OUR MISSION: We promote local agriculture and food access through our farming operations and educational programs, using practices that are socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable. We encourage healthy relationships between people, their food supply, and the land from which it grows.

Dear Farm Friends,
Let me start with a big thank you to each and every one of you. Our community is at the very heart of Waltham Fields Community Farm and without your commitment and support, these fields would be fallow, full of weeds or possibly a multi-level condo unit. Your dedication to our mission has allowed this land to reach its full potential by providing its community fresh food, education and opportunities to give back.

This was a challenging season at Waltham Fields, due to the extreme weather. In August, the US Drought Monitor listed 23 percent of Massachusetts as in an “extreme drought.” The dry weather was accompanied by record-breaking heat, leaving 2016 as the driest year recorded in Boston and making it a very tough year for local farms. Many of our farm partners and friends reported both a drop in production and an increase in expenses as a result of the drought. Waltham Fields is truly fortunate to have irrigation at our base of operations and satellite fields, but the extended dry spell put an added strain on our farm staff. Our dedicated farmers rose to the occasion - digging out creeks, constantly moving irrigation pipes, and carefully crafting and pitching in for an almost round-the-clock watering schedule to keep our fields in shades of green.

Even with this incredible obstacle, Waltham Fields Community Farm had another successful year, distributing over 38,000 pounds of produce through our food access programs. Our education program continues to grow, as we once again set a record for Learning Garden participants. We hosted 38 volunteer groups and had over 800 pairs of hands helping at events and in the fields and greenhouses. Waltham Fields is truly a shared community effort and it is through the hard work and support of this community that we are able to see our mission prosper and grow year after year.

Sincerely,

Shannon Taylor, Executive Director
2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- We surpassed $98,000 in value for Food Access, harvesting over 32,000 pounds of fresh, organically-grown produce for low-income households and assistance programs.

- We continued the exciting growth of our education programming in the Learning Garden and ended the year with over 1,200 visitors!

- We successfully introduced a new 10-week CSA summer share.

- We expanded our food access programs by adding the month of June to our Waltham Public School distribution, rekindling our partnership with the Waltham Boys and Girls Summer Food Program, and offering 10 half-priced winter CSA shares.

FINANCIAL STATUS

We began and ended 2016 in good financial standing, making annual contributions to our reserve accounts for capital purchases, employee leave, and emergencies. Our net operating surplus was $65,526.

We are pleased to continue working with accountant John M. Monticone, CPA, of Medford, MA, who will complete an audited review in accordance with nonprofit accounting regulations and adjust for non-cash expense items (such as depreciation) at that time. A copy of this audit is available from our office upon request.

Financial Statement for FY16 (cash basis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural income</td>
<td>Wages and benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions</td>
<td>Agricultural expenses (non-salary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>Organizational infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Facilities, fees &amp; insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service/program fees</td>
<td>Budgeted contributions to reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise</td>
<td>Total expenses:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total revenue: $755,203
Farm Production Overview

The size of our staff remained consistent with the previous year, consisting of 2 year round employees, 3 extended season, and 8 shorter term seasonal. We hired a new Assistant Farm Manager, who had been an Assistant Grower for the previous two years, and the head Farm Manager remained the same. The number of summer CSA shares was reduced in an effort to improve management of our satellite fields, and as it turned out it was a good year for that change. Official drought conditions made it an extremely challenging season. We learned a lot about troubleshooting our various irrigation systems and came up against the limitations of those systems, some of which are dependent on accumulated rainfall. Despite having high organic matter, our main fields are extremely well-drained, which often serves us well but created a scenario this year that made it difficult to maintain appropriate moisture consistently. Though smaller than in recent years, we were still able to meet our goals regarding CSA value and food access distributions. In fields where we were limited by irrigation capacities, we saw smaller yields than expected, particularly with tomatoes, cucurbits, onions and peppers. Other crops fared better than ever, with eggplant, lettuce, carrots and beets performing strongly all season long. We’re fortunate that despite reduced yields, we did not experience any total crop failures due to the weather or pests. We’ll enter 2017 with a better understanding of how to best utilize our irrigation systems in the event that the drought continues and some added infrastructure to shore up those systems and reduce labor time and costs spent on them.
FARM HARVESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Total Produce Harvested</th>
<th>Produce for Food Access Programs</th>
<th>Food Access as Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>217,751</td>
<td>38,585</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Retail Value | $502,722 | $98,135 | 20% |

2016 Total Farm Income: $416,461

CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Revenue = $323,550*
Sales of Produce Grown by WFCF = $2,695
Product Sales from Other Farms/Producers = $46,876
Seedling Sale Revenue = $31,439
Income from Food Access Sales = $11,901**

*Our own harvests account for the large majority of our agricultural revenue, with 12% of our CSA value obtained through share partnerships with other farms. Half-priced CSA revenue for low-income households ($6,400) is included with Food Access revenue (see **).

**Most of the value of produce distributed through our food access programs is fundraised for and provided for free, but a small amount of income is made by offering produce at subsidized prices through our farm-to-school partnerships, half-priced CSA shares, and Outreach Market, where low-income customers that don’t have vouchers can pay $5/bag with cash or SNAP/EBT.

2016 Farm Highlights

- Offered our first 10-week Summer CSA shares – a very popular alternative!
- New awning, gutters and rain barrels on the Distribution Barn
- Offered 10 half-priced Winter CSA shares for low-income households
- First season using new water wheel transplanter
- Revived partnership with Waltham Boys and Girls Club Summer Lunch program
- Added June lettuce distribution to Waltham Public Schools cafeterias

CSA Program - Community Supported Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number &amp; Type of Shares</th>
<th>Share Price</th>
<th>Avg. Retail Value Provided per Share</th>
<th>Avg. Pounds Provided per Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>445 Summer Shares – 20 weeks</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>$995</td>
<td>346 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Includes 75 shares from Picadilly Farm and value from potatoes and winter squash from Picadilly and all PYO values.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 Winter Shares – Nov/Dec</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$311</td>
<td>129 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Retail value includes $32/share of winter squash and potatoes from Atlas Farm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS

Waltham Fields Community Farm remains committed to ensuring that all people in our community, regardless of income, have access to fresh organic vegetables.

**Bulk Donations:** The top four crops for donation in 2016 (by weight) were lettuce (5,882 pounds), summer squash mix (4,725 pounds), eggplant (2,508 pounds), and zucchini (2,419 pounds). Throughout the season, we made weekly donations to our long-standing partner, Food for Free. Donations of larger, bulk harvests were made to Greater Boston Food Bank, the Boston Area Gleaners and The Daily Table. The majority of the donated produce went to residents and meal programs in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville, with smaller quantities distributed throughout the larger Greater Boston region.

**Waltham Fields Outreach Market:** Now in its 9th year, our Outreach Market for low-income families and individuals distributed $36,656 worth of produce in 2016. This is a slight increase over last year’s value, but we still see a general plateauing of sales. There was a noticeable difference in how the bags were obtained, with $5 cash purchases accounting for 75% of the total number of bags distributed. SNAP (Food Stamp) use dropped to less than 2% of purchases. While voucher redemption was lower this year than in previous years, purchased shares increased, leading us to believe that we are building up a core base of returning customers week after week.

**Food for All – Half-priced Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Shares:** In 2016, we sold 16 of our 20 subsidized Food for All CSA summer shares. Due to last year’s participant inquiry and sale of subsided winter shares, in 2016 we offered 10 shares and sold 9.

**Farm-to-School Distributions:** Once again, Waltham Fields provided the Waltham Public School cafeterias with an additional month of the Massachusetts Farm to School Project’s featured vegetable for a total of 5 months in 2016, featuring zucchini and summer squash, kale, carrots and 2 months of lettuce.

**Healthy Waltham Nutrition Education Initiatives:** A renewed collaboration with the Waltham Boys and Girls Club took place, as WFCF donated vegetables to their Summer Food Program initiatives. Produce was provided to the Waltham Family School, Healthy Waltham education programs and other low-income community groups.

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### Food Access Produce Distribution by Program

Total Value = $98,283

- **Food For All 1/2 Price CSA Shares:** 6%
- **Bulk Donations to Regional Emergency Food Programs:** 52%
- **Donations to Community Partner Organizations:** 3%
- **Farm-to-School Distributions:** 2%
- **Outreach Market:** 37%
- **Waltham Fields Outreach Market**
- **Bulk Donations to Regional Emergency Food Programs**
- **Donations to Community Partner Organizations**
- **Farm-to-School Distributions**
- **Food For All 1/2 Price CSA Shares**
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**Learning Garden Programs:** Waltham Fields’ Learning Garden programs and workshops ran very successfully this year. We continued to offer our multi-sessions for families and children throughout the spring, summer, and fall as well as expanding the teen program. We had another record-breaking year, reaching a record total of 1,754 people this season, with 1,123 of them children, and our youth programs were at 150% capacity. We have developed relationships with several schools to work on multi-session farm visits and opportunities for the same students to return to the farm for multiple visits.

**Scholarships and Reduced Rate Programming:** We provided over $43,000 worth of programming in 2016. Of that, $5,725 was paid for through our own scholarship fund, which included: reduced-rate and free field trips for low-income students, affordable programs offered in partnership with the Waltham Recreation Department, and discounted individual participation in Learning Garden programs. We never turn away a family for inability to pay and were able to provide more programming than ever before to low-income participants throughout the Waltham area.

**Youth Crew Jobs Initiative:** Our teen program has molded into 3 groups – Garden Corps, Field Corps and Farm Corps, which vary in age, season and purpose. Garden Corps is volunteer-based program for younger teens who meet during spring, fall and winter. This is a great opportunity for many area youth to complete school community service requirements, as well as engage in farm education throughout the year. Field Corps is a summer work/education hybrid program, which rewards younger teens with a stipend at the end of the season upon completion of their first job experience. After completion of a season in Field Corps, teens are encouraged to join the Farm Corp the following season and work for an hourly wage as assistant educators in the Learning Garden as well as staffing our Outreach Market.

**Farmer Training:** Anna Kelchlin was hired as our new Assistant Farm Manager, after two years of training in our Assistant Grower program. Janelle Plummer came as our new Assistant Grower and returned for her second season of training in 2017. Our regional work continues with Eastern Massachusetts Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (eMassCRAFT), and partnership programming with UMass Extension under the United States Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency’s Targeted States grant.

**Public Outreach:** Our calendar was packed with events both on and off the farm in 2016. We started with Sprout, our annual spring silent auction, and continued straight through to December! Some highlights included our Ice Cream Social, a local forging walk at the Lyman Estate with Historic New England, numerous education programs for kids, adults and seniors with Healthy Waltham, workshops on fermenting and growing your own mushrooms, our own bike team participating in Three Squares New England’s Ride For Food, and Farm Day, our big day of family fun on the farm.

**Service Learning and Volunteering:** We are always very appreciative of the number of people and local corporations who make the time to come out to Waltham Fields. This year we hosted 841 volunteers, who put in 2,296 hours helping in the fields, the office, or with event coordination. Over three dozen community-based and corporate groups contributed time, and our drop-in hours on Fridays and Saturdays were very popular. Our annual Crop Mob volunteer mornings were also very successful, drawing substantial crowds and freeing our crops from the weeds. Our Volunteer of the Year, honored at the Annual Meeting in November, went to Saul and Deb Blumenthal, who went above and beyond for Sprout, our annual farm benefit and silent auction.
THANKS TO OUR 2016 DONORS
The food access and education programs of Waltham Fields Community Farm are made possible through both financial and in-kind gifts from hundreds of individuals, businesses, community organizations and foundations. **We are grateful to everyone who contributed to our work through donations and participation in our fundraising events.**

Local Business Heroes:


Additional Business and Community Support:

Foundation and Corporate Grant Support:


Individual Support above $30 Organizational Membership:

2017 FREE PUBLIC EVENTS
ALL ARE WELCOME!

~ Waltham Farm Day ~
Saturday, September 30 (rain or shine), 2-5pm

~ Harvest Potluck/Annual Meeting ~
Thursday, November 9, 5:30-7:30pm

Check our website for a full listing of programs and events

Waltham Fields Community Farm
Community Farms Outreach, Inc.
240 Beaver St., Waltham, MA  02452  (781) 899-2403  www.communityfarms.org

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