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**LOWELL'S COMMUNITY OF GROWERS CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF
MILL CITY GROWS' NEWEST COMMUNITY GARDEN**

*All are invited to the Official Ribbon Cutting of Hampshire Street Community Garden on Wednesday, May 23
from 5:30 – 7pm*

[LOWELL, MA] – The Lowell-based non-profit Mill City Grows(MCG) is pleased to announce the grand opening of their sixth community garden in the City of Lowell. The public is cordially invited to attend the official ribbon cutting and community celebration of the Hampshire Street Community Garden on Wednesday, May 23 from 5:30 – 7pm. Special Guest Speaker, UMass Lowell Professor Bob Farrant, will welcome event guests, who will be treated to tours of the garden and other activities. Refreshments will also be provided. Event details and updates can be found on Mill City Grows' [Facebook Event Page](#).

MCG's newest community garden broke ground in the fall of 2017, just a couple of months after a successful Garden Expansion Project fundraiser yielded more than \$17,000 towards the Hampshire Street project. Held during Mill City Grows' 2017 Farm to Cocktail Party, the fundraiser inspired almost 80 individuals to donate to the garden. Lowell artist Dan Rocha has created a commemorative mural at the garden site which will include the names of all the project donors. Rocha will be on hand to greet the public and unveil the finished art piece during the ribbon cutting.

"We're so thrilled to see the neighborhood rally around this new garden and contribute to its creation," says Mill City Grows Co-Director Francey Slater. "It truly symbolizes the spirit of our city and our community of growers. We look forward to welcoming families into this beautiful new space and to establishing stronger connections throughout the spring and summer."

The Hampshire Street Community Garden was built in April 2018 by neighborhood volunteers and gardeners, volunteers from The Mission Continues' Lowell-based Platoon, Middlesex Community College student volunteers, and Mill City Grows staff. Support for Mill City Grows Community Garden Program is provided by The City of Lowell Community Development Block Grants, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, The Ludcke Foundation, The Stevens Foundation, Target Corporation, TJX Foundation and The U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Launched in 2012, Mill City Grows' Community Garden Program brings hundreds of Lowell residents together to share gardening tips, freshly grown food, and rich traditions steeped in cultural diversity. More than 180 different languages are spoken across MCG's garden sites, which include North Common Park in the Acre and Rotary Club Park, the site of the organization's very first community garden. Gardeners participate in seasonal workshops to improve or enrich their skills

and partake in community engagement activities, such as potlucks, seed swaps, art in the garden, and recipe exchanges, all for an annual fee of just \$20.

For more information about Mill City Grows' Community Garden Program, please [click here](#) or contact Laura Santiago at Laura@millcitygrows.org.

About Mill City Grows

Since 2011, Mill City Grows has worked towards food justice in Lowell, Massachusetts, using the following strategies and programs: education in and out of schools, supporting community leadership through community gardens, increasing urban agriculture through urban farming, implementing a mobile market, and empowering people to produce their own food. Their Food Access and Food Education programs are rooted in the idea that a well-educated and well-resourced community will make healthier choices. Visit MillCityGrows.org to learn more.

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