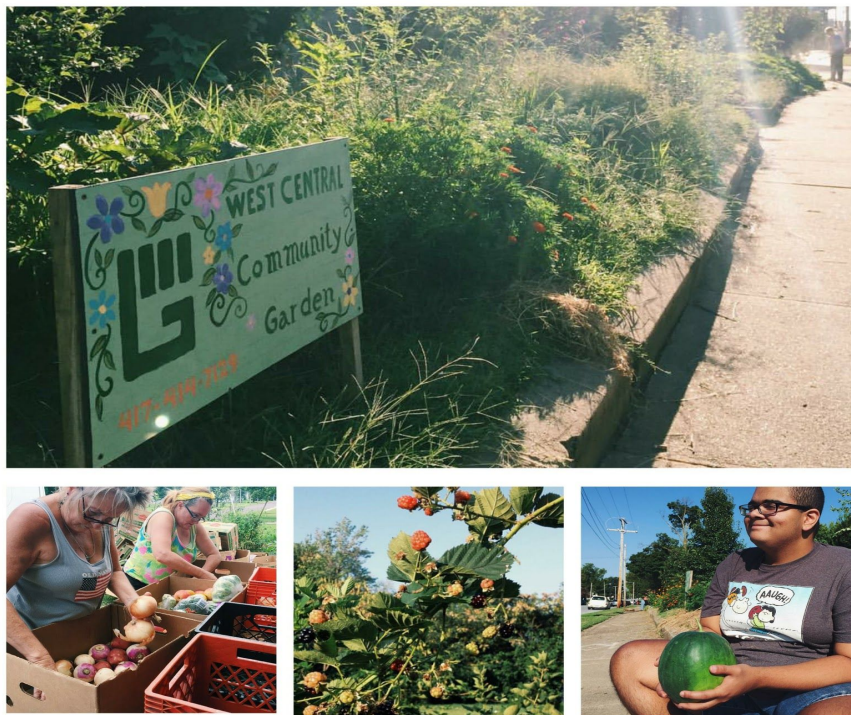


Springfield Community Gardens

Who We Are:

Springfield Community Gardens builds neighborhood gardens where people grow and talk about healthy, local food. We are a grassroots, volunteer-led organization comprised of every generation and walk of life ranging from the homeless, college students, military veterans and retired professionals. We are a group of volunteers who believe in growing healthy food and hanging out with our neighbors in order to create a city that values a sense of place centered on a local food culture. We know we can't do it on our own, so we've created strong partnerships with solid organizations that believe in our mission and have a complementary vision.



Our Mission

To create gardens that strengthen neighborhoods where people grow healthy relationships, food, and community.

Our Vision

We envision a community where everyone has access to healthy, local food.

How We Got Started:

Springfield Community Gardens (SCG) began when a small group of residents, MSU urban planning students and young professionals joined together with the idea of forming a community garden in the

Grant Beach Neighborhood. Construction began in 2011 with the assistance of the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and the City's Planning and Neighborhoods Office.

In 2014, the Grant Beach Garden produced 2,000 lbs of fresh produce. Since then, SCG has experienced explosive growth and we are planting gardens throughout the city.

The Work We've Done

Since our inception, we have grown to *twenty gardens* and have created even more partnerships. In addition to providing land leases, water, insurance and technical support for community gardens, we also have several worthwhile programs. These include our literacy program Grow to Ride that in partnership with Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center lets kids ride horses and garden--and the Grant Beach Produce Distribution in which we partner with OFH to donate large amounts of produce. So far in 2016, we have already donated 76,000 pounds of produce to food insecure neighbors!

Some of Our Partners

- Springfield Greene County Health Department
- City of Springfield Neighborhood Planning
- Cox Health
- Community Foundation of the Ozarks
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks
- Ozarks Food Harvest
- The Fairbanks
- The YMCA
- Grant Beach Neighborhood Association
- Springfield Greene County Park Board
- Habitat for Humanity

What We Envision

One day, we want fruit trees in parks designated specifically as food forests, thornless blackberries along sidewalks making up food corridors where people walk, cargo bikes moving food from garden-to-garden in the city, and lots of art and entertainment in our community gardens. We know that growth must be incremental and asset-based, so we build up communities and encourage connection to one another; a focus that not only empowers individuals, but also creates a context based on particular demographics, strengths, needs, and personalities of each individual neighborhood hub.

Because it is the part of our City that has the greatest need, Zone 1 has been an area of focus for our organization since 2010. We have five concentrated community gardens there: Midtown; The Kitchen; Rare Breed; The Fairbanks; and The Grant Beach Garden. The Grant Beach Garden is the hub of our pilot produce distribution program, and it has a community center, The Fairbanks that focuses specifically on health and wellness.

The ASK:

With your help, we would like to focus our energies on continuing to build and strengthen this particular “garden corridor” and purchase **FIVE cargo bikes** that will be used to push produce and garden supplies from garden to garden and deliver produce to the restaurants on Commercial Street. The bikes will bear our logo and this will be a great way to raise awareness for our organization and encourage participation in our gardens.

**The Plan:**

During the winter of 2015-2016, we plan to put a greenhouse up at The Fairbanks. We already lease a portion of the land for a large garden. This greenhouse will be the hub for moving seeds, seed starts, seedlings, tools, and other garden related items throughout our garden corridor in Zone 1. In partnership with The Fairbanks and the YMCA we will also have use of a commercial kitchen where we will make value added products like salsa to sell in order to sustain our programs.

Because SCG focuses on healthy active living and not just nutrition, we would like to utilize the already-established bike routes to distribute the goods and other garden-related items from one garden to another with these cargo bikes. Community members from all socio-economic backgrounds already travel by bike in this area, so we will be utilizing our asset-based community building model to reinforce a mode of transportation that community members already understand, while supporting environmental responsibility, physical activity and healthy eating.

Each bike would cost \$800.00 with a cargo trailer (\$150.00) to be used by Garden Leaders and select volunteers and staff. The remaining monies will be used to maintain the upkeep of the cycles and

operating costs of each garden and its programming.

One day Springfield will have a thriving food shed where everyone has access to local, healthy food.
Will you contribute to that vision?

