

## Vegetable and Herb Gardens

These gardens include a variety of food staples that are used by the kitchen staff. Peas and lettuce are planted in the early spring. Throughout the growing season herbs such as basil, oregano, thyme, dill, cilantro, and horseradish spice up the meals. Tomatoes abound throughout the summer. We have also planted leeks and garlic. Along the perimeter we plant Swiss chard and kale.



## Three Bin Composter

Several members of the garden team have taken a course in composting. Our three bin composter is used to break down kitchen scraps and to create soil amendments. The meals at Mercy by the Sea incorporate the "farm to table" concept.



## Bird Habitat

We have installed numerous bird feeders and houses. Additionally, we have planted species that provide food for various native birds. A family of wrens has made the bird house in the pollinator garden their home.



## Labyrinth

The labyrinth was restored by an Eagle Scout who removed the boxwood that was suffering from blight. Native Inkberry was planted. We continue to weed and prune this area.



*Volunteers generously maintain the gardens.  
If you are interested in joining the team contact  
[amcgovern@mercybythesea.org](mailto:amcgovern@mercybythesea.org)*



**MERCY BY THE SEA**  
RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

## Current Garden Projects



***Our Mission:*** Rooted in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Center welcomes individuals and groups of diverse faiths and backgrounds to a peaceful place of natural beauty for personal, spiritual and professional renewal and growth.

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## Invasive Species Removal

Until recently, many of our gardens were overrun with invasive species like Oriental Bittersweet, Japanese Knotweed, and Phragmite. Not only were these plants compromising the biodiversity of this spectacular landscape, but in many instances they obscured the views. We are slowly clearing out the invasive species to make way for native plants.



## Wetlands

Trash was removed from the woodland and wetland areas. These areas are essential to increasing biodiversity, filtering runoff, and sequestering carbon.



## Forestry Management

In addition to removing invasive species, we continue to plant and nurture native trees and other plants, to restore the beauty and health of this ecosystem. We are continually inventorying the trees and assessing their health.



## Pollinator Gardens

In partnership with The Connecticut Master Gardener Association, we planted several gardens whose plants are specifically designed to attract and sustain pollinator species like bees, butterflies, and other insects. These gardens are handicap accessible. We are part of the Mercy Monarch Milkweed Project.



## Perennial Garden

The garden next to the greenhouse holds many beautiful perennials. An ongoing project is to remove invasive species.



## Cutting Garden

This garden was created using a layering method sometimes referred to as a lasagna garden or as sheet composting. The various layers incorporated twigs, leaves, and compost from the property. The flowers are used throughout the retreat house.

