



Urban Agriculture Programs at 28 Public Gardens Awarded Funds for Use During COVID-19



The U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) and American Public Gardens Association (APGA)

have partnered to offer immediate support to established urban agriculture and other urban food-growing programs at public gardens affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, the USBG and the Association awarded \$378,000 to 28 public gardens across the United States to help sustain urban agriculture and community gardens during this challenging time. The Urban Agriculture Resilience Program aims to promote resilience, grow capacity, prevent shortfalls, and gather best practices from across the U.S. public gardens community.

With the assistance of these funds, participating gardens in 19 states and Washington, D.C. will be able to grow and distribute produce, especially to communities facing food access challenges; maintain and expand urban agriculture and other food growing education programs; and promote wellness and nutrition by educating the public about consuming fruits and vegetables. Beyond providing immediate support, the Urban Agriculture Resilience Program will provide insight into successful approaches and opportunities for public gardens--though varying program models--to improve food access and advance food and agriculture education in urban communities during times of crisis.

"Especially now, during this unprecedented health and economic crisis, communities need access to healthy, fresh foods. We are proud to be able to support public gardens in their vital work of helping local communities grow and gain access to more fruits and vegetables and achieve better nutrition," said Saharah M. Williams, executive director of the U.S. Botanic Garden.

"We appreciate the fantastic work public gardens across America are doing every day to support communities to provide horticultural knowledge and food access during this very challenging time," said Casey Sclar, executive director of the American Public Gardens Association.

Gardens awarded funding include:

- Atlanta Botanical Garden, Georgia
- Brookgreen Gardens, South Carolina
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York
- Cape Fear Botanical Garden, North Carolina
- Delaware Center for Horticulture, Delaware
- Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado
- Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Ohio
- Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Alabama
- Friends of the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
- Georgeson Botanical Garden, Alaska

- Grumblethorpe Historic House and Gardens, Pennsylvania
- Idaho Botanical Garden, Idaho
- Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, Tennessee
- Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, University of Michigan, Michigan
- Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Minnesota
- North Carolina Botanical Garden, North Carolina
- Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, North Carolina
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Pennsylvania
- Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Pennsylvania
- Queens Botanical Garden, New York
- San Antonio Botanical Garden, Texas
- Santa Fe Botanical Garden, New Mexico
- State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Georgia
- The Gardens on Spring Creek, Colorado
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Massachusetts
- University of Maryland Community Learning Garden, Maryland
- University of Tennessee Gardens, Tennessee
- University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Washington

In addition, the U.S. Botanic Garden has expanded a previously existing collaboration with the Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest to support provide fresh produce and nutrition education to people with diet-related diseases who are also experiencing food insecurity.

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- Online media folder of images from some recipient programs

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About the United States Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is the oldest continuously operating public Garden in the United States. The Garden informs visitors about the fundamental value and diversity of plants, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological significance. With over a million visitors annually, the Garden strives to demonstrate and promote sustainable practices. The U.S. Botanic Garden is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and the International Botanic Garden Conservation International. www.usbg.gov

About the American Public Gardens Association

The American Public Gardens Association is the leading professional organization for the field of public horticulture. We advance the field by encouraging educational and networking opportunities, and advocating on behalf of our members, our programs and public gardens worldwide. We work together with our members to strengthen and shape public horticulture, providing the tools and support industry professionals need to better serve the public while preserving and caring for our gardens and sustainably.

Since 1940, we have been committed to increasing cooperation and awareness among gardens. Our members include more than 600 institutions, spanning the United States, Columbia, Canada, and 20 countries. Our members include, but are not limited to, botanic gardens, arboreta, zoos, museums, colleges and universities, and research facilities.

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