



For Immediate Release
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Growing to Green Hub Gardens host Open Gardens Tour on August 3, 2013

Columbus, OH— 12 community gardens throughout Columbus and Franklin County will open their gardens on Saturday, August 3, 10am–2pm, for public tours. These gardens are members of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' Growing to Green Hub Gardens Initiative.

Anyone interested in community gardening, or simply curious about the activity of these thriving neighborhood hubs, is encouraged to visit one or all of the gardens on this self-guided, open tour. Community gardeners and volunteers will be on site at each garden to welcome visitors and answer questions. Children's activities and gardening demonstrations will take place at select gardens.

About the Conservatory's Growing to Green Hub Gardens:

The Conservatory's Growing to Green program has assisted in the start-up or renovation of more than 250 community gardens throughout central Ohio. In April, 2012, the Conservatory identified 12 of those gardens to serve as gardening education centers and inspirational resources for anyone interested in community gardening. These well-established gardens and urban farms excel in serving their neighborhood by providing increased access to fresh, healthy food, and developing programs for youth education, job training, and cultural enrichment. The Hub Garden Initiative is sponsored by J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

Open Garden Tour Locations

1.) Franklinton Gardens

902 W. Rich Street, Columbus, OH 43223

Franklinton Gardens opened in 2007 to promote local food access, job training for the homeless and plots for Franklinton residents. They now have six garden locations and a high tunnel greenhouse. They sell their organic produce to local restaurants and at a neighborhood market stand that accepts EBT cards.

Contact: Ashley Laughlin, Garden Leader, ashley.laughlin@franklintongardens.org

www.franklintongardens.org

www.facebook.com/pages/Franklinton-Gardens/118743081475691

2.) Mid-Ohio Food Bank Community Garden

3960 Brookham Drive, Grove City, OH 43123

This 1,400 square-foot garden features a rain catchment system, greenhouse and composting area and provides over 3,700 lbs. of produce annually for food bank clients. Families in need can attend hands-on educational programs to learn about gardening and nutrition.

Contact: Katie Minter, Garden and Cooking Demonstration Coordinator–VISTA,

kminter@midohiofoodbank.org

www.facebook.com/midohiofoodbank

3.) Four Seasons City Farm

1101 Bryden Road Columbus, OH 43205 (Old First Presbyterian Church)

Four Seasons City Farm is a network of eight community gardens on the Near East Side committed to renewing its neighborhood and creating a self-sustaining and cooperative food system. In addition to providing fresh food for neighbors and food pantries, City Farm sells its produce at farmers' markets and to local grocers and restaurants.

Contact: Margaret Ann Samuels, fourseasonscityfarm@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/FourSeasonsCityFarm

4.) Highland Youth Garden

69 South Highland Avenue, Columbus, OH 43223

Hilltop residents, faith-based community groups, local non-profit groups, and youth programs collaborated to establish this successful west-side garden. Hundreds of youth from the neighborhood, day care centers, and local schools visit the garden annually for hands-on nutrition and garden education programming.

Contact: Peggy Murphy, Garden Leader, psmurphy@wowway.com
www.facebook.com/pages/Highland-Youth-Garden/157164387682173

5.) St. Vincent dePaul Family Life Garden

2875 E. Livingston Avenue Columbus, OH 43209 (Behind Bishop Griffin Center)

This garden was established to strengthen community ties and bonds among neighbors while supplementing the on-site food pantry. It provides a space for Hispanic neighbors to garden and share their culture through food. Educational and culinary programs are offered throughout the year.

Contact: Marge Telerski, Garden Leader, rtelerski3318@wowway.com

6.) Upper Arlington Lutheran Church Community Garden

3500 Mill Run Dr, Hilliard, OH 43026

With a focus on maximizing crop production, this community garden generates more than 10,000 pounds of produce annually to be donated to various hunger relief programs. The garden uses companion planting techniques and has developed an efficient method of sequencing crops for a longer growing season.

Contact: Todd Marti, Garden Leader, todd-kelly@columbus.rr.com

7.) International Harvest Garden

1919 Frank Road Columbus, OH 43223 (Behind Children's Services Bldg.)

Spearheaded by the Franklin County Commissioners, this garden provides plots for individuals to grow their own fruits and vegetables while mingling with and learning from other gardeners. The garden receives strong participation from Columbus' Bantu Somali and Burmese communities.

Contact: Beth Miglin, Garden Leader, miglin1@mac.com
www.FranklinCountyOhio.gov/Commissioners/Community-Gardens

8.) Ganther's Place

Vegetable Garden & Stage

573 Whittier Street Columbus, OH 43206

Dedicated in 2011, this garden produces cabbage, squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, and strawberries in raised beds, and is also the setting for a Jazz and Arts Festival and other social events.

Ganthers Place Park for All People

566 Reinhard Avenue, Columbus, OH 43206

Dedicated in 2008, this park features a memorial garden, perennial beds, solar lights, a sound system, and a Juliana Greenhouse. This park hosts several social and performing arts events throughout the year.

Contacts: Allan Carrel & Ken Williams, Garden Leaders, info@ganthersplace.com
www.ganthersplace.com

9.) Weinland Park Community Garden at Godman Guild

303 East Sixth Avenue Columbus, OH 43201

Established in 2005, this garden offers a greenhouse and plots for residents to grow their own food and provides educational and training opportunities for local teens. The garden is enjoyed by the entire community at a place of beauty. Free garden programming and classes are held in the garden.

Contact: Amber Rollie, Garden Leader, garden@godmanguild.org
www.godmanguild.org/youth-family-services/garden/

10.) New Harvest Café Ama Vera's Garden

2455 Cleveland Ave Columbus, OH 43211

Dedicated in 2003 as "Ama Vera's Garden, this garden was named in memory of Vera Breckenridge, a resident of the greater Linden area who was killed near the garden. While developing a local, sustainable food source, the leaders of this garden use urban farming as a tool for community development, including agricultural education and training for local youth.

Contacts: Kwodwo Ababio, Executive Director, kababio@aol.com

Tress Augustine, Garden Manager, act-tress@live.com

www.facebook.com/#!/pages/New-Harvest-Cafe-Urban-Art-Center/120229157988766?fref=ts

11.) Epworth Veggie Garden at Epworth United Methodist Church

5100 Karl Rd. Columbus, OH 43229

Established as a pantry garden for the church, this project provides an opportunity for the congregation's youth to learn about gardening and nutrition while performing community service. It has spawned several remote garden sites and welcomes children from local pre-schools and day care centers.

Contact: Susannah Evans, Garden Manager, susannahevans@hotmail.com

12.) Native American Indian Center (NAICCO) Community Garden

67 East Innis Avenue Columbus, OH 43207

In addition to growing produce for an on-site food pantry, this garden grows cultural crops and ceremonial plants for the Native American community. A large mural is featured on the building adjacent to the garden. The garden's goal is to create an outdoor space where Native Americans can gather and hold social and cultural events.

Contacts: Tyrone and Masami Smith, wascoino@sbcbglobal.net

www.naicco1975.org

www.facebook.com/4NAICCO

About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens features plant collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory's Growing to Green program has assisted central Ohio community gardens since 2000 and has provided resources to more than 250 community gardens, schools gardens, and neighborhood beautification projects throughout the area.

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