

## **LEAP Garden**

The Garden Club of New Haven, in partnership with LEAP (Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership), has received the Common Ground Collaborative Grant from the Garden Club of America. GCNH will use the funds to upgrade and maintain the LEAP Children's Garden. This 14,000-square-foot space is half vegetable and flower beds, half turfed playing field. It provides an inviting, and free, oasis for city children to relax and learn in nature.

LEAP was founded in 1992 by educators, students, and community activists to address the historic disinvestment in young people of color in New Haven. The organization provides academic support, social enrichment, and leadership development to more than 1,000 youth each year. The Children's Garden was begun in 2015 as a Signature Project of the Connecticut Master Gardener Program, several of whom are Garden Club of New Haven members, and Master Gardeners have taught environmental education there for over 11 years.

GCNH members will work alongside master gardeners to provide landscape maintenance, garden classroom support, and input on organic horticultural education. GCNH will also undertake a renewal of the perennial and pollinator plantings, and spearhead specific invasive weed removal.