

Atkins Field Bulletin

Volume 2, Issue 2, April 2019



We did it!!!

Fundraising is complete for the pavilion and primitive trails to be built this summer. With all of your help, we met two March challenge grants to raise \$5,000 and bring in 50 new donors, unlocking \$10,000 in matching grants! We are preparing contract documents at the time of this writing. *The project is really going to happen.* In the past three years, we've raised enough funds for the entire \$275,000 budget. **Thank you!** To everyone who donated and everyone who helped find new donors. Stay tuned for updates on construction progress and a Grand Opening celebration in September.

Events and dates:

April 8: Northeast Kingdom Organizing (NEKO) hosts a community conversation about transportation challenges in the Northeast Kingdom. A group from Hardwick will carpool to the meeting in St. Johnsbury

April 12: Deadline for returning community gardeners to sign up

May 4: Grow Your Own workshop on quick meals with garden crops.

May 22: Waste Warrior training

May 25: Springfest— parade, sustainability tent, duck drop, Kiwanis lunch, so much more! Zero Waste or as close as we can.



Springfest

We are seeking a few good women and men to become Waste Warriors for Springfest. This training will be at CAE May 22 with experts from Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District who will take us through the worlds of recycling and composting in some detail. You will learn specifics of the program for Springfest and general information about putting on a Zero Waste event. Contact bethany @hardwickagriculture.org for more info. about this or other events listed here, or to sign up.



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Featured partner

Hardwick Area Food Pantry

The Hardwick Area Food Pantry (HAFP) is there for all of us whenever we "knead" a little help putting food on the table. The CAE partners with HAFP and NEK Kids on the Move (Wonder Arts) on the Grow Your Own project which aims to increase food independence, better health and wellbeing through shared knowledge and experience. Grow Your Own puts on workshops about gardening, cooking, and preserving the harvest. At right, HAFP Executive Director Laura Wilkinsons works with Hardwick Elementary School students who have picked and brought donated Laggis family corn and are cutting it off the cobs. Below right, kneading at a bread making workshop. Directly below—the face of food pantry clients is constantly changing. Nora DeMuth put together this graphic with statistics from 2018.



Hardwick Area Food Pantry - 2018

HAFP had an increasing trend in the number of clients each month through 2018, with peaks in January, July, and October.



Clients report reasons for the increase including:

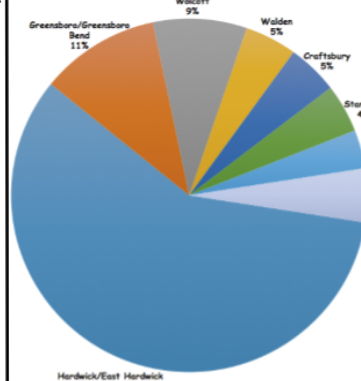
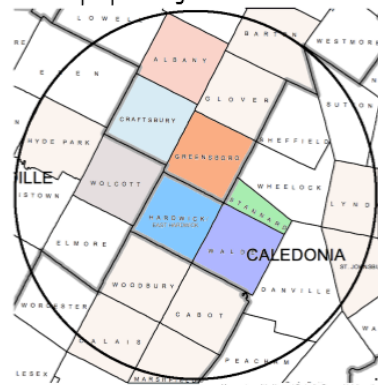


In 2018, HAFP served an average of 305 individuals each month. Of these clients:



HAFP distributed over 3,000 pounds of fresh, local produce during 2018 to people in need. Local suppliers include: Salvation Farms, Sweetgrass Farms, Craftsbury General Store, Pete's Greens, Sweet Rowen Farms, Snugg Valley Farm, Rusty Bird Farm, Hackett Orchards, Riverside Farm, Walden Mountain Farm, Magic Spoon Bakery, Patchwork Bakery, and others.

We serve people living in and around Hardwick.



Almost all HAFP clients live in an area of a 15 mile radius surrounding Hardwick, and a little more than half live within Hardwick and East Hardwick.

Atkins Field Bulletin is published six times a year. To get on the e-mail list please contact Bethany M. Dunbar, CAE Community Programs Manager bethany@hardwickagriculture.org or (802) 472-5362 or P.O. Box 422, 140 Junction Road, Hardwick, VT 05843. www.hardwickagriculture.org



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