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**Township of  
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Department of Health  
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# Press Release

**Bloomfield N.J. - Bloomfield Public Library will be the site of a 4x4 garden plot for tomatoes, herbs, and other edible plants this summer**

Shaping NJ funding yields results. Developed in conjunction with Bloomfield Dept. of Health, the Bloomfield Public Library and food activists, Melina Macall and Eileen Sweeny, the garden will encourage neighborhood children and nearby residents to learn about the importance of green space, growing fresh vegetables and healthy eating. With public attention on climbing obesity rates and soaring carbon emissions, Bloomfield residents are taking a keener interest in the origins and nutritional content of their food as well as its impact on their health and the environment.

The Health Department has been an active participant in the Eat, Play, Live...*Better* movement with a focus on healthy eating and active living. Working with our community partners has given us opportunities to fulfill this vision, states Karen Lore Director of Health.

"This garden will give everyone the opportunity to experience the joy of seeing plants grow from seed to fruition," said Macall. "There is nothing so delicious as fresh, home grown food. This garden provides an introduction to Bloomfield residents to literally enjoy the fruits of their labors."

To further promote the importance of the themes discussed above, the Easy Gardening Guide developed by United Way of Northern New Jersey will be made freely available in the library.

This marks the second of such collaborations for the Health Department. For the last 2 years, the Department has had a partnership with Oakeside's "Kitchen Gardens" to expand their garden plots and make vegetable gardening more accessible to Bloomfield residents.

Please follow the Health Department on Twitter (@BloomfieldHDNJ) to keep up to date with all of these exciting initiatives.

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