Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

The Columbus Green Patch

Growing with Purpose | FOOD IN PARADISE

Welcome to July from Growing to Green!

As the summer season, and things are heating up in the garden, we have some important updates and stories on different topics to commemorate gardens. This month, we've started Community Gardener Highlights, a new series that will highlight the people who make our community gardens GREAT, and most importantly **celebrate National Watermelon Day** on our social media platforms still to come.

We're also thrilled to announce that **nominations are now open for the 2026 Harvest Awards**, where we celebrate the hard and tireless work Central Ohio's gardens.

Lastly, we have some updates, thanks and ask for you to be involved over summer and beyond.

Stay cool,

The Growing to Green Team

Looking Back

What You Might Have Missed

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE | JOIN COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS | JULY 9 | 6:00-7:30 PM

A QUICK GUIDE TO: REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

What is Regenerative Agriculture?
A holistic approach to farming and gardening that restores soil health, biodiversity, and strengthens local food systems. Prioritizes long-term sustainability by actively rebuilding ecosystems.

Key Principles:
- Minimized or no control of your land
- Minimal or no chemical fertilizers or pesticides
- Minimal or no tilling
- Keep soil covered year-round
- Manage living roots in the soil

Biodiversity & Planting Strategies:
- Crop rotation: Breaks pest cycles and balances nutrients
- Companion planting: Plants that complement each other

Cover Cropping:
- Using plants that are between food crops
- Improves soil health, fertility & suppresses weeds
- Examples: Clover, peas, rye, vetch
- Cover crops can be mowed and left behind
- Broadcasters (e.g. drones) can seed (broadcast) crops out, longer

Helpful Resources:
- https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/
- www.nrcs.usda.gov/ohio

ROL IN THE FOUNDATION OF REGENERATION!

JUNE'S COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING MORNINGS

In June, the Growing to Green team had volunteer workdays at two Columbus Metropolitan Library Community Gardens: Hilltop and Linden and South Central Community Gardens.

Volunteers joined us in tending these thriving gardens through tasks like harvesting, weeding, and maintenance, ensuring the bounty of fresh produce and strengthen neighborhood connections.

Thank you to everyone who showed up with helping hands and generous hearts. You truly are our greatest asset!

CELEBRATING GROWTH: SITE VISITS TO OUR GRANT RECIPIENT GARDENS

Over the past few weeks, our Growing to Green team has been visiting our grant recipients, the Franklin County Community Gardens. These visits have been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their growth, transformation, resilience, and community care.

It's truly remarkable to see how grant funds and products are being used to strengthen these gardens and their communities. We're proud to be nurturing spaces that continue to activate gardening across Franklin County, the impact of the support is evident, and growing!

We're honored to support these gardens in their growth and volunteers as they continue to cultivate resilience and connection. We look forward to more updates as we continue our tour of these thriving community gardens!

Current Projects

URBAN GARDEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Urban Garden Leadership Academy (UGLA) is a free training led by Franklin Park Conservatory's Growing to Green program in collaboration with Franklin County Extension and Franklin County Master Gardeners. It is designed to empower, connect, and support emerging leaders in Central Ohio's community gardening and urban agriculture space.

Participants will gain valuable leadership and organizational skills through hands-on learning, mentorship, and peer collaboration. The program covers critical topics like fund raising and grant writing, volunteer management, garden planning, community outreach, and conflict resolution, equipping participants with organizational management.

Duration: 12 weeks
Schedule: Weekly in-person sessions (Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 PM)
Site Visit: A garden site visit
Cost: Free, including all materials & guidance (scholarships available)
Format: A mixture classroom sessions, hands-on garden learning, and peer-to-peer collaboration
Apply: Applications are now open! Click the button to learn more and apply.

LEARN MORE AND APPLY

JULY'S COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS - PRUNING & HARVESTING

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Pruning & Harvesting

FREE COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS

Learn how to keep your crops healthy and productive with expert pruning tips, harvesting know-how, and storage tricks to make your harvest last!

Tuesday, July 8 | 6:00 PM
Wells Barn | 1851 E. Broad St.

Instructor Tim McDermott
Tim McDermott is a Master Gardener and Master Composter with a background in landscape design and construction. He has been teaching Gardeners for the Beginners Vegetable Gardening class for over 10 years and has been a Master Gardener for over 20 years. He is passionate about helping people grow healthy, productive gardens.

Learn the best techniques for pruning and harvesting to keep your plants healthy and productive! This session will cover proper pruning techniques for various food producing plants to encourage growth and maximize yields, as well as how to harvest at the right time and handle your crop with care. We'll also share handy techniques to extend storage life, plus tips for storing and preserving your harvest for longer enjoyment.

RSVP HERE

Franklin Park Conservatory

The Communal Garden Class Series is generously supported by a grateful gardener.

Looking Ahead

COMMUNITY GARDEN MIXER

Join us for a night of good company!

Garden Mixer

Wednesday, July 30
5:30 – 7:30 PM | Wells Barn
1851 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43205

Join us to celebrate the launch of the Urban Garden Leadership Academy! Enjoy a relaxed evening with fellow gardeners, and build connections at our annual Growing to Green Garden Mixer.

RSVP by answering the QR code below!

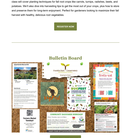
Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Join us for a Communal Garden Class on July 9 at the Wells Barn! Celebrate the launch of the Urban Garden Leadership Academy (UGLA) and enjoy food and conversation while connecting with community gardens and their gardeners.

RSVP by clicking the link below!

RSVP HERE

AUGUST'S COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS - ALL ABOUT ROOT VEGETABLES



ALL ABOUT ROOT VEGETABLES

Get ready for the cool-season harvest!
Join us to learn how to plant, grow, and harvest root crops like carrots, radishes, beets, turnips, and potatoes this fall.

AUGUST 12 | 6:00-7:30 PM
Wells Barn | 1851 E. Broad St, Columbus, OH 43205

Instructor: Three Creeks Produce Farm
Three Creeks Produce Farm is a family-owned farm in Ashville, Ohio, with a passion for food and farm-to-table business. Our farm specializes in fall and cold-season crops, including root vegetables, leafy greens, and specialty crops. We are dedicated to sharing our knowledge of sustainable farming practices and helping others grow their own food.

Learn how to grow and harvest root vegetables in the cooler months of fall. This class will cover planting techniques for fall root crops like carrots, turnips, radishes, beets, and potatoes, ensuring a bountiful harvest before the first frost. We'll also share tips on soil preparation, crop rotation, and pest management to keep your plants healthy and thriving. Perfect for gardeners looking to extend their harvest with healthy, delicious root vegetables.

RSVP HERE

Bulletin Board

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Community Corner

HARVEST AWARD APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS ARE NOW LIVE!

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

GROWING TO GREEN Harvest Awards

NOMINATION & APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS JUNE 1 – AUGUST 15

AWARDS PRESENTED AT HARVEST AWARD CEREMONY

The Growing to Green Harvest Awards honor the dedication and hard work of Leary Center Ohio communities and individuals within urban agriculture and community gardening who have demonstrated impact in their work. The Growing to Green Harvest Awards will be officially announced at our annual Harvest Award Ceremony.

Nominations and applications are now open! The nomination period will run through **August 15**.

The 2026 Harvest Award Ceremony will take place on Thursday, October **8 at the Wells Barn.**

If you have any questions about the Growing to Green Harvest Awards, appreciation@franklinpark.org, and we'll be happy to help!

LEARN MORE AND APPLY HERE

Get Involved!

GROWING TO GREEN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING 2025 CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

MAY	JUNE	JULY
Wednesday, May 7 Hilltop Garden **Saturday, May 10** Wells Barn & Community Garden	**Wednesday, June 4** Hilltop Garden **Saturday, June 7** Wells Barn & Community Garden	**Wednesday, July 9** Hilltop Garden **Saturday, July 12** Wells Barn & Community Garden
AUGUST		
Wednesday, August 6 Hilltop Garden **Saturday, August 9** Wells Barn & Community Garden		

Visit the Volunteering for Green Hilltop for Wednesday morning volunteer opportunities.

Visit the Wells Barn for Saturday volunteer opportunities.

Visit the Community Garden Calendar for Saturday volunteer opportunities.

Join us for community volunteering this month. We have field opportunities if you're engaged and enjoyed with our community gardens and greenhouses!

SIGN UP HERE

FARMERS MARKET SEASON IS HERE!

Join us every **Wednesday, June 4 - September 10**, from **3:30-6:30 PM** at the **Wells Barn Parking Lot** on Wednesday's from **June 4 - September 10**.

Shop a diverse list of **local produce, baked goods, handmade items, and more!** Our vendors include **Three Creeks Produce**, **Hummingbird Bakery**, and **Kitchen Kraut**.

Kids love **Veggie Champs!** Each week, young shoppers can enjoy a fun activity and earn **Veggie Bucks** to redeem at the market.

Mention happen rain or snow - we will be connected to emergency weather updates and will cancel if needed.

Free parking is an extraordinary expense! Extra support must end enjoy the season!

ARE YOU SUBSCRIBED TO THE GREEN PATCH?
Subscribe today to receive news and information about what's growing on in the garden!

SIGN UP HERE TO

Visit the Community Gardening Page on the Franklin Park Conservatory website

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

MANAGE PREFERENCES | UNSUBSCRIBE | TERMS | VIEW IN BROWSER
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