

Exploring Asylum Hill – A New Community Garden

The Fall harvest season is officially upon us, and what better time to explore Asylum Hill's Community Gardens. Our neighborhood is blessed with three Community Gardens and can claim to be the site of the oldest Knox owned Community Garden in the City. Another Knox owned garden is on Sargeant St, but most of the gardens that Knox manages are on property owned by others and leased to Knox for the purpose of establishing and maintaining these vital oases. That's the case with the Garden on Huntington St that is owned by Asylum Hill Congregational Church and it is also the case for the newest Community Garden set to open in the spring at Sigourney and Hawthorn Sts. That plot is owned by the State of Connecticut and is being leased to Knox to develop Asylum Hill's 4th Community Garden.

Once again, Aetna and the Richard P. Garmany Fund have joined in to help make this newest garden a reality. The plan is to allow Aetna Employees a place to get out and into the neighborhood even if only across the street, to experience the joys of assisting nature to make plants grow, especially plants that benefit people.

The Garden is intended to benefit Aetna Employees, but also to be available for students at Trinity Academy, just up Sigourney St a block away.

Community Gardens and Aetna go back to the beginning, as it was Aetna who owned the plot that is now the Niles Garden along with a lot of the property nearby. Marshall Dockman was the gardener in chief in those days and when Aetna began to sell off property they weren't using, they donated that plot to Knox, the first plot owned by them. Later in 2014 when Niles needed some upgrades, it was Aetna and the Richard P.

Garmany Fund that provided the new fence that has improved security immensely. For Fall photos of the Gardens go to: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/K2WmRiFTtJmqyKYs7>

