



URBANROOTS

A COMMUNITY GARDENING TRAINING PROGRAM

2016

The Urban Roots Community Gardening Training Program is a 9-week hands-on course designed to teach community leaders core community organizing and horticulture skills. The course emphasizes organic methods and is designed for gardens that are producing food. In the last 11 years, almost 350 students have participated in Urban Roots, learning the skills needed to create and maintain strong, vibrant, and sustainable community gardens. These graduates have gone on to further their leadership roles in neighborhoods by leading workshops, hosting volunteer days, starting food entrepreneurship projects, and enhancing gardens all over the city. Urban Roots is open to residents of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck who demonstrate involvement and/or interest in community gardening in those cities. All applications will be considered. Class fees are \$75 for the entire 9 weeks and include all course materials. Limited full and partial scholarships are available to qualified applicants. Incentives will be provided to participants who attend at least 8 of the 9 classes, actively participate, and complete all Urban Roots assignments and a garden portfolio.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone (include area code): _____

This program is for individuals interested in COMMUNITY GARDENS. A community garden is a shared space, serving a public good and is tended by a group of people rather than a single family or individual.

Are you currently involved with a community garden? Yes No

If you are currently active in a community garden:

What is the name of the garden? _____

Where is it located? _____

How long have you been involved? _____

If you are not currently active in a community garden:

Are you interested in starting one? Yes No

Do you have a specific location in mind for a new community garden? Yes No

If yes, where is the location? _____

Please describe your experience gardening or any other garden training you have received. Include any areas of specialization (vegetables, flowers, season extension, etc.).

Please list any previous volunteer or community work, including name of organization, supervisor, and phone number and/or email (does not necessarily need to be garden-related).

Why do you want to take this course?

Please describe your interests, hobbies and any other activities that you are involved with and/or have been involved with in the past (e.g. sports, artistic activities, crafts, fishing, gardening, swimming, etc).

Please tell us anything else about yourself or your interests that you feel is relevant.

Our Selection Criteria and Requirements

We will consider all applications; however, class size is limited. Participants will be selected from applicants who meet all or most of the following criteria:

- Resides in Detroit, Highland Park or Hamtramck or is associated with a garden in one of those cities
- Interested in starting or getting involved with a community garden
- Able to attend all of the Urban Roots classes
- Past or current participation in the Garden Resource Program
- Has experience in community gardening and/or relevant volunteer experience
- Enjoys working with diverse groups of people
- Willing to share information gained from Urban Roots classes with members of their community

Urban Roots Participant Agreement

I meet all or most of the criteria for becoming an Urban Roots participant (see above) and wish to enroll in the Urban Roots community gardening training program. I understand that if accepted into this program, I must attend at least eight of the nine classes to receive the incentives offered.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SCHEDULE

Urban Roots is a 9-week course. All classes are held Saturdays from 9AM – 2PM except the final graduation celebration held on Wednesday March 23rd, 5:30-8PM. Partial attendance is NOT an option. If you miss more than one class you will not be eligible to receive the incentives offered.

- Week 1 (Jan 30th): The Food System, Community Gardens and Introduction to Detroit Urban Agriculture**
- Week 2 (Feb 6th): Community Engagement and Choosing a Site**
- Week 3 (Feb 13th): Growing Vegetables, Part 1: Plant Biology and Basics of Growing Vegetables**
- Week 4* (Feb 20th): Growing Vegetables, Part 2: Transplant Production, Garden Planning and Maintenance**
- Week 5 (Feb 27th): Soils and Composting**
- Week 6 (Mar 5th): Garden Site Assessment and Design**
- Week 7 (Mar 12th): Garden Resource Mobilization**
- Week 8 (Mar 19th): Growing Urban Fruit and Garden Pest Management**
- Week 9 (Mar 23rd): Garden Portfolio Presentations and Celebration**

LOCATION

All classes are held at St. Peter & Paul Church, 3810 Gilbert, Detroit 48210 (near Michigan & Livernois in Southwest Detroit). *Week 4 will be held at Earthworks Urban Farm, 1264 Meldrum, Detroit, 48207. Maps and driving directions will be provided.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- Attend at least 8 of 9 classes to receive incentives and graduate, no class make-ups or excused absences.
- Active participation in classes. Classes are hands-on and include some outdoor activities.
- Complete required assignments.
- Complete Urban Roots Garden Portfolio.

INCENTIVES

- 2016 Membership to the Garden Resource Program (including seeds and plants).
- Priority soil testing for your community garden.
- Reference books, gardening supplies, Urban Roots t-shirt, and more!!!

FEE

The total cost for the 9-week course and printed text is \$75. Please make checks payable to Keep Growing Detroit. Persons who wish to withdraw from the class will receive a full refund if notification is sent by 5PM on January 22nd.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Limited full and partial scholarships are available for low-income households and may require a commitment of up to 4 hours of volunteer work. If you would like to apply, please submit a letter explaining why you should be considered for a scholarship with your completed application no later than January 15th. We will let you know if you have received a scholarship by January 22nd. Payment plans are also available upon request.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The completed application and fee are due no later than January 15th, 2016. Applications can be sent by mail to Keep Growing Detroit, 76 E. Forest Detroit, MI 48201 or by email to keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com. Completion of application does not guarantee a spot in the class. All applicants will be contacted by January 22, 2016.

CONTACT US

If you have questions or need further information, please call or email Lindsay Pielack at (313) 757-2635 or keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com.



The Urban Roots Community Gardener Training Program is made possible through the collaboration of many community-based organizations and residents. Urban Roots is coordinated by Keep Growing Detroit, an organization which exists to promote a food sovereign Detroit where the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroiters are grown by residents within the city's limits. For more information, please contact 313-757-2635, email keepgrowingdetroit@gmail.com, or visit www.detroitagriculture.net

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Creating a successful community garden takes more than just a “green thumb.” It also takes time, dedication, leadership, and organization. Often these elements are overlooked, and as a result, initial enthusiasm is lost and community gardens are short-lived. This nine-week comprehensive course provides participants with technical horticulture skills, knowledge, and practices to ensure a productive and abundant harvest and tools for community organizing and community resource mobilization to build and maintain successful and sustainable community gardens in the city.

THE FOOD SYSTEM, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND INTRODUCTION TO DETROIT URBAN AGRICULTURE (JAN 30th)

What role do community gardens play in our food system? Why do you want to start a community garden? Open your eyes to the wide world of community gardens and the roles that they play in our community. We'll dig into your ideas for starting a garden and share inspiration with a brief history of Detroit urban agriculture along with what's happening in the community today.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CHOOSING A SITE (FEB 6th)

Learn techniques to get people involved, ensure community support, and build effective leadership in your community garden. From the ground up, learn how to find and secure the best garden location that meets your needs. This class will share tools for community organizing as well as an introduction to current city policy and tips for starting a garden in the city.

GROWING VEGETABLES, PART 1: PLANT BIOLOGY AND BASICS OF GROWING VEGETABLES (FEB 13th)

Take a journey through the plant kingdom as we learn basic plant science and plant identification skills as it relates to growing food. We'll also learn the basics skills for growing vegetables, learning about plant families, seasonality and basic planting tips.

GROWING VEGETABLES, PART 2: TRANSPLANT PRODUCTION, PLANNING AND MAINTENANCE (FEB 20th)

Build on your basic garden knowledge by learning techniques for seed starting and plant propagation. We'll also continue honing skills for preparing garden beds, spacing and thinning techniques, crop rotation and non-chemical growing principles for healthy and thriving gardens. This class will be held at Earthworks Urban Farm to provide participants with hands on and practical experience as they learn these skills.

SOILS AND COMPOSTING (FEB 27th)

It all starts with the soil! Learn how to build the healthy soil you need to grow strong and successful gardens. This class will delve into differing soil types and their composition, garden fertility, soil testing, composting methods, and soil improvement techniques.

GARDEN SITE ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN (MAR 5th)

Dream big about your garden vision and then learn the principles and guidelines for site assessment and garden design to help you reach your goals. We'll dig deep into considerations for what will make a great site and then cover design skills, including plant selection, building permanent features (e.g. raised beds and pathways), planning thematic beds, and applying appropriate design for specific sites.

GARDEN RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (MAR 12th)

Assess the needs of your garden and explore the options for meeting these needs. This class will explore the world of funding opportunities for community-based projects. We'll learn to create a budget and the basics of searching for funding and putting together proposals to reach your goals.

GROWING URBAN FRUIT AND GARDEN PEST MANAGEMENT (MAR 19th)

There isn't a sweeter fruit than the one grown right in your own garden! Learn the skills to grow fruit well-suited to our Southeast Michigan climate. In this class, we'll also learn how to identify common garden insects (including pests and beneficials) and explore practical solutions to prevent and manage pest problems in an environmentally responsible way.

GARDEN PORTFOLIO PRESENTATIONS AND CELEBRATION (MAR 23rd)

Throughout the course, students will work to create a garden portfolio. The portfolio is a compilation of information, resources, and plans related to the participant's specific community garden site (including contact information, garden maps, garden records, photos, and many other garden-related items). The portfolio is a culmination of Urban Roots coursework and will continue to serve as a valuable tool after the course, helping to organize garden goals and plans, and ensuring support for community gardening efforts, including funding and community buy-in. At the celebration, students will share their garden portfolio and how they plan to apply their Urban Roots experience.