



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROWING TO GREEN HARVEST AWARDS SET TO HONOR LOCAL GARDENERS

COLUMBUS, OH – On Thursday, October 8, 2026, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens will be hosting the annual Growing to Green Harvest Awards Ceremony. The harvest awards are a recognition of the resilience and growth of community garden projects across Central Ohio, and the gardeners who steward them.

State Rep. Christine Cockley is the featured speaker for the evening. The Franklin County Local Food Council, a grassroots organization dedicated to collaboration within the Franklin County food system, is collaborating with Growing to Green to host the Harvest Awards Art Show.

In recent years, the Harvest Awards ceremony has shifted focus from individual garden and gardener awards to garden anniversaries. Two awards are still presented to outstanding youth and community leaders through the Paul B. Redman Youth Leadership Award and the Bill Dawson Community Gardener of the Year Award. This year, over 50 gardens were invited to celebrate their garden anniversary and be recognized for their work.

Working in collaboration with the Franklin County Local Food Council, Growing to Green will be hosting an art show during the Harvest Awards ceremony. The art show will center around the theme *Unseen Roots: How Food Connects Us All*. The collaboration between the two organizations displays the importance of community gardens and urban agriculture in our urban and suburban food system.

The Harvest Awards ceremony will be held on **Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 5:30 to 7:30pm**. The ceremony is being hosted in Wells Barn, located at 1851 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio, 43205. The event is open to the public.

Growing to Green was founded 26 years ago and has since supported over 300 community gardens throughout the central Ohio area. Growing to Green, in addition to the Harvest Awards, is made possible thanks to support from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Franklin Park Conservatory Women's Board, Giant Eagle, GreenScapes Landscape Company, the Hinson Family Trust, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation in cooperation with the Bowden Family, the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program Capstone Cohort, a collaborative initiative of the U.S. Botanic Garden, the American



Public Gardens Association, and Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest, and the Whole Foods Market Foundation.

For more details, please visit fpconservatory.org and follow the Conservatory on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [TikTok](#).

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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers world-class horticulture, art and nature-based exhibitions, and educational programs for all ages. Situated on 40 acres on the eastern side of Franklin Park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House; four biomes of plants in glasshouses; botanical gardens including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden; and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory is also home to the largest collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly in a botanical garden.