



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FARMERS MARKET RETURNS TO THE CONSERVATORY ON JUNE 1

Columbus, OH — Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' Farmers Market returns for the summer season. The market will occur from 3:30-6:30pm every Wednesday, beginning June 1 and ending September 21. Open to the public, the Farmers Market will be located in the Wells Barn parking lot, just beyond the Conservatory's main parking lot. No admission is required to shop at the market and parking is free.

New to the Conservatory's Farmers Market this year is Veggie Champs. Veggie Champs is the Conservatory's new market booth that uses games, activities and tastings to turn kids into just that, champions of fresh produce.

By participating in Veggie Champs activities, children can learn about healthy eating and become empowered to make healthy choices.

Vendors, all local to central Ohio, will sell a variety of products. In addition to fresh produce and specialty foods, handmade items, artisanal goods and health products will be available for purchase. A rotating selection of food trucks will be onsite for any guests who'd like to have a bite to eat. The market, originally established to help address the food desert around the Conservatory, brings fresh food and produce to the east side of Columbus and connects community members with local businesses.

The Conservatory's Teen Corps will also have a booth at the market (June 8 – August 3) as it has in years past. The Teen Corps program teaches Columbus City School students skills through hands-on experiences in urban farming. Every summer, they grow produce in the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus and sell it from a stand at the Farmers' Market.

Select dates will include entertainment or special guests:

- **June 1, Tote Bag Day** – All market attendees will receive a free tote bag.
- **June 22 is Neighborhood Day** – The first 50 customers from the 43203 and 43025 zip codes will receive two free tickets to the Conservatory.
- **August 3 is the Back-to-School event** – School supplies can be donated by market customers to benefit Eastgate Elementary School.

The Conservatory's Farmers Market accepts EBT for all qualifying purchases and offers incentive dollars through the Produce Perks Columbus program for fresh produce for all EBT users.

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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers world-class horticulture, art and nature-based exhibitions, and educational programs for all ages. Situated on 40 acres on the eastern side of Franklin Park, the Conservatory

features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House; 83,000 square feet of glasshouses; botanical gardens including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden; and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns the largest collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly in a botanical garden and is home to internationally recognized light artist James Turrell's Light Raiment II, which illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.