A note from the Growing To Green Coordinator:

As we welcome the warmth of summer, we’re excited to celebrate National Gardening Week! This annual event, which takes place from June 2–8, is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the importance of gardening in our lives and in our communities. Growing to Green is proud to play a role in supporting the growth and development of community gardens throughout Central Ohio, and we’re thrilled to share some highlights from our program with you in this month’s newsletter.

Gardening is more than just a hobby or a way to get some fresh air and exercise – it’s a way to connect with nature, build community, and improve our health and well-being. Whether you’re a seasoned gardener or just starting out, we hope you’ll join us in celebrating the joy and beauty of gardening. From the vibrant colors of blooming flowers to the satisfaction of that first bounty of fresh veggies, there’s no denying the magic that happens in the garden.

As we celebrate National Gardening Week, we’re reminded of the many ways that gardening brings people together. Whether it’s through community gardens, garden clubs, or your favorite social media influencer, gardening has a way of fostering connections and building relationships. We’re proud to be a part of this movement, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to support and amplify the work of our community garden partners.

- Sean M. McKay
Meet a New Community Garden

THIS IS VINEYARD’S VIBRANT VILLAGE GARDEN - Alisha Payne

A wise person once said, “Grief is the price we pay for love.” The grief that I experienced from the loss of my beautiful mother, Loretta Hill-Stuckey, seemed unbearable. Several years prior, she had moved in with my husband, Brad and I, as I became her caregiver. But she was much more than my mother. She was my friend, my SHEro, and my first true love. Her “VIBRANT” spirit was interwoven in every part of my being.

In order to heal, I knew that I had to move forward with my life. By profession, I am a Certified Professional Life Coach, Empowerment Speaker, and the Author of “WOMAN UP! The 10 Commandments For Becoming The Masterpiece You Were Designed To Be.” However, I had no intention of diving back into these areas of my life. My next move had to be something that was beautiful, filled with life, and a way to honor my extraordinary mother.

On January 4th, I contacted my pastor, Matt Stephens of the Vineyard Christian Church. I sent him my complete proposal, my mission, and my vision for a community garden. Unbeknown to me, his amazing wife, Claudia, had the same vision a year prior. Both Pas. Matt and Sis. Claudia had been praying for God to send someone to execute this vision.
I am excited that April 8, 2024 (Solar Eclipse Day), marked the day we began preparing our land for our VINEYARD’S VIBRANT VILLAGE GARDEN. We will operate this first year as a communal garden. Our mission is simple, yet POWERFUL... SOW, GROW and GIVE. We want to be a beacon of light in our community. VVVG will be a source of nutritious produce, a place of tranquility, and an epicenter to learn about healthy lifestyles; as we take a holistic approach to feeding the spirit, body, and soul. Our incredible VVVG Team meets most Saturdays at 9am.

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**Educational Opportunities**

Growing to Green Harvest Award Applications Open!

The Growing to Green Harvest Awards honors the dedication and hard work of many Central Ohio communities and individuals while furthering Growing to Green’s objective of promoting participation in city beautification and community gardening.

Applications Open: June 1–August 15, 2024
National Garden Week Free Kickoff Event

June 2, 11–3 pm
Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Visit the GCGC Growing and Growth Collective (GCGC) booth near the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Children’s Garden for 7 Gardens...7 Days and meet the group that supports backyard and community gardens in Franklin County and beyond. Admittance to this Community Day is free to all Franklin County residents.

LEARN MORE

Juneteenth Joy

June 9, 2–4 PM
The Wells Barn, 1777 E. Broad St., Franklin Park

Join local growers for a community conversation on how food producers and consumers can promote justice, sustainability, and control over what and how we grow and eat. Keynote speaker Jim Embry is an eco-activist farmer, Sustainable Communities Network founder, and civil rights activist and has been involved in social justice movements for 65 years.

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Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 3:30–6:30PM
The Wells Barn, 1851 E. Broad St.

Vendors offer a mix of local produce, baked goods, specialty foods, handmade items, and health & beauty products. EBT is accepted for all qualifying purchases and incentive dollars through the Produce Perks Columbus program.

LEARN MORE
Communal Garden Series

Monday, June 24, 6–7:30pm
The Wells Barn, 1851 E. Broad St.

Cherry, Beefsteak, Heirloom! Fresh homegrown tomatoes are the summer's most desirable produce. A mouthwatering tomato is a real reward from the garden, and an abundant tomato crop can be a home gardener's dream. This class will teach you how to grow and care for your crop, share tips for harvesting, and cover ways to save your best seeds for next year.

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Pollinator Palooza

Saturday, June 22, 11–3pm - FREE EVENT
In the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus

Celebrate birds, bees, butterflies, and all of the other creatures that make our gardens grow during Pollinator Palooza in conjunction with National Pollinator Week. Engage with local pollinator advocacy organizations, while enjoying learning opportunities, crafts, music, garden tours, and more.

LEARN MORE
Pre-Juneteenth Kick-Off Celebration

Thursday, June 13, 6–7:30pm
1201 Hildreth Avenue 43203

Celebrate Juneteenth early with the Growing and Growth Collective, the OSUWMC James Mobile Education Kitchen, local We Grow: NES farmers, Bronzeville Growers Market leaders, and representatives from Broad Street Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry and Community Outreach Team.

Growers & Griots
An Evening with Chef BJ Dennis

Tuesday, June 25, 5–7pm
760 East Broad Street Columbus, OH 43205

During an interview with Dr. Jared Grant, assistant professor in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Chef BJ Dennis will be sharing his perspectives on the local food supply system and how small-scale growers and chefs can partner together -- Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics).
Juneteenth Block Party

June 18, 12–4pm
880 E. 11th Avenue Columbus, OH 43211

Join us for a day of culture and fun.
Free seeds will be distributed.

LEARN MORE

FACCES Urban Garden

1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, 4:30–6:30PM
2515 Lockbourne Rd, Columbus, OH 43207

Discover the wonders and beauty of gardening with Garden Tours every Monday to Friday from 9am–12pm.

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Garden Day at Morrison Hill Community Garden

June 15, 10am–12pm

The Morrison Hill Community Garden will have a garden day. Also, if you know of anyone still looking for a garden plot, we have some available.

LEARN MORE

ESA@50: Art Mural for Linden and Pollinator Party

Saturday, June 15, 1–6pm, 929 Oakland Park Ave.

Free native plant giveaway, Native plant games, Prizes, Speakers, Music, and local vendors!

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Youth Educational Programming
GREEN SCHOOLYARDS SUMMIT

The Summit will showcase the collaboration between Green Umbrella, Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), and the City of Cincinnati to implement a district-wide Green Schoolyards initiative focused on providing equitable access to outdoor learning and environmental educational resources for all students and staff members. This is an inclusive event. Scholarships are available for anyone who finds the registration cost-prohibitive. Please contact cynthia@greenumbrella.org.

REGISTER BY MAY 20

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 will be entered in to win a FREE family membership to the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.
Watch this video to learn more about Zoo Brew.

LEARN MORE

Price Organics Farm

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

Sign Up to Volunteer at one of these Gardens

Southeast Urban Farm: JUNE 7, 9–11AM
Bishop Griffith Wellness Garden: JUNE 10, 9–11AM
Charles Nabrit Memorial Garden: JUNE 26, 4–7PM
21st Street Community Garden: JULY 2, 9AM–12PM
Friendship Missionary Baptist Community Garden: JULY 13, 9–11AM

Resource Opportunities

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.

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COMMUNITY BACKYARDS $50 REBATE PROGRAM
This is an annual program by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District that promotes water quality education for residents in Franklin County, Ohio. Our goal is to protect water quality by reducing stormwater runoff. We can do that in our own backyards by keeping rain where it falls and using it as a resource. We encourage and incentivize the use of rain barrels, rain gardens, native plants, composting, and low-input lawn care to keep our waterways healthy and safe.
Join the Franklin Park Conservatory Community Garden

PLOT HOLDER WAITLIST Are you interested in becoming a community garden plot holder at Franklin Park Conservatory? Sign up to be on the waitlist. We can also connect you to other community gardens!
Join the Conservatory Community Garden

PLOT HOLDER WAITLIST
Are you interested in community gardener at Franklin Park Conservatory? Sign up to be on the waitlist.

LEARN MORE

Need Seeds for Your Garden?

FREE SEEDS
Contact Lauren Preston at lpreston@fpconservatory.org to schedule a time to look through our seed collection.

LEARN MORE