



Growing to Green

The Columbus Green Patch

[Harvest Awards](#) Applications and Nominations are now open! | [VIEW IN BROWSER](#)



MEET A COMMUNITY GARDEN

FRANKLIN AVENUE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Franklin Avenue Community Garden was created in 2016, on a vacant and neglected lot on the near eastside of Columbus. Anisa Ahmad, the garden facilitator graduated from The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program that same year and saw a need for a safe and visually pleasing space to grow food and build community for the neighbors.

Today, Franklin Avenue Community Garden is an organic, sustainable garden, and provides a multi-generational, diverse, and inclusive space for people to gather, boost well-being, and build community through contact with Mother Earth, growing, education, art, music, dance, food, conversation, play, and laughter.

With so much focus today on mental health, community gardens have become more than growing spaces. Community Gardens also bolsters creativity in planting, harvesting, and working with others, using available resources. Tapping into one's creativity boosts mental well-being.

The garden grows fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Recycled pots and gardening resources are available to growers.

Franklin Avenue Community Garden is a proud advocate of the Save Soil movement, which was launched by Sadhguru, a renowned spiritual leader. This global initiative aims to combat the soil crisis by uniting people around the world to advocate for soil health and to encourage world leaders to implement national policies that increase the organic content of cultivable soil. The community garden is dedicated to raising awareness about the Save Soil movement in Columbus.



2024 TEEN CORPS END OF YEAR WRAP UP

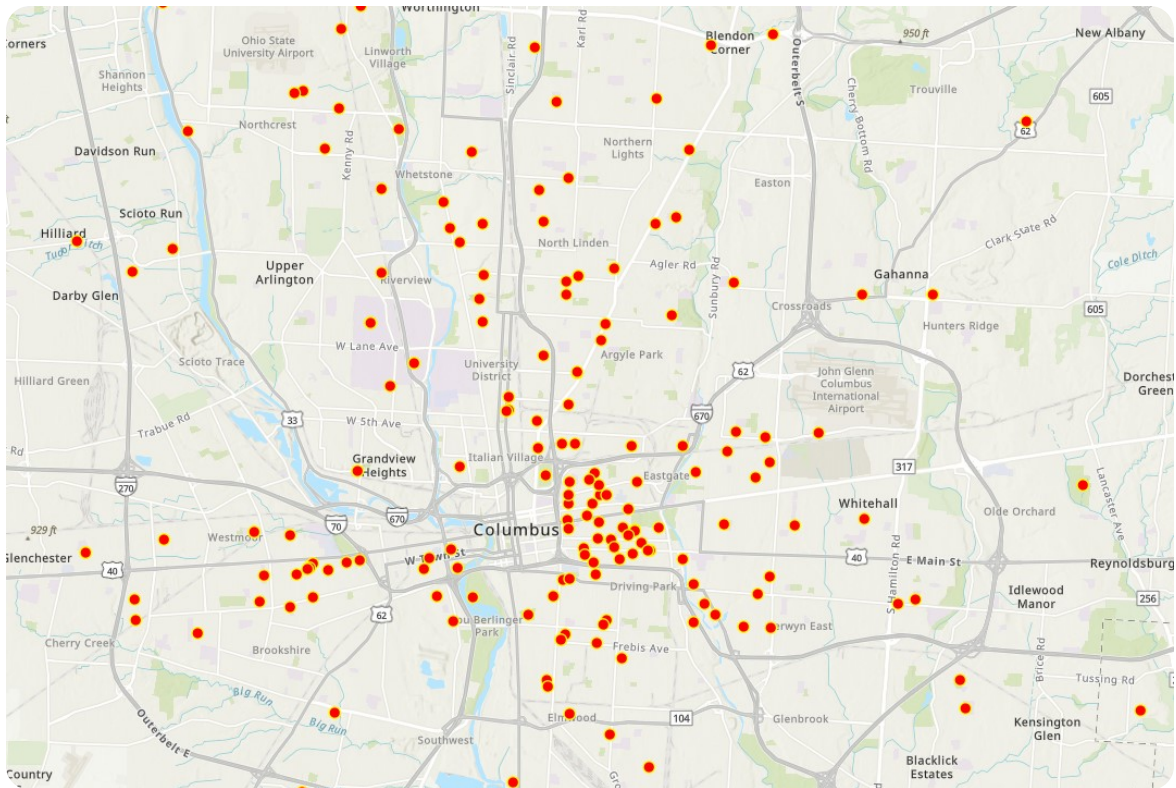
This summer has provided an immersive experience for our 23 Teen Corps participants! They have been actively engaged in a variety of activities, including managing a booth at the Franklin Park Conservatory's Farmers Market and tending to their own market garden, where they've grown and harvested fresh produce. Additionally, they've collaborated with our Horticulture teams, gaining valuable insights into the care of ornamental plants, and supported camp leaders by guiding campers in crafts, cooking, and engaging play.

Teen Corps is a transformative summer program designed for eligible teens, offering a high-impact, community-supported experience that fosters essential life and work skills. Through engaging in hands-on activities in urban farming, participants not only learn valuable skills but also connect with their community and the environment.

They've also embraced the culinary arts by preparing delicious vegetable-based meals and snacks, such as herbed bread and sautéed sweet potato leaves!

Most importantly, our teens are learning the significance of caring for themselves and their community. Through volunteering, they are exploring how to create a positive impact on the world around them by participating in activities focused on recycling, composting, and reducing food waste.

"I loved Teen Corps! This was my second summer being a part of it and I really enjoyed learning more about gardening as well as making many new friends. I will carry the memories that I made here with me for the rest of my life. I strengthened various skills that I will take with me such as teamwork, taking initiative, leading, entrepreneurship, etc. I will truly miss everyone here, and I hope that future teens have as much fun as I did during my time in the program." JB



COMMUNITY GARDEN MAPPING INITIATIVE

Franklin Park Conservatory's Growing to Green program, in partnership with key community organizations, is excited to unveil a pioneering community garden map that acts as a vital resource for our local food systems.

This innovative map, crafted using advanced ARC GIS mapping software alongside an integrated online survey, currently highlights 205 registered gardens that collectively yield an impressive estimated 125,000 pounds of produce each year. However, this is just the beginning; many more gardens are yet to be represented. Growing to Green is inviting all community gardens to complete the survey and enhance this essential resource.

To add your community garden to the map, simply fill out the linked survey. Please note that only gardens designated as public will be visible on the map, enabling administrators to share valuable resources and upcoming events with these spaces. Completing the survey takes just 2-3 minutes!

All participants will be entered to win a **FREE** family membership to Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MAP](#)



COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS

CHECK OUT THE FREE COMMUNAL GARDEN CLASS SERIES

This free class series is open to all in the community and is part of larger Conservatory initiatives that build capacity, knowledge, and enthusiasm for the joys of gardening. To learn more about all the ways that the Conservatory supports community gardeners, check out our Growing to Green program and discover how you can get involved!

UTILIZING INVASIVES: AUGUST 13, 6–7:30 PM

Invasive plants are often viewed as a menace in the garden. They can spread into and overtake our growing spaces, outcompete native species, and are often nearly impossible to remove. But not everything is lost when an unwanted plant makes its home in our gardens.

In this class, Joey Jaros, a PhD student at The Ohio State University will cover tips and tricks to help our gardens flourish in the face of invasive species. We will first cover methods to deal with existing invasive plants in your garden, with a focus on managing plants ecologically to maximize the benefits of these unwanted plants and minimize the impact of their removal. We will then learn some tips and tricks to prevent new invasives on our properties, before discussing how to garden responsibly to avoid escapes of our garden plants into natural areas.

[LEARN MORE](#)



HARVEST AWARDS

APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR 2024!

All applications and nominations must be complete and submitted **by Thursday, August 15th at 11:59pm**. Award winners will be announced at the Harvest Awards Ceremony on **Thursday, September 26th, 2024 at 6pm** in the Wells Barn at Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Save the Date!

[LEARN MORE](#)



CONSERVATORY FARMERS MARKET

3:30–6:30 PM WEDNESDAYS

JUNE 5–SEPTEMBER 11

IN THE WELLS BARN PARKING LOT

Vendors offer a mix of local produce, baked goods, specialty foods, handmade items, and health & beauty products. EBT is accepted for all qualifying purchases and incentive dollars through the Produce Perks Columbus program for fresh produce are offered for all EBT participants.

Wednesday, August 14th will be the WIC Farmers Market! Eligible WIC participants are issued FMNP (Farmers Market Nutrition Program) coupons. These coupons can be used to buy eligible foods from farmers, farmers markets or roadside stands that have been approved by the state agency to accept FMNP coupons.

Markets will occur if it rains but will be canceled in the case of dangerous weather:

high winds, lightning, or extreme heat.

[LEARN MORE](#)



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities within the community? Growing to Green's Community Connections program is for anyone interested in volunteering within community garden spaces throughout Central Ohio. Experienced Growing to Green staff will be on-site with expertise and guidance. No garden experience is needed. This is a great opportunity to give back to your community and learn about all of the cool and impactful gardens in our neighborhoods. **Volunteers must sign up individually.**

August 20th, 9-11 am: [Highland Youth Garden](#)

August 28th, 10-12 pm: [Daily Bread Community Produce Garden at GRIN](#)

LEARN MORE

The Growing to Green team welcomes inspirational stories, art, and artistic expression. Please send submissions to growingtogreen@fpconservatory.org.

Local Gardening Events

FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING FOR GARDENERS IN CENTRAL OHIO



[VIEW BULLETIN BOARD](#)



DINING IN THE DIASPORA

Join Julialynne Walker, Certified Farmers Market Manager of Bronzeville Growers Market, for a culinary trip through Africa, the Caribbean and North America that explores similarities in dishes, plants and cooking techniques.

In this 6-week, hands-on cooking class series, participants will be exposed to plants that are the basis of key dishes in West, East and Southern Africa, as well as across the Atlantic in the Caribbean and North America. Together we will prepare tasting menus based on a primary dish, a drink and a dessert.

When: Mondays, 5:30-7 pm in the demonstration kitchen

Location: 1600 E Long St, Columbus, OH 43203

Dates: August 12,19 and 26 and September 16

[LEARN MORE](#)



Franklin Park Conservatory
and Botanical Gardens

1777 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43203
fpconservatory.org



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