

The Columbus Green Patch

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Meet a Community Garden

THE CHARLES MADISON NABRIT MEMORIAL GARDEN.

By Paula Penn-Nabrit

My husband, "CMadison", died May 20, 2013. For 36 years, 8 months, and 22 days we worked to create a "two shall be one" marriage. We parented, homeschooled, and built a thriving business in that space of oneness. His death was painful, for me, our sons, and our entire family. After getting permission from The Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith, home to a congregation formed 110+ years ago by descendants of formerly enslaved Africans in America, our three sons, four maternal nephews, and niece, all 5th generation Africans, spent the summer of 2014 constructing the garden as free grief therapy. We later learned USDA Economic Research Service identified our zip code as a "low-income low-access urban food desert." Addressing the issue of food insecurity was the impetus for our #OnePoundOneDollar Farmer's Market. A decade later, the market and the \$1lb pricing continue!

While now a large, 5K sq ft space, the garden remains a biodiverse, organic space of peace and holistic health. We start from seed and grow flowers, fruits, herbs, and vegetables. We create compost and rely on integrative pest management rather than chemical pesticides. We partner with the College of Engineering at The Ohio State University in the development and maintenance of our Farmbot, Hydroponic System, and Solar Energy components. We've expanded our seasonal on-site Farmer's Market by partnering with Richland Gro-Op, a farming cooperative in Mansfield, OH. And except for the COVID years, we've hosted a free, weeklong summer day camp, STEM-to-STEAM. It's All in the Garden each summer. This year we had 40 campers, ages 5-15!

The elements of "Increase", the core of the mission that evolved from our grief have remained constant. We use hashtags for clarity. Increase Spiritual and Cultural Awareness of Gardening, #HeStartedUsinaGardenForaReason and #WeWereBroughtHereToCultivate;

Increase Access to Affordable, Organic Produce, #OnePoundOneDollar;

Increase Children's Access to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, #STEM2STEAMitsAllintheGarden

I am one of three Garden Co-Managers. The other two are our eldest sons, twins Charles Nabrit, Director of The Academy for Urban Scholars, and Damon Nabrit, Doctoral Student at Methodist Theological School of Ohio. Both are homeschool and Princeton alumni. They also, in collaboration with Dr. David Delain, Dr. Chris Ratcliff, Dr. Nathan Harris, and me authored "Factors that Promote Reciprocity within Community-Academic Partnership Initiation". It was published in December 2022, in the International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement.

Receiving the 2024 Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award for Education and Leadership at this year's Growing to Green Harvest Awards hosted by Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens was a wonderful and fitting end of the season for our entire team of volunteers!

2024 Green Teen Alliance Conference

Join us for the Columbus Green Teen Alliance Conference!

This exciting event brings together partners dedicated to supporting teens and tweens (grades 6-12) in urban agriculture with interests in environmental careers, food systems, horticulture, and sustainability. Attendees will enjoy a day filled with career exploration, and engaging panels featuring students, educators, and environmental professionals.

Don't miss this chance to connect and grow!



Scholarship opportunities

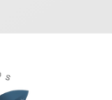


Network



Learn About Urban Ag Careers

REGISTER HERE



• Saturday, October 19th
9:30-4:30 PM

• The Wells Barn
1851 E Broad St,
Columbus, OH 43205

• Middle School and High school Students

The Green Teen Alliance Conference is supported by



REGISTER HERE



Community Garden Grant

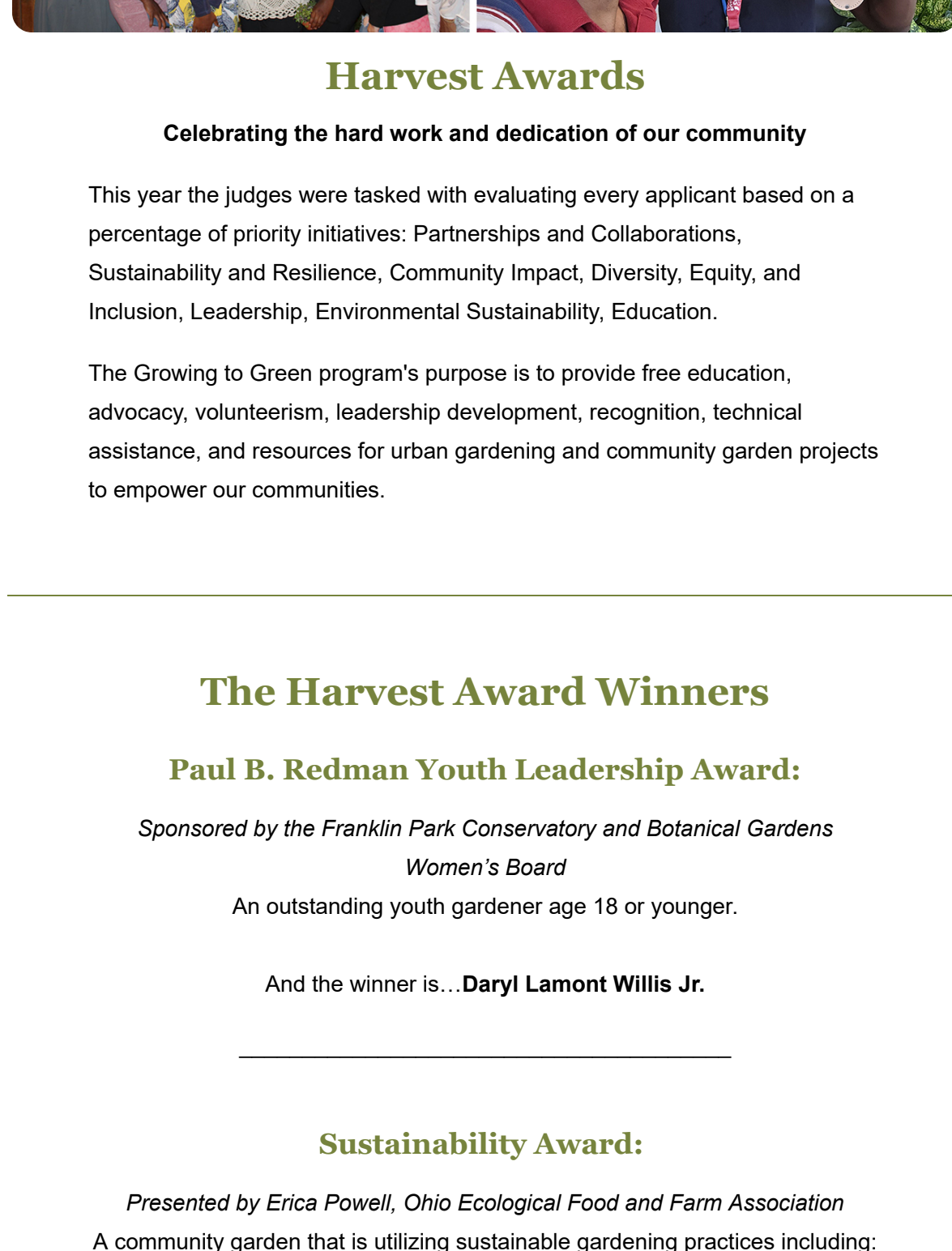
The Community Garden Grant timing is moving to Q1 of 2025 to allow gardeners to finish the 2024 season and allow our partners more time to secure funding. The application will open January 31, 2025 and the deadline will be February 28, 2025.

For past grantees, final reports are due November 29, 2024. Grantees will receive an email one month prior to the final report deadline with the link to submit their final report. Final report questions can be viewed [here](#). Photos of past grantee gardens are not necessary, but appreciated. Photos can be emailed to scoffman@columbusfoundation.org.

Communal Garden Class Series

CHECK OUT THESE FREE CLASSES!

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!



Fall Garden Clean-Up: October 15, 6-7:30pm

To leave the leaves or not--end of season garden clean up can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be! Create a checklist of the major fall garden tasks you must do to set yourself up for success next spring while learning about incorporating sustainable garden practices such as leaving leaf litter. Not only will it save you the task of raking endlessly, but there are benefits to your yard and local wildlife by letting the leaves lie.

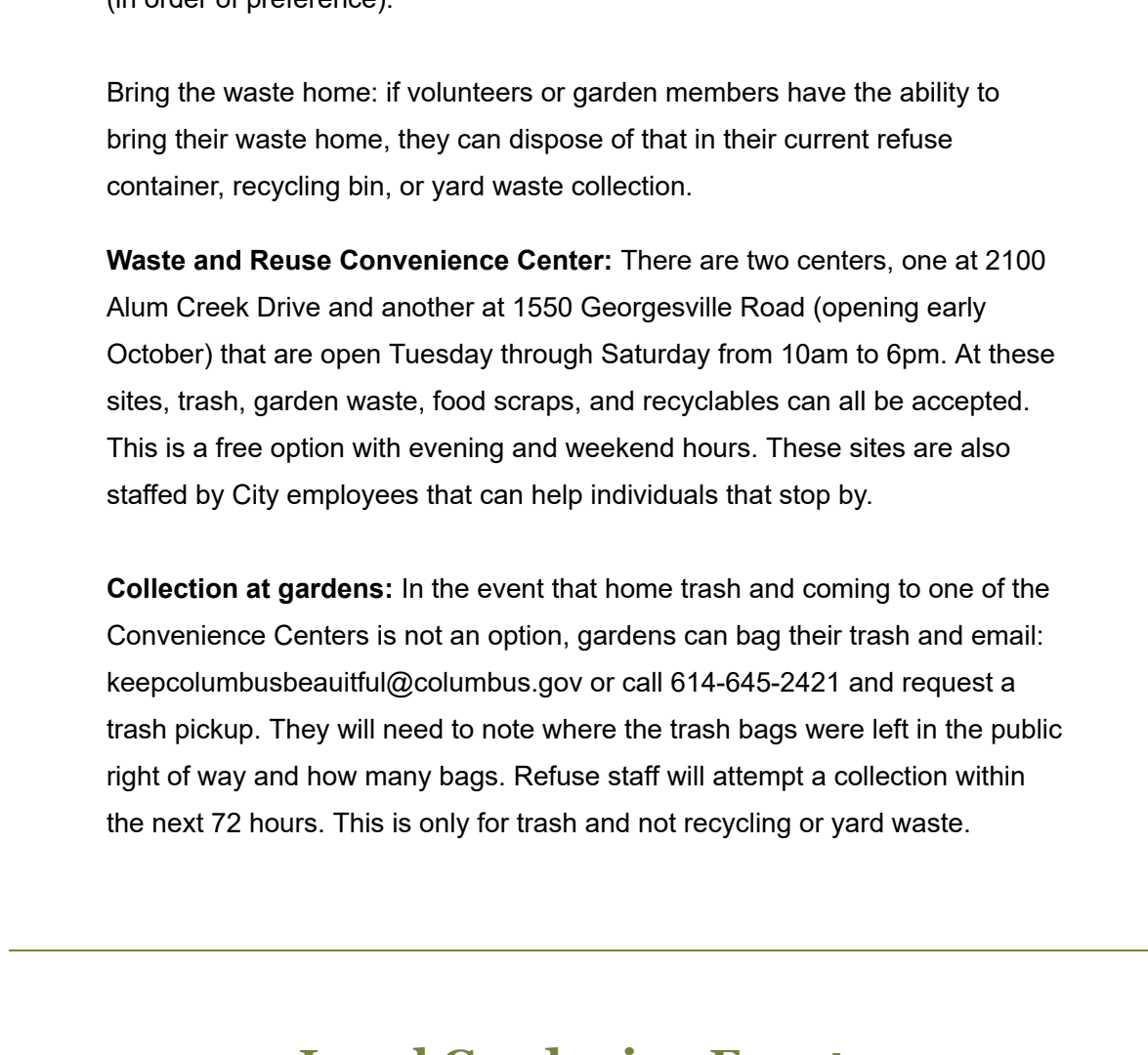
LEARN MORE



Compost 101: Sunday, November 3, 1-3pm

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LEARN MORE



Harvest Awards

Celebrating the hard work and dedication of our community

This year the judges were tasked with evaluating every applicant based on a percentage of priority initiatives: Partnerships and Collaborations, Sustainability and Resilience, Community Impact, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Leadership, Environmental Sustainability, Education.

The Growing to Green program's purpose is to provide free education, advocacy, volunteerism, leadership development, recognition, technical assistance, and resources for urban gardening and community garden projects to empower our communities.

The Harvest Awards Winners

Paul B. Redman Youth Leadership Award:

Sponsored by the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Women's Board
An outstanding youth gardener age 18 or younger.

And the winner is... **Daryl Lamont Willis Jr.**

Sustainability Award:

Presented by Erica Powell, Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
A community garden that is utilizing sustainable gardening practices including:

- community-building activities
- sustainable garden design
- utilization of green practices
- has proven sustainable over the long term

And the winner is... **Van Buren Center Community Garden of Hope**

The Community Collaboration Project of the Year:

Presented by LaVanya Watkins, President of The Garden Club Project
To better reflect the importance of community when improving a neighborhood. Awarded to a Community Garden, Urban Farm, park, gateway, streetscape, school or other community beautification project.

And the winner is... **Salem Garden Collaborative**

Education Garden of the Year Award:

Presented by Shelly Casto, Executive Director, Highland Youth Garden
A school or other organization that utilizes garden projects for educational purposes.

And the winner is... **State Street Courtyard Garden**

Community Garden of the Year Award:

Presented by Su Lok, Principal of Three Rivers East, LLC
An outstanding neighborhood gardening project for beautification and /or food production.

And the winner is... **Garden for All**

The Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award for Education & Leadership:

Presented by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and the Bowden Family
A community garden that has shown significant impact on the health and vitality of its community in one of three areas:

- Children's Education
- Job Training
- Celebrating Culture

The winner is... **The Charles Madison Nabrit Memorial Garden**

The Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award for Wellness & Health:

Presented by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and the Bowden Family
A community garden that has shown significant impact on the health and vitality of its community while developing connections to:

- Nutrition
- Wellness
- And/or Food Production

The winner is... **The Patrick Kaufman Memorial Learning Garden**

The Bill Dawson Community Gardener of the Year Award

Presented by Bill Gerhardt, President GreenScapes Landscape Company
A person who is exceptionally dedicated to his/her neighborhood garden and /or the movement of community gardening in Central Ohio.

The winner is... **Ms. Julialynne Walker**

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

A message from the City of Columbus Dept of Public Service – Division of Refuse

For community gardens in the City of Columbus that need to dispose of food scraps, yard/garden waste, recyclables, and/or trash, we have a few options (in order of preference):

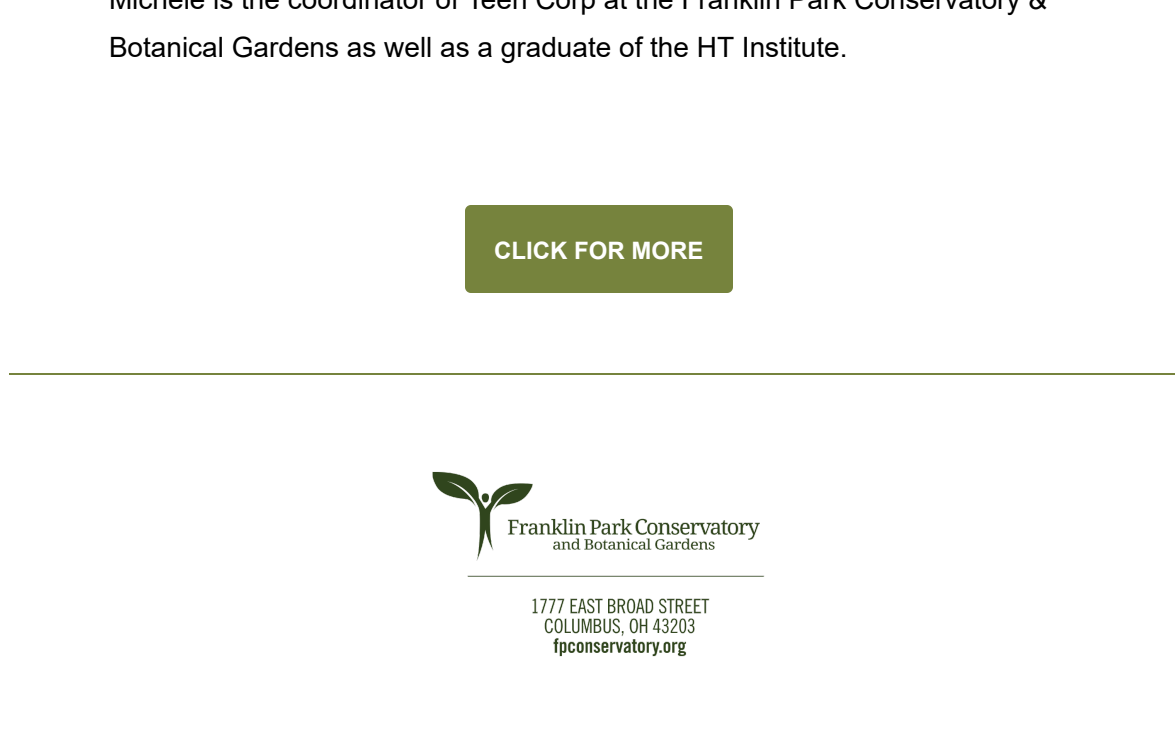
Bring the waste home: If volunteers or garden members have the ability to bring their waste home, they can dispose of that in their current refuse container, recycling bin, or yard waste collection.

Waste and Reuse Convenience Center: There are two centers, one at 2100 Alum Creek Drive and another at 1550 Georgesville Road (opening early October) that are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm. At these sites, trash, garden waste, food scraps, and recyclables can all be accepted. This is a free option with evening and weekend hours. These sites are also staffed by City employees that can help individuals that stop by.

Collection Centers: In the event that home trash and coming to one of the Convenience Centers is not an option, gardeners can bag their trash and email: keepcolumbusbeautiful@columbus.gov or call 614-645-2421 and request a trash pickup. They will need to note where the trash bags were left in the public right of way and how many bags. Refuse staff will attempt a collection within the next 72 hours. This is only for trash and not recycling or yard waste.

Local Gardening Events

FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING FOR GARDENERS IN CENTRAL OHIO



VIEW BULLETIN BOARD



Best wishes to Lauren!

Earlier this month, we bid farewell to Lauren, who served as the Growing to Green Educator. She has transitioned to the role of Market Manager at Winchester Farm Exchange. We sincerely appreciate all she has contributed to our organization and the community. We are confident that she will continue to make a positive impact in our community. In her new position, she will enhance the visibility and success of the farmers through the sale of their goods at the Farm Exchange.

Tips for Practice

Growing Green Futures: Working with Teens

By Michele Bailey

Check out this article from the Horticultural Therapy Institute's fall newsletter! Contributed by our own Michele Bailey

Michele is the coordinator of Teen Corp at the Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens as well as a graduate of the HT Institute.

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