



NGT Celebrates 5th Annual “Community Gardens Day”

Kick-off event at Ralph Brooks Park will honor community garden heroes

PHILADELPHIA (June 2018) – The Neighborhood Gardens Trust (NGT) will host the fifth annual Community Gardens Day on Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The citywide event will spotlight Philadelphia’s network of vibrant, unique, community-managed open spaces, and celebrate summer’s arrival with an array of engaging activities for all ages. For the first time, NGT will honor community garden heroes who have played a pivotal role in supporting the city’s community gardens.

Community Gardens Day will kick off with a celebration held at the Community Garden at Ralph Brooks Park, located at 20th and Tasker Streets in the Point Breeze neighborhood of Philadelphia. Starting at 10:30 a.m., the event will honor former Philadelphia Eagle Connor Barwin and his Make The World Better Foundation, which drove the creation of the vibrant, healthy food-producing Ralph Brooks garden in 2014.

"Community gardens have the magical power of bringing neighbors together. Every time I see this in action at the Ralph Brooks Community Garden, it makes me smile and I'm honored to be a part of this community, both personally and through MTWB," said Barwin.

Founded in 2013, Make The World Better is a non-profit organization working to connect people and inspire stewardship through public space revitalization projects. MTWB envisions a world where people of all ages are empowered to make a difference in their communities. Ralph Brooks Park was the organization's first project and included renovations to the basketball court and tot lot, green stormwater



infrastructure, and construction of the new community garden maintained and operated by Point Breeze residents.

In addition to recognizing the impactful work of Make the World Better, NGT will also present Community Garden Hero Awards to Carmetta Dickerson, 17th Police District Advisory Councilmember, and Orlando Butler, President of the Friends of the Concert Garden, for their commendable contributions to Philadelphia's network of community gardens.

“There is a rich history of people in Philadelphia transforming underused land throughout the city into community gardens, neighborhood assets that provide social, health, and environmental benefits to residents,” said Jenny Greenberg, Executive Director, NGT. “We are celebrating the positive impact of these community gardens and their gardeners on our city and region, while we work to secure and protect these shared growing spaces for the next generation.”

Due to current trends in Philadelphia's real estate market, the city's community gardens face new, unprecedented threats to their survival. A larger network of support is needed to sustain these gardens and their contributions to our neighborhoods.

Tours and activities

More than 60 community gardens will participate in Community Gardens Day, offering gardening workshops, kids crafts, work days, barbecues and more to visitors. The day will include a dance party at the Temple University Community Garden; a cooking demonstration at the Urban Tree Connection Neighborhood Foods Farm; garden story time at the Federal Street Community Garden; a barbecue and live music at



Brewerytown Community Garden; and, a Juneteenth celebration at the Awbury Arboretum Community Orchard and Garden.

The public is welcome to explore and tour participating community gardens in Northern Liberties and Point Breeze on their own using the Community Gardens Day [map](#). Attendees can also register for guided walking, bike, and trolley tours [here](#).

Sponsors of Community Gardens Day include Fante's, The Fresh Grocer, The Chambers Group, Shechtman Tree Care, Mostardi Nursery, All Seasons Landscaping Co., and Little Warrior.

ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS TRUST

The Neighborhood Gardens Trust is Philadelphia's neighborhood garden protector preserving land access for community-managed open spaces. For over 30 years the Neighborhood Gardens Trust has been dedicated to keeping land in the hands of Philadelphians who come together to grow food, flowers, and community. NGT and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society are allied in preserving and supporting Philadelphia's community gardens. NGT has protected over 40 open spaces and is working to preserve a total of 55 gardens by 2019 in partnership with the City of Philadelphia.

Today, as Philadelphia experiences an accelerated rate of development, the city's community gardens and shared open spaces are at risk more than ever before. This year, NGT is celebrating the permanent protection of the Ralph Brook Community Garden along with several other recently preserved community gardens including the Old Tennis Court Farm in Germantown, the Five Loaves Two Fish Garden of Hestonville, and the Mercy Street Growing Home Garden which serves refugees in South Philadelphia.

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