



Franklin Park Conservatory  
and Botanical Gardens

Growing to Green

# The Columbus Green Patch

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Butterflies are on display February 24–July 7 | [VIEW IN BROWSER](#)



## Welcome!

### **A note from the Director of Community Outreach & Education:**

Spring is synonymous with new beginnings, full of life and regrowth. As the sun begins to shine and the days lengthen with the promise of warmer weather, the inner gardener inside us awakens alongside the forsythia and daffodils blooming outside. In this spirit, we are thrilled to announce the relaunch of the Conservatory's Growing to Green newsletter. We can't wait for you to discover the valuable information, resources, and inspiration within its pages.

Moreover, whether you identify as a backyard, educational, allotment plot garden, or urban farm, the goal of creating a healthy, thriving community through food is still the same, and Growing to Green (G2G) is here to support you. The team of Cindy Maravich, Manager; Sean McKay, Coordinator; and Lauren Preston, Educator—are not just eager to connect, provide assistance, and visit your gardens - they are also committed to your success. Read further to check out the upcoming classes and volunteer opportunities that Growing to Green has in store for you and your garden.

So, grab your gardening gloves, dust off your trowel, and let's cultivate a brighter, greener future together this spring.

-Jenny Pope

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## Meet a Team Member

### THIS IS LAUREN, G2G EDUCATOR

She is passionate about educating the community about where their food comes from and how to use that food to make nutritious meals that promote health. She recently graduated from The Ohio State University and received her Bachelor of Science in Community Leadership specializing in Extension Education. She received double minors in Youth Development and Human Nutrition. She recently got engaged and has an 8 month old baby girl.



## Educational Opportunities

### GROWING TO GREEN PRESENTS THE COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS SERIES

This free class series is open to all in the community and is part of larger Conservatory initiatives that build capacity, knowledge and enthusiasm for the joys of gardening. To learn more about all the ways that the Conservatory supports community gardeners, check out our Growing to Green program and discover how you can get involved!

LEARN MORE

**The Growing and Growth Collective**  
**Gardening for Comprehensive Health and Wellness**

Tuesday, April 2, 5pm

**Local Matters**

**Garden Workshop #2 | Getting Started in Your Garden**

April 6

633 Parsons Avenue

**Rooted in Bexley presents**

**Nicole Cavender Director of the Botanical Gardens**  
**The Huntington Library in San Marino, California**

April 12, 1pm

**Local Matters**

**Community Cooking Class**

April 18

633 Parsons Avenue

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## Youth Educational Programming

**FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY**

**TEEN CORPS APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR 2024!**

Teen Corps is a high-impact, community-supported summer program for eligible teens designed to teach life and work skills through hands-on experiences in urban farming.

**JUNE 10-AUGUST 9**

While working in a community garden to grow produce and then sell it through their own stand at the Conservatory's [Farmers Market](#), teens learn about horticulture, the environment, health and nutrition, entrepreneurship, communication, and self-reliance. Participating teens also receive a stipend.

The application deadline (including recommendations) is April 26. **NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Interviews for Teen Corps 2024 will take place at the Conservatory in May.

Contact Michele Bailey, Teen Corps Coordinator, [Mbailey@fpconservatory.org](mailto:Mbailey@fpconservatory.org)

[APPLY HERE](#)

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**BECOME A HIGHLAND YOUTH GARDEN GREEN TEEN!**

## Interested in spending your summer working in a garden and earning money?

Green Teens is a paid, summer work program at Highland Youth Garden for youth in the Hilltop area ages 14-19. Youth who live or go to school in Hilltop are encouraged to apply by the April 26th deadline!

Our Green Teens program will run for 9 weeks during the summer of 2023 starting on Tuesday, June 13th. The last day will be Saturday, August 12th. Some teens will be invited to continue working with us during the school year.

Contact Nande Gilbert, Manager of School and Teen Programs, Highland Youth Garden

[APPLY HERE](#)

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### Join the Conservatory Community Garden

#### PLOT HOLDER WAITLIST

Are you interested in community gardening at Franklin Park Conservatory? Sign up to be on the waitlist.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### Need Seeds for Your Garden?

#### FREE SEEDS

Contact Lauren Preston at [lp Preston@fpconservatory.org](mailto:lp Preston@fpconservatory.org) to schedule a time to look through our seed collection.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## Community Garden Mapping Initiative

Fill out this link for all of your garden spaces to be added to our map? The garden can be marked as private so the general public will not see it, administrators will be able to share resources and upcoming events with these spaces. It only takes 2-3 minutes to fill out.

All participants you will be entered in to win a **FREE** family membership to the Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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## Community Garden Resources

### EARTH DAY URBAN GARDEN GRANT PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS

The 2024 growing season is coming upon us quickly. Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is so excited to host you for this annual event. If you have any questions or concerns about the event, please contact Growing to Green Coordinator, Sean McKay, at [smckay@fpconservatory.org](mailto:smckay@fpconservatory.org) or 614.800.0782.

**Friday, April 19, 2024**  
Wells Barn Parking Lot at

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens  
1777 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43203

**Instructions:**

Check in with a Registration Volunteer. During registration, you will be given a “product sheet” that lists all the products your organization was awarded and will pick up that day. You **MUST** register and have the product sheet before you can pick up your product.

Volunteers will guide you where to exit.

Pull into an available lane for loading.

Load your product.

Scotts Miracle-Gro volunteers will guide you and assist in loading the product into your vehicle.

All products must be picked up on Friday, April 19, 2024. Please arrange for the appropriate vehicle/s to transport your product. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact Chris Oliveti at [Coliveti@scotts.com](mailto:Coliveti@scotts.com) or 614-306-7109 for questions or concerns about product pickup. Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens cannot hold products for later pick-up.

[REGISTER FOR A TIME BLOCK](#)



**GREATER COLUMBUS  
ARTS COUNCIL**

**GRANTS  
AVAILABLE**

GCAC offers grants, fellowships, residencies, and exchanges for Franklin County artists. Funding Guidelines are released December 1.

[VIEW GRANTS](#)





Watch this video to learn more about Zoo Brew.

LEARN MORE

## Price Farms Organics

### FREE ZOO BREW COMPOST

Through grant funds obtained from the USDA-NRCS Compost & Food Waste Reduction Program, Price Farms Organics, in conjunction with the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is able to provide compost to Non-Profits, Urban, School, and Community Gardens at no cost to the receiving organizations.



## Volunteer Opportunities

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities within the community? Growing to Green's Community Connections program is for anyone interested in volunteering within community garden spaces throughout Central Ohio. Experienced Growing to Green staff will be on-site with expertise and guidance. No garden experience is needed. This is a great opportunity to give back to your community and learn about all of the cool and impactful gardens in our neighborhoods. Volunteers must sign up individually.

Would you like Community Connections to volunteer at your community garden?

Contact Lauren Preston at [lpreston@fpconservatory.org](mailto:lpreston@fpconservatory.org)

## Green Columbus Earth Day Columbus

Join the largest volunteer-driven service event for Earth Day in the country.

Clean-ups April 5–28

Beautifications and Community Gardens: April 12–28

Tree Plantings: April 19–28

Community Service: April 26–29

### Green Columbus Earth Day Celebration

April 27th, 11am-8pm in Genoa Park.

This family-friendly event will feature local music, fun activities for children and adults, food, and drinks, and booths from a diverse array of sustainability-focused vendors and nonprofits.

Visit [www.earthdaycolumbus.org](http://www.earthdaycolumbus.org) for more information

Booths, Vendors & Children's Activities 11am-4pm

Bands, Food Trucks & Beverages: 11am-8pm

Entry: Free!

Where: Genoa Park 303 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215

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## Greater Columbus Growing Coalition

Join the GCGC a grassroots organization that supports community and backyard gardeners in Franklin County and beyond. Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month.

JOIN HERE



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1777 EAST BROAD STREET  
COLUMBUS, OH 43203  
[fpconservatory.org](http://fpconservatory.org)



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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens 1777 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 43203  
614-715-8000 | [FPCONSERVATORY.ORG](http://FPCONSERVATORY.ORG) | [info@fpconservatory.org](mailto:info@fpconservatory.org)