offered through the Career & Employment Hub at USM, we are building our capacity to expand our services and further our mission.

We also rely upon our generous and enthusiastic volunteers to support our programs. From building gardens in teams, to offering ongoing advice and mentorship for new gardeners, to leading educational workshops, our Foodscapes Volunteer Program has connected community members to opportunities to engage in building a more resilient community for all.

Key Links:

[FGP Truck Campaign Video on YouTube](#)

[FGP Truck Campaign Crowdfunding Page](#)

[Maine Foodscapes Community Programs & Impact Report](#) (published March 2022)