

Cuvilly hopes to start garden community

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IPSWICH — Along with broccoli, lettuce and tomatoes, Cuvilly Arts and Earth Center hopes to grow a community in its garden this summer.

The earth-friendly school on Jeffreys Neck Road is soliciting green thumbs to grow produce together in a half-acre organic garden. The concept is different from the usual “community garden” because instead of individuals cultivating separate plots, these gardeners will all work together and reap the benefits as a community.

“We’re trying to see what we have to work with, and if people would bite onto this,” said Erika Gorgenyi, environmental education coordinator.

Gorgenyi and preschool teacher Joyce Massicotte plan to set up a time each week when people can meet regarding the garden and what can be done with it.

“We wanted to build a community among the garden,” said Mas-

sicotte.

The garden will not be organic certified, but will use organic practices, she said. The land had been home to an organic garden in the past, but in recent years there has not been a full-time organic farmer to tend to it. This summer, a part-time farmer will be available to lend a hand.

“It’s something we don’t want to lose. We feel like it’s really valuable,” Gorgenyi said.

There are also plans to put a “movable chicken house” in the garden, said Gorgenyi. The birds would walk around tilling, fertilizing and eating plant-threatening bugs.

Cuvilly eventually hopes to make the garden community “a self-sustaining economic endeavor,” said Gorgenyi.

“The premise of everything we try to do is model ecological sustainability, so the garden falls under that,” she said.

Anyone interested in joining Cuvilly’s garden community should e-mail info@cuvilly.org.