At our fourth meeting we had 4 gardens represented at this meeting: Mission Milby, Milby HS, Magnolia MSC, and Gallegos ES. We also had 3 representatives from Commissioner Garcia’s Office. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it out to this meeting. We hope you continue to support our efforts. Mr. Steve Stelzer gave us a great class over composting material and food waste management. If you would like the specific notes for these please contact our garden coordinator.

Next meeting
Wednesday, May 15th, 2019
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
At Lantrip Elementary
100 Telephone Rd

GARDEN WORK DAY/BLOCK PARTY
May 4th, 9 AM - 12 PM
Briscoe Elementary School

URBAN HARVEST
May 4th, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Urban Harvest: Hub Distribution
May 11th, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Urban Harvest: Adopt-a-Garden Volunteer Event/ Dig It Day!
May 11th, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Square Foot Gardening Class
May 29th, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
In the Garden: Summer Vegetable Planting Class

MCGovern Centennial Family Gardens
May 29th, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Starting a Community or School Garden Workshop
University of Houston-Downtown

Check out their website:
http://urbanharvest.org/events

MEETING NOTES FOR APRIL 17TH
At our fourth meeting we had 4 gardens represented at this meeting: Mission Milby, Milby HS, Magnolia MSC, and Gallegos ES. We also had 3 representatives from Commissioner Garcia’s Office. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it out to this meeting. We hope you continue to support our efforts. Mr. Steve Stelzer gave us a great class over composting material and food waste management. If you would like the specific notes for these please contact our garden coordinator.

Next May Meeting
May 4th, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Urban Harvest: Hub Distribution
May 11th, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Urban Harvest: Adopt-a-Garden Volunteer Event/ Dig It Day!
May 11th, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Square Foot Gardening Class
May 29th, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
In the Garden: Summer Vegetable Planting Class

At our next meeting we will continue to visit other East End gardens. This time we would like to have an envisioning meeting to prepare for the summer and next school year. We would like your input on the activities you would like G.R.E.E.N. to host or resources to provide. Please come in participate at this meeting as it will be a potluck this time around! Bring your favorite nutrient rich dish.

Rev. Paul Richards-Kuan shared:
"As some of the team has been brainstorming how to build on the block party idea but with a more sustainable approach, we found an interesting way that we want to merge some of our community garden work with our block parties. What I am working on now is trying to convince various churches in the East End to adopt a garden at each school and then have various congregations begin throwing block parties/garden work days.

At our last garden work day one of the churches I am involved in the showed up and we had a great time and somebody suggested inviting a friend who was a DJ to come out. Somebody else volunteered to bring some food and pretty soon the leaders who had been a part of it previously got together and realized that we had an interesting model sprouting up before us! So now I am thinking about how we can expand it."
I was thinking about gardening metaphors and came up with the parable of the mustard seed and thought, maybe we can shoot a video at the next garden work day/block party (or at a later date) and it can be a marketing tool for other churches to join up.”

Let’s support Rev. Paul in shooting this video at our next garden work day at Briscoe Elementary School May 4th. We believe this opportunity could grow interest and build service in our East End community!

**DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE SPACE FOR A FREE POLLINATOR GARDEN?**

Houston Wilderness is working on the “TEXAS MONARCH FLYWAY STRATEGY” (Texas MFS), a statewide effort to restore, increase and enhance Monarch habitat across four major regions in the state - all of which serve as critical links in the Monarch butterfly’s journey along the Central Flyway from Canada to Mexico and back every year. The Texas MFS also serves to protect habitat for other pollinators that are crucial to local ecosystems and agriculture. The four regions included in the program are: Gulf-Houston, South Texas, North Texas and Hill Country. The Texas MFS brings together multiple nonprofit, governmental and school-based organizations, including large-landscape areas across Texas, 30+ municipalities, 15+ county governments, multiple school districts and non-profit organizations.

The Gulf-Houston Monarch Flyway Strategy (MFS) was created as a collaborative region-wide effort focused on the preservation and creation of monarch butterfly and other pollinator habitat in the 8-county area in and around Greater Houston. The Strategy has 3 phases in urban, suburban and rural areas as well as long term sustainability and maintenance need. The Strategy focuses on 4 major key parts: 1) Habitat Conservation, 2) Education and Outreach, 3) Research, Monitoring & Job Creation, and 4) Partnership & Collaboration.

Please reach out to Jose Alducin at Jose@houstonwilderness.org for more information.

Also, Houston Wilderness is excited to announce a new “Careers in Conservation” scholarship program. A scholarship of $1,000 will be awarded to 5 promising individuals interested in pursuing both undergraduate and graduate-level work in an environmental field. Read more and download the application at http://houstonwilderness.org/mfs - Deadline is April 29, 2019.

**SALUD AMERICA! WROTE AN ARTICLE OF OUR G.R.E.E.N. EAST END WORK**

Salud America! is a national Latino-focused organization whose mission is to inspire people to drive community change for the health of Latino children and families. They wrote an article over our work in the East End featuring Jorge as the pilot of our collaborative. Check it out: https://salud-america.org/jorge-olvera-fights-food-swamps-with-community-gardens/

Jorge Olvera shares: “We had a fantastic article written by Salud America! about the work we are employing in the East End. Thank you for your arduous work to keep the GREEN Collaborative active and supporting each other these past few months. I am looking forward to our continued work to address childhood obesity and food access through gardening! The credit belongs to y’all!”
UPDATE OF WORK DAYS AT EAST END GARDENS

April 13th: At the Gallegos School Garden, Mr. Karim Alston had around 80 volunteers show up during their gardening day to lend a hand. They were able to build more garden beds and expand the garden. A mural was painted by Mr. Francisco Rodriguez and his students from Austin HS. This is one of the best turn outs we have seen yet. Special thanks to everyone who has assisted at this Garden Work Day/Block Party!

May 4th: Briscoe Elementary invites us to help restore and renovate their school garden! Volunteers are needed.

RESOURCES FOR YOUR GARDEN

Ms. Verdin, Milby HS shared:
Audubon Society is a garden vendor. Prices are very affordable (example: 42” tomato cage is only $3.42 and 4’ x 100’ landscape fabric $31.99 ; 2 gal watering can $9.89). They are not an approved HISD Vendor, but using PTO funds or grant money is accepted. https://www.audubon.org/

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM/EAST END FARMERS MARKET

Mr. Roy Rodriguez, from the East End Management District, is still offering the entrepreneurship opportunity for children involved in the school gardens to sell crops grown at the local East End Farmers Market. He can provide our own booth at the Farmers Market, where we will be able to organize a schedule to staff the booths through rotations from different schools. We would be able to sell produce, starter plants, seed pellets gathered from our gardens. Contact our garden coordinator if you and your students are interested in participating. http://eastendhouston.com/market/

READY FOR PLANTING

BEGINNING OF MAY:
- Amaranth, Leaf/Seed
- Bean (Mung), Seed
- Bean (Yardlong), Seed
- Bittermelon, Seed
- Buckwheat, Seed
- Cranberry Hibiscus, Seed or Plant
- Cilantro, Seed or Plant
- Cumin, Seed
- Epazote, Seed or Plant
- Fuzzy Gourd, Seed or Plant
- Ground Cherry, Seed
- Kangkong (Ono Choy), Seed
- Luffa, Seed, Plant or Sprout
- Millet (Proso), Seed
- New Zealand Spinach, Seed or Plant
- Oregano (Cuban), Plant
- Pea (Pigeon), Seed
- Peanuts, Seed
- Peppercorn (Black), Plant
- Rice, Seed or Plant
- Rosell (Jamaica), Seed or Plant
- Snake Gourd (Lao), Seed
- Sweet Potato, Transplant, Plant
- Sweet Potato Spinach, Plant
- Tindora (Ivy Gourd), Plant
- Wax Gourd, Seed Plant or Sprout

(Found on the Urban Harvest Planting Guide)

VISIT US!

Our name has changed on all social media. These are the updated links.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/G.R.E.E.NEastEnd/
Website: https://www.elcentrodecorazon.org/g-r-e-e-n/
Instagram: @G.R.E.E.N.EastEnd

CONTACT INFORMATION

JORGE OLVERA
Community Engagement Manager
jolvera@elcentrochc.org

KARIM ALSTON
HISD-Campus Garden Advocate
karim.alston@houstonisd.org

YARMILLA REYES
Garden Coordinator
yarmillareyes@gmail.com