



URBANROOTS

A COMMUNITY GARDENING TRAINING PROGRAM

FALL 2019

New and improved, the Urban Roots Community Garden Training Program, which has supported over 450 community leaders to develop their gardens in Detroit over last 15 years, will be offered in fall of 2019. This six-week comprehensive course has been updated to respond to the current challenges and opportunities that residents face in starting and maintaining thriving community gardens. The hands-on course provides residents with technical skills and knowledge to grow productive vegetable gardens, tools for community engagement and resource mobilization and connects them to the existing network of over 1,600 gardens and farms across the city.

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
- Commitment to participating post-graduation in 2020 GRP events, including at least one monthly workday

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 five of the six classes to receive the incentives offered.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SCHEDULE

Urban Roots is a 6-week course. All classes are held Saturdays from 9AM – 2PM. Partial attendance is NOT an option.

Week 1* (Sept 28th): The Food System with a Tour of Detroit Urban Agriculture

Week 2 (Oct 5th): Creating a Vision for a Community Garden and Community Engagement

Week 3* (Oct 12th): Growing Vegetables and Garden Infrastructure

Week 4 (Oct 19th): Site Assessment and Design

Week 5* (Oct 26th): Garden Resource Mobilization

Week 6 (Nov 2nd): Portfolio Presentations and Graduation Celebration

LOCATION

All classes meet at American Indian Health and Family Services, 4880 Lawndale, Detroit 48210 (near Michigan & Lonyo in Southwest Detroit). * Weeks 1, 3 and 5 will include off-site portions of the day to facilitate hands-on learning in community gardens across the city. Transportation to other sites will be coordinated for students.

REQUIREMENTS

- Resident of Detroit, Highland Park or Hamtramck or associated with a garden in those cities.
- Interested in starting or getting involved with a community garden
- Attend at least 5 classes to receive incentives and graduate, no class make-ups.
- Active participation in classes. Classes are hands-on and include some outdoor activities.
- Complete required assignments, including Urban Roots Garden Portfolio.

INCENTIVES

- 2020 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 6-week course 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 Sept 13th.

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 August 30th. We will let you know if you have received a scholarship by Sept 6th. Payment plans are also available upon request.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The completed application and fee are due no later than August 30th, 2019. Applications can be sent by mail to Keep Growing Detroit, 1445 Adelaide, Detroit, MI 48207 or by email to lindsay@keepgrowingdetroit.org. Completion of application does not guarantee a spot in the class. All applicants will be contacted by Sept 6th.

CONTACT US

If you have questions or need further information, please call or email Lindsay Pielack at (313) 656-4769 or lindsay@keepgrowingdetroit.org.



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 313-656-5769, email lindsay@keepgrowingdetroit.org, or visit www.keepgrowingdetroit.org

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 six-week comprehensive course provides participants with the skills and knowledge to successfully establish and/or maintain a thriving community garden. With a hands-on and interactive format, students will learn from and be connected to the network of past graduates of the course who are successfully leading gardens in the city. Throughout the course, you will receive support from our staff and fellow growers to build your own garden portfolio, equipping you with realistic plans, relevant tools and support to launch into a successful growing season in 2020!

THE FOOD SYSTEM WITH A TOUR OF DETROIT URBAN AGRICULTURE (SEPT 28th) What role do community gardens play in our food system? Why do you want to start a community garden? Are you familiar with what’s already happening in the city? Open your eyes to the wide world of community gardens and the roles that they play in our community. This class will include a short tour out to visit some Urban Roots graduates.

CREATING A VISION FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (Oct 5th) What do you envision your garden will achieve? Do your neighbors and community share that vision? Learn techniques to get people involved, ensure community support, and build effective leadership in your community garden. At this class, we’ll introduce Urban Roots garden portfolios and students will be paired with other students to support one another’s garden development plans.

GROWING VEGETABLES AND GARDEN INFRASTRUCTURE (OCT 12th) In this hands-on class, we’ll visit an Urban Roots graduate’s garden to learn the basics of growing and tending vegetables as well as practical tips for successful maintenance. We’ll also explore what elements your garden might contain, such as raised beds, pathways, water catchment systems, signs and benches.

SITE ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN (OCT 19th) We’ll dig in to considerations for how to choose a garden site and how to navigate land acquisition processes and urban agriculture policies in the city. We’ll also get hands-on practice with site assessment and basic design skills needed to develop a site plan and ensure that your garden becomes an asset in your community.

GARDEN RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (OCT 26th) 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. In the afternoon, we’ll hone skills of volunteer management while getting practice with practical construction and maintenance skills.

PORTFOLIO PRESENTATIONS AND CELEBRATION (NOV 2nd)

Throughout the course, students will work to create a garden portfolio. The portfolio is a culmination of Urban Roots coursework helping student organize their own garden goals and plans and ensuring support for community gardening efforts, including funding and community buy-in. At the final class, students will share their garden portfolio and how they plan to apply their Urban Roots experience and celebrate their accomplishments with their families and friends at a graduation ceremony.

POST-GRADUATION: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GARDEN DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES Although class technically ends with graduation, the new fall format of Urban Roots will allow more time for technical assistance and support for students over the winter to ensure you are ready to grow in 2020! Over the winter, you can expect support from KGD with your community organizing, garden design and development plans. We’ll also be planning some special spring 2020 Urban Roots workdays where a selected number of graduates will be eligible for additional resources to support garden development.