

GROWING ROOTS EAST END NETWORK

5TH COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATE

URBAN HARVEST

LOW VOLUME IRRIGATION

JUNE 8TH FROM 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

DIG IN: ORGANIC GARDENING 101

JUNE 8TH, 9:30 - 11 AM
LEVY PARK GARDENS

STARTING A SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY GARDEN

JUNE 15TH, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

THE EDIBLE ACADEMY

3-DAY WORKSHOP

JUNE 18-20TH, 8 AM - 3:00 PM
GREGORY-LINCOLN EDUCATION CENTER

FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING CLASS

JULY 20TH, 9:30 AM - 12 PM
HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

BOKASHI-- WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

AUG. 10, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN

CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE:

[HTTP://URBANHARVEST.ORG/EVENTS](http://urbanharvest.org/events)

CHECK OUT THE TO DO LIST BUCHANAN'S HAS ON THEIR WEBSITE FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE:

[HTTPS://BUCHANANSPANTS.COM/HOUSTON-GARDENING-BY-MONTH/](https://buchanansplants.com/houston-gardening-by-month/)

OUR LINKS:

 [HTTPS://WWW.ELCENTRODECORAZON.ORG/G-R-E-E-N/](https://www.elcentrodecorazon.org/g-r-e-e-n/)

 [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/G.R.E.E.N.EASTEND/](http://www.facebook.com/g.r.e.e.n.eastend/)

 @G.R.E.E.N.EASTEND



MEETING NOTES FOR MAY 15TH

Our 5th meeting was an envisioning session that included topics to improve our gardening collaborative, as well as ways we can provide more assistance at these gardens. We had 6 gardens present who were able to share their thoughts on these topics. Overall, we plan to provide more support on our end. We will be including more information for you to receive more resources and build a proposal package to make it easier to apply for grants. At our meetings we plan to make each more interactive, including working in gardens with gardening experts. WE look forward to this starting in the Fall.

DO YOU THINK YOUR GARDEN COULD USE A CLEAN UP?

This summer we will continue to have garden work days within the week. We will be building a schedule of the gardens who would like to participate in these service days. We could come a day out of the week and clean out multiple gardens. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating, whether it be hosting it at your own garden or volunteering. Look out for those dates!

GARDENING MEETINGS IN 2019-2020

In the next school year we plan to combine meeting dates with work days. This will allow for more development opportunities for participants in our collaborative. We will be inviting gardening/ agricultural experts and work on different projects for your gardens. We would like to know which schools are interested in hosting these gardening days/meetings at your school. We will begin working on the schedule for August - December and get those dates out to you by the end of the summer. Please feel free to contact us if you know certain topics you would like to learn to make your gardens more productive. We currently have Organic Gardening, Composting, Pollinator Gardening, Vermiculture, and Fruit Tree Maintenance on our list.

MAKE YOUR GARDEN MORE INTERACTIVE OR A SANCTUARY

A topic discussed in the meeting included making your garden more marketable for your school and community. Being able to bring unique factors to your garden will begin to attract different groups of people. For example, some gardens are used as a tool to manage behavioral problems. Creating safe sanctuaries in your garden can allow the children in your garden to calm down and change their mentality or stress level. Including bird attractions, butterfly garden or even a flower labyrinth can increase visits to your garden and make it more productive and also increase support. Many grants look for unique projects to work in. Look for these opportunities and include these types of items in your proposals when searching for funding.

SHARE YOUR GARDEN STORY

What is your testimonial? Would you like to share the story of your productivity in gardening in this last year? Has this garden collaborative helped you or increased your interest in gardening in the East End. We would like to highlight your progress in our newsletters, but also on our website and social media. If you are interested in participating please let us know. We can come out to your garden for an interview or if you would like to send us a short description and photos of yourself including the garden we will gladly share them.

ARE YOU CONCERNED YOUR GARDEN COULD BE CONTAMINATED?

With the chemical exposure due to the chemical fires around the area, many of you have shown your concern for the the safety of your gardens. If these are part of your concerns, please reach out to Air Alliance. They are willing to come out to your garden and test your soil. Visit their website:

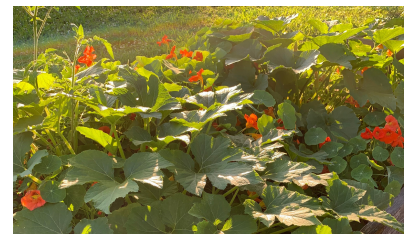
<http://airalliancehouston.org/>

WANT TO KEEP THE COMMUNICATION ALIVE DURING THE WEEK

Would you like to be included in a GroupMe chat? Want to keep in touch faster with people you have met through the collaborative? Share weekly updates of your garden or garden work days. Learn faster about activities occurring in the East End that can benefit your garden. Get reminders of events and work days faster. Contact our garden coordinator to be added or click on this link: https://groupme.com/join_group/50758142/a6eLfmQv

BECOMING A GARDEN COLLABORATIVE LEADER

We are still looking for others to get involved in the gardening collaborative planning. We would like high school students, even university students, to get involved and begin learning leadership skills by assisting in this collaborative. If you students are interested, please share this opportunity with them. We have a list of positions available. Let get the children more involved. If you would like to be apart of the leadership as well to guide these students and this collaborative reach out!



GRANTS

Texas Urban and Rural Conservation Projects

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) is accepting applications to establish gardens, rainwater harvesting systems and seasonal high tunnels through the Texas NRCS Urban and Rural Conservation Projects. These projects will help establish gardens to grow healthy produce in areas of need and to educate urban and rural youth, organizations, and communities about the importance of conservation, urban agriculture and growing healthy fresh vegetables.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/tx/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1459620>

USDA Investing in New On-Farm Trial Efforts

USDA is investing up to \$25 million per year over the next five years to help support the adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches on agricultural lands. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals through July 15, 2019, for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials (On-Farm Trials), a new, additional sub-program created by the 2018 Farm Bill for the USDA's Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. On-Farm Trials include a Soil Health Demo Trial, also created by the 2018 Farm Bill.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/tx/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1459623>

Find additional grant opportunities on the Healthy Living Matters document attached to our newsletter email. Or feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like support in applying for this grants.

SUMMER GARDENING

PLANTS THAT DO WELL:

EGGPLANTS
CANTALOUPE
OKRA
PEAS, SOUTHERN
PEPPER, PLANTS
SWEET POTATO
PUMPKIN
SUMMER SQUASH
WATERMELON
BUCKWHEAT
LEMON GRASS
ROSEMARY
SAGE

TIPS:

- TO REDUCE GROWTH OF WEEDS: COVER YOUR GARDEN BEDS WITH FINE MULCH
- DON'T BE AFRAID TO USE COVER CROPS IN THE SUMMER.
- INVEST IN SOME SHADE CLOTH IF NEEDED.
- MAKE SURE TO CONTINUE WATERING YOUR FRUIT TREES.
- BEGIN PREPARING FOR THE FALL GROWING SEASON, BY KEEPING YOUR GARDEN CLEAN AND INVESTING IN GOOD GARDENING RESOURCES, LIKE SOIL AND FERTILIZER.



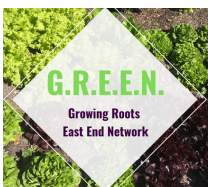
VISIT US!

Our name has changed on all social media. These are the updated links.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/G.R.E.E.N.EastEnd/

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@elcentrohc.org

KARIM ALSTON

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

YARMILLA REYES

Garden Coordinator
yarmillareyes@gmail.com