

The Columbus Green Patch

Celebrating the Harvest of Hard Work and Collaboration | [VIEW IN BROWSER](#)

Welcome!

As the season turns to fall, we are reflecting with gratitude on a successful year of growth, collaboration, and community. This past month, the Growing to Green team has been busy supporting gardens across Columbus through volunteering, assisting with projects, and sharing resources. We've also had the opportunity to represent our work at events, panels, and community gatherings, helping to spread the word about the power of urban gardens.

Next week, we are especially excited to celebrate garden anniversaries and the many accomplishments of our community at the **Harvest Awards**. This annual event is a chance to honor the dedication, hard work, and collaboration that make our city's urban gardens thrive.

As we prepare to finish out the season, we look forward to continuing to lend a hand in the remaining gardens and celebrating all that has been achieved together. Thank you for being part of this community and for helping cultivate a greener, stronger, and more connected Columbus.

Growing to Green Team

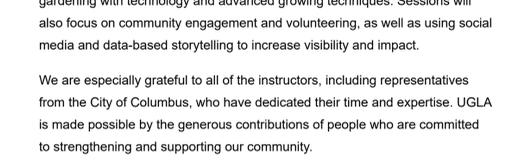
Looking Back



GROWING TO GREEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This September, Growing to Green was proud to take part in two important community events. On September 20, we represented Growing to Green as a panelist at the **City of Columbus Neighborhood Best Practices Conference** and tabled to share resources and connect with community members.

Later in the month, on September 30, Liv (Growing to Green Educator) presented and served on a panel at the **MORPC Summit on Sustainability**, highlighting her community garden project supported by the Youth Climate Action Fund Grant, alongside sharing about Growing to Green's role in building stronger, more sustainable communities.



URBAN GARDEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY UPDATE

It has been one month since the launch of the Urban Garden Leadership Academy, and the program is going strong, empowering our urban garden leaders and building skills for the future.

In September, participants explored key topics including food systems, policy, zoning, and land access. They also learned how to define and shape a garden's mission, purpose, goals, and objectives, while considering how to align layout and infrastructure with the garden mission and community needs. The month concluded with sessions on regenerative agriculture and Growing basics.

Looking ahead to October, we are excited to explore the future of urban gardening with technology and advanced growing techniques. Sessions will also focus on community engagement and volunteering, as well as using social media and data-based storytelling to increase visibility and impact.

We are especially grateful to all of the instructors, including representatives from the City of Columbus, who have dedicated their time and expertise. UGLA is made possible by the generous contributions of people who are committed to strengthening and supporting our community.



A LOOK BACK AT LAST MONTH'S COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS

Fall Garden Clean-Up with Cindy Maravich

Last month's Fall Garden Clean-Up class, guiding participants on how fall practices set the stage for a successful spring garden. The session covered hands-on strategies for preparing gardens for winter while promoting ecological health. Participants learned to remove invasive plants, sow a variety of cool-season crops, including arugula, lettuce, spinach, bokchoy, kale, collards, kohlrabi, radishes, turnips, beets, and carrots and experiment with season-extending techniques like cold frames.

The class also emphasized the ecological importance of leaving perennials standing and preserving leaf litter, which provide critical overwintering habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects such as bees, moths, butterflies, and beetles. Attendees explored best practices for managing invasive species, preventing overwintering pests, and maintaining a balanced garden environment through the colder months.

Overall, the session highlighted a holistic approach to gardening that balances food production with ecological stewardship, ensuring gardens remain productive, healthy, and resilient year-round.



Wrapping Up the Growing to Green Community Volunteering Season

We are wrapping up our **Growing to Green Community Volunteering** for the season, with just two corporate events remaining. This year, we had an amazing outcome, hosting 20 volunteer events across different parts of the city and providing wonderful opportunities to support our local gardens. On average, 10 volunteers attended each event, including families, friends, schools, and community organizations.

Our last publicly shared event took place last week at the LSS Food Pantry Community Farm, where we harvested the final rounds of summer crops and prepared the garden for a successful fall growing season.

We are excited to start planning for next year, aiming to engage even more gardens and volunteers to support our community. Keep an eye out for invitations to sign up your garden! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and to all the gardens that welcomed us—your trust and collaboration made this season possible.

Current Projects

Don't Miss This Month's Community Garden Class!

Grow Your Garden Beyond Vegetables

Explore Ohio's native plants and discover how some "weeds" can be harvested for food. Learn how to incorporate native species into your garden to benefit both your harvest and the local ecosystem.

Instructor: Rick Gardner, Chief Botanist, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Rick Gardner has over 30 years of experience studying Ohio's flora and natural areas. He leads the Ohio Natural Heritage Section and conducts research on native plants, invasive species, and rare ecosystems across the state.

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Location: Wells Barn

All Ages | Free

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Growing to Green

FREE COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS

NATIVES FOR YOUR BEDS



Grow your garden beyond vegetables, and consider incorporating some of Ohio's native plants! Learn more about native plants that can produce food, and even what "weeds" you might be able to utilize in a harvest.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
6:00 - 7:30 PM | WELLS BARN
1851 E BROAD ST, COLUMBUS, OH 43205

REGISTER HERE



INSTRUCTOR: RICK GARDNER, ODNR

Rick Gardner is currently the chief botanist for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Rick has been studying Ohio's flora and natural areas for over 30 years. He has spent most of his career in the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves but has worked for the Division of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy of Ohio. Rick leads the Ohio Natural Heritage Section with the Division which tracks Ohio's rare flora and plant communities. Rick has authored or co-authored peer-reviewed articles on Ohio's flora. He holds a Bachelor of Co-Science Degree in Botany from Miami University.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

GROWING TO GREEN *Harvest Awards*

OCTOBER 9 | 5:30-7:30 PM | WELLS BARN

Awards & Garden Anniversary
recognitions presented at
Harvest Award Ceremony

RSVP BY SCANNING THE QR CODE BELOW!



The Growing to Green Harvest Awards honors the dedication and hard work of many Central Ohio communities and individuals within urban agriculture and community gardens.



[RSVP HERE](#)

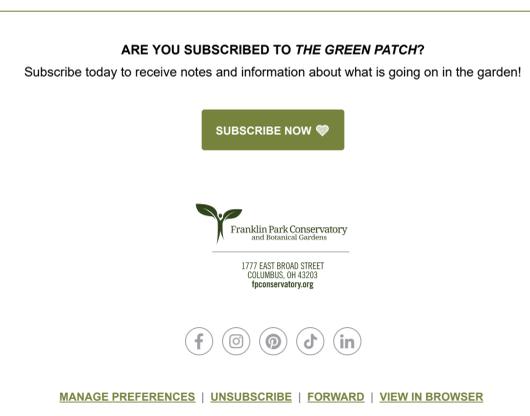
Looking Ahead!

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Growing to Green

Stay Tuned!

Community Garden Grant Application is Coming Soon!

This year, applications will open in the fall—so start preparing now. Don't miss this opportunity to support your garden's growth and impact.



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