

# The Columbus Green Patch

Midseason milestones, celebrations and looking ahead together. | [VIEW IN BROWSER](#)

## Welcome!

As we step into August, we're reflecting on an incredible month of July filled with growth, collaboration, and community spirit. From the FPC Women's Board Community Garden Tour and volunteer events to our **grantee garden visits** and the **launch of the Urban Garden Leadership Academy (UGLA)** at our annual **Garden Mixer**, it's been a season of meaningful milestones for Growing to Green.

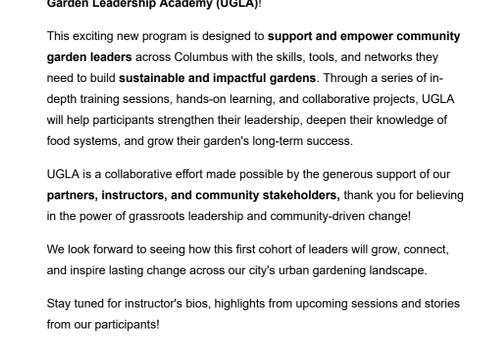
These moments remind us of the strength and collaboration within community gardening movement. As gardens reach their summer peak, so do the connections and support we continue to build.

Looking ahead to August, we're excited to keep this momentum going with our **monthly free Communal Garden Class**, made possible by a generous donor to ensure it remains accessible to everyone. We'll also continue **supporting gardens through our volunteer program, sharing knowledge, and preparing for upcoming UGLA sessions.**

Thank you for growing with us!

### The Growing to Green Team

## Looking Back



### URBAN GARDEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY LAUNCHED!

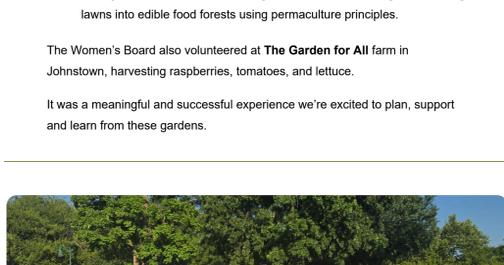
On **July 30**, during our lively **Garden Mixer**, we officially launched the **Urban Garden Leadership Academy (UGLA)**!

This exciting new program is designed to **support and empower community garden leaders** across Columbus with the **skills, tools, and networks** they need to build **sustainable and impactful gardens**. Through a series of in-depth training sessions, hands-on learning, and collaborative projects, UGLA will help participants strengthen their leadership, deepen their knowledge of food systems, and grow their gardens' long-term success.

UGLA is a collaborative effort made possible by the generous support of our **partners, instructors, and community stakeholders**, thank you for believing in the power of grassroots leadership and community-driven change!

We look forward to seeing how this first cohort of leaders will grow, connect, and inspire lasting change across our city's urban gardening landscape.

Stay tuned for instructor's bios, highlights from upcoming sessions and stories from our participants!



### FPC WOMEN'S BOARD COMMUNITY GARDEN TOUR & VOLUNTEERING

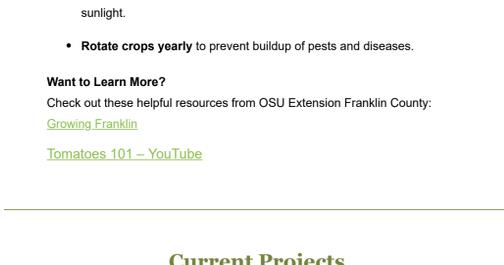
Last month, the **FPC Women's Board** led two wonderful events, volunteering in our community gardens and touring four inspiring garden sites across Columbus!

We visited and learned from several unique spaces, including:

- **The Charles Madison Nabrit Memorial Garden (East Linden):** Founded by Paula Penn-Nabrit, this garden honors her late husband and creates space for education and community connection.
- **FACCES:** Founded by Melissa Johnson, Offers free produce, cooking classes, fitness programs, and healthcare access for families.
- **CEARC at Ohio State:** A cutting-edge research facility focused on sustainable indoor food production.
- **Sunny Glen Urban Garden:** A regenerative, educational garden turning lawns into edible food forests using permaculture principles.

The Women's Board also volunteered at **The Garden for All** farm in Johnstown, harvesting raspberries, tomatoes, and lettuce.

It was a meaningful and successful experience we're excited to plan, support and learn from these gardens.



### WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN JULY!

#### Communal Garden Class Series Recap: Pruning & Harvesting

Last month in our **Communal Garden Class Series**, we had the pleasure of welcoming **Dr. Tim McDermott** from OSU Extension for an engaging and hands-on session on **Pruning and Harvesting Techniques**.

If you missed it, here's a quick summary of the key takeaways:

#### Why It Matters:

Proper pruning and harvesting techniques can help you **maximize your yield**, improve **plant health**, and extend the **disease-free growing season**.

#### Key Principles:

- **Sterilize tools** before each use to avoid spreading plant diseases.
- **Prune for airflow** to reduce disease and promote vigorous growth.
- **Tomato tip:** Remove suckers for fewer, but **larger tomatoes**.
- Match your **trellising style** to your plant's growth habit (e.g., single-stem pruning for indeterminate tomatoes).
- **Harvest before heavy rain**—especially tomatoes turning color—to prevent cracking.
- Pick in the **morning** for better flavor and longer shelf life.
- **Never refrigerate tomatoes**—store them on the counter out of direct sunlight.
- **Rotate crops yearly** to prevent buildup of pests and diseases.

#### Want to Learn More?

Check out these helpful resources from OSU Extension Franklin County:

[Growing Franklin](#)

[Tomatoes 101 – YouTube](#)

## Current Projects



# URBAN GARDEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

## Growing Leaders. Cultivating Community.

The Urban Garden Leadership Academy (UGLA) is a 12-week leadership development program for current and aspiring community garden leaders. Through hands-on learning, expert-led workshops, and site visits, participants will gain skills in garden management, community engagement, fundraising, advocacy, and sustainable growing practices.

**FALL 2025 | SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER**  
Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 PM | at Franklin Park Conservatory + partner sites

**APPLICATION OPEN NOW!**

LEARN MORE & APPLY

**Deadline to Apply:** August 15, 2025  
**Program Begins:** September 3, 2025



Presented by  
Growing to Green Franklin Conservatory  
In Collaboration With Community Partners,  
Experts and Institutions Across Columbus

APPLY HERE

REGISTER NOW

REGISTER NOW