

DOWNEAST RESTORATIVE HARVEST

Healthy Acadia is partnering with the Washington County Jail, Department of Corrections, other community partners, and individuals like you to establish an innovative community garden program. The garden will engage jail and prison residents, members of the recovery community, agriculture educators, and other community members in growing food for the jail's kitchen as well as for donation to local food assistance programs. The cultivation of vegetables, fruit trees, and flowers, combined with agricultural training opportunities, will provide participants with valuable life and employment skills.

Downeast Restorative Harvest Program Objectives

- Support the mental, emotional, and physical health of jail and prison residents and others
- Support the attainment of valuable life and employment skills for jail and prison residents and others
- Increase access to healthier foods in the jail and area food pantries
- Reduce recidivism among program participants
- Promote local agriculture education for jail and prison residents and the broader community
- Demonstrate a successful pilot jail garden to be replicated in other counties

Located on a parcel of county-owned land off of Broadway Street in Machias, and with a long term lease for use, the garden and Downeast Restorative Harvest (DERH) program are taking shape. Building good soil and strong infrastructure are top priorities for success. Turn the page to learn about 2023 efforts!



SUPPORT THIS WORK AT
bit.ly/restorative-harvest



 **Healthy
Acadia**
Building vibrant communities for over 20 years

Establishing Soil and Infrastructure for Success

This year we are installing an access road, preparing the site for a greenhouse and storage barn, drilling a well, installing electricity, and planting cover crops in preparation for a first vegetable crop in 2024.

Our work is being done with strong collaboration with the jail, Maine Department of Corrections, and other key partners to ensure that we design a program that centers the needs of jail and prison residents and welcomes broader community engagement.

Feedback from jail residents is being gathered this spring, and a diverse Advisory Council meets regularly to guide the project's development.



Exposure to gardens and other natural environments can lead to improved mental and behavioral health among jail residents. Positive impacts include increased confidence, new skills and work experience, and increased potential for post-release employment.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Downeast Restorative Harvest is the recipient of two generous \$100,000 matching gift pledges to help launch and sustain this work through the first four foundational years - and we are thrilled to share that with your help we are poised to unlock the second matching gift, and ensure DERH's first four years!

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FMI, visit healthyacadia.org/hffa-derh or call Regina at 207 255-3741