



2022

Impact Report



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Farm Operations & Production



Farm Operations & Production

About

City Green's urban farms are the heart of the organization and consist of two separate food production farms: the City Green Farm Eco-Center in Clifton, City Green Farm at South Branch Preserve, and the Learning Garden in Eastside Park in Paterson. City Green grows over 90 varieties of vegetables and herbs that are not only culturally appropriate for the communities they serve, but healthy, local, and delicious as well. Each farm adheres to regenerative and organic growing practices to ensure healthy soil, healthy farm workers, and a healthy habitat for wildlife. Farming methods include crop rotation, cover cropping, natural pest management, hand weeding, and planting disease-resistant crop varieties.

The produce grown at City Green Farms is distributed to the local community through a network of farm stands, farmer's markets and location-specific deliveries via the "Veggie Mobile," with a goal of providing access to local farm-fresh food along with meaningful job and volunteer opportunities in an agricultural setting. But the importance of City Green's farms goes far beyond its bountiful harvests. Through interaction with the farm operation, individuals are able to create a connection to their food, understand the value and importance of open space, gain an appreciation for nature and local agriculture, and understand the potential of urban farming in revitalizing urban areas and improving public health in local communities. City Green Farms help ensure that farmland remains an important and productive part of the northern New Jersey landscape.





Regenerative practices

City Green is committed to growing healthy food in a way that benefits both people and planet. Sustainable farming is a method of producing food that meets the needs of the community without compromising the health of the land and soil for present and future generations.

Regenerative agriculture utilizes a variety of sustainable farming techniques which focus on increasing biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and strengthening the health and vitality of farm soil, among other important factors.

Here are just some of the regenerative practices that City Green Farms implemented in 2022:

No Till System in Clifton

The Farm-Eco Center in Clifton has fully transitioned to a no-till farm. No-till farming does not disturb the deeper layers of soil and the beneficial communities of insects and microorganisms that live there. This practice builds healthier soil, prevents erosion, and helps lower weed, pest and disease pressure on the farm!

Cover Cropping

At both City Green Farms, fields are rotated each year, meaning 2022's tomato beds might be 2023's zucchini beds! Instead of remaining empty, fields not in use are planted with cover crop for a season, maintaining healthy soil structure and allowing the field to regenerate valuable nutrients for next season's veggies

Rotational Grazing

Rotational grazing is the practice of moving animals through pasture to improve soil, plant, and animal health. City Green's chickens graze on the Permaculture Hill to help remove invasive weeds while eating pests and adding fertility to the land. The chickens also benefit from a healthy diet and livelihood!

Innovations and Improvements



- Expanded acres of vegetable production at South Branch Farm
- High tunnels installed at South Branch Farm for season extension and climate resilient farming
- Piloted indoor microgreens production for winter CSA shares

Thank you to our 2022 Farm Team: Henry, Isabel, Joe, Emily, & Erik!



**Veggie Mobile,
Markets, & Community
Supported Agriculture**

Markets and CSA



The mission of the City Green Farm Stand and Mobile Market program is to connect with local governments and community organizations in northern NJ to increase the accessibility and affordability of local, farm-fresh food, ensuring good food is available for all. City Green's markets are enhanced by a nutrition incentive program that incentivizes federal food beneficiaries to purchase healthy food grown by City Green and other local farms. When shopping at City Green farm stands, customers gain an appreciation for local agriculture in their own community, support the local food movement, and foster personal connections to food, healthy eating and the environment.

City Green Market Locations

- Lou Costello Park, Paterson
- Bloomfield Library, Bloomfield
- Passaic City Hall, Passaic
- City Green Farm-Eco Center, Clifton
- Allwood Library, Clifton
- Evergreen Manor, Clifton
- Senior Towers of Paterson, Paterson
- Senior Housing of Hazel St., Clifton
- Totowa Senior Nutrition Center, Totowa
- Downtown Clifton Farmer's Market, Clifton
- Botany Village, Clifton
- Freedom Village, Paterson
- Passaic WIC Office, Passaic



Innovations & Improvements

New Veggie Van

City Green added a new market vehicle, dubbed the Veggie Van, to its market fleet in 2022. Having two market vehicles will allow more Veggie Mobile Markets to take place in more neighborhoods to meet increasing demand from the community for fresh, healthy food

New Paterson Market Location

City Green launched its newest Veggie Mobile location at Paterson's Lou Costello Park! This market location in the heart of Paterson quickly gained traction within the neighborhood. Lou Costello Park is a great hub to connect and collaborate with all of City Green's partners in Paterson through community events

WIC Office Box Markets

City Green held two events at the Passaic WIC office selling pre-packed boxes of fresh, whole produce for \$5 (the value of one WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program check) to reach more WIC families in Passaic, where Veggie Mobile sees the highest volume of WIC FMNP customers

Focus On Seniors

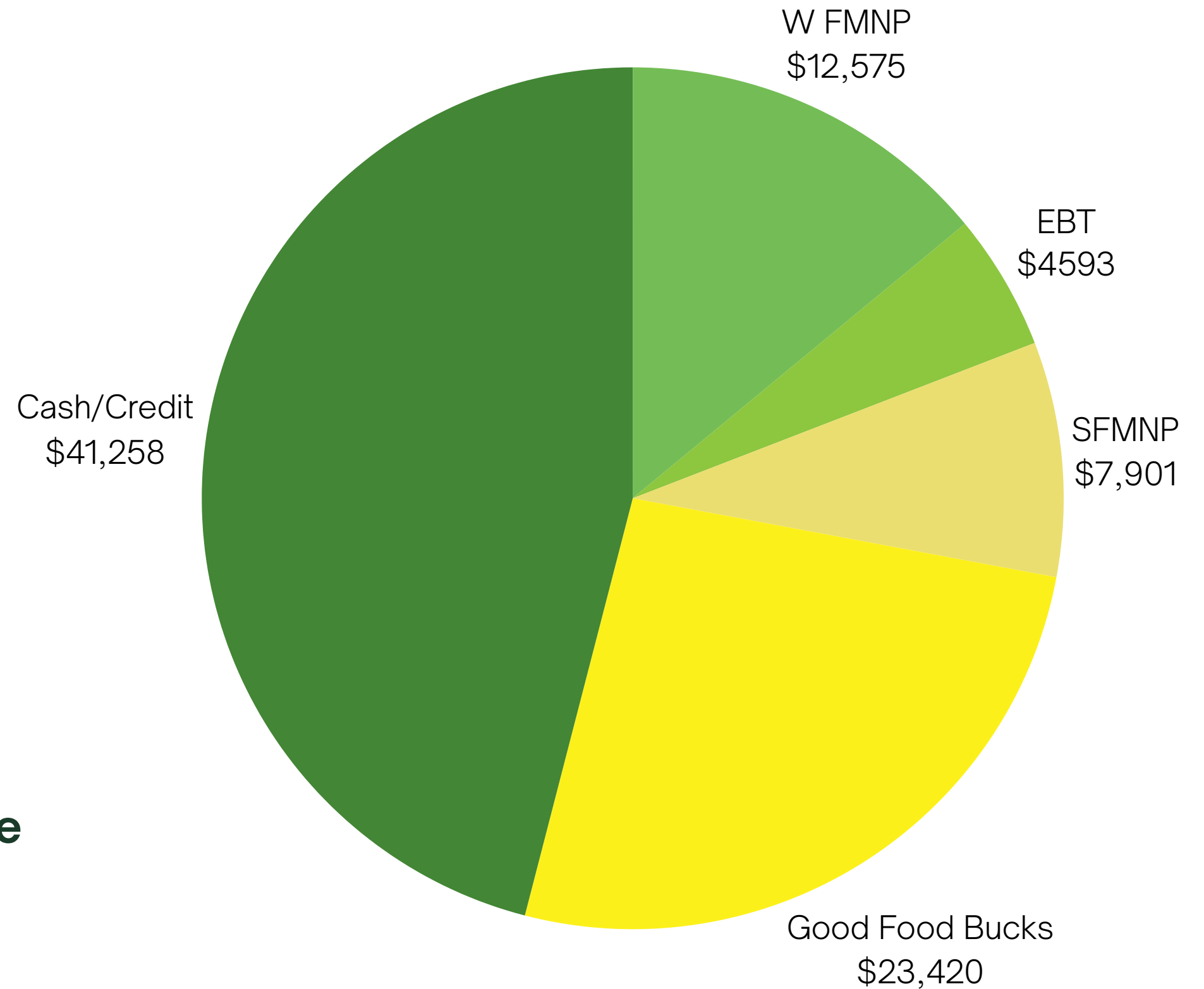
In 2022, the Veggie Mobile served an unprecedented number of seniors paying with Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers. In addition to the Veggie Mobile's regularly scheduled stops at 4 Senior residence buildings in Passaic County, it held 2 "Senior Day" events at Lou Costello Park. These fun events were a collaboration with the Paterson Alliance, SNAP-Ed and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and involved apple tasting, music, raffles and giveaways for seniors!

2022 Market Sales

**Record-Breaking
Total Market
Sales: \$89,760**

- 5,390 Shoppers
- 175 Farm Stands Operated
- 95% Good Food Buck Redemption Rate

**Thank you to our 2022 Market Team: Alex, Luke,
Ryan, Farrah, and Adrian!**



Community Supported Agriculture

CSA stands for *Community Supported Agriculture*. It is a partnership between farmers and consumers, where consumers purchase a share of a farm's products in advance. Members typically pay in full in the off-season, providing the income farms need to prepare for the spring. CSA programs directly connect consumers and producers to help create a more participatory and transparent local food system.

City Green started its CSA program in 2020, when the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic called for a safe, low-contact alternative to the crowded market environment. Since then, the program has experienced considerable success, opening new doorways for City Green to build long-lasting relationships with community members and foster education about nutrition and local agriculture.

Highlights

In 2022, the City Green CSA Program hosted 95 members at the Farm/Eco Center to pick up weekly shares of healthy, organic produce grown on City Green's Clifton and Mt. Olive farms. Each week was an opportunity for neighbors to meet, share stories and recipes, and get more involved in City Green's mission. The CSA program runs for 24 weeks from June-November, and 8 weeks from December-January, allowing members to experience the joy of eating with every season!





**GOOD FOOD
BUCKS**

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HERE!

Good Food Bucks



Good Food Bucks

City Green's Good Food Bucks program is New Jersey's only statewide SNAP Nutrition Incentive Program. City Green provides funding, training, and technical assistance to farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, CSA's, and grocery stores so that SNAP customers can double the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables on their tables, while at the same time supporting the farmers who grow their food. Customers receive Good Food Buck fruit and vegetable coupons, or a 50% Good Food Bucks discount every time they use their SNAP card, to buy fresh produce at a participating market. Since 2011, the Good Food Bucks program has had a powerful impact on NJ residents by making healthy, local food affordable and accessible.



The mission of the Good Food Bucks Program is to support New Jersey fresh produce retailers in their efforts to increase affordability of Jersey-fresh produce for low-income families at their markets, while also creating greater economic opportunities for farmers and local businesses.

City Green provides funding, training and technical assistance to participating retailers to run a Nutrition Incentive Program that incentivizes families to spend their federal food benefit dollars at their local participating farmers' market or grocery store.

Thank you to our Good Food Bucks Team: Lisa & Robbie!

Good Food Bucks Impact



USDA GusNIP

In September 2021, City Green received a USDA GusNIP (Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program) grant to expand and evolve the Good Food Bucks program to more locations and more NJ counties. With this \$500,000 award, we raised an additional \$500,000 in matching funds from local foundations. As the only statewide SNAP nutrition incentive program for NJ farmers markets and grocery stores, Good Food Bucks is now on its way to being available at 40 different locations spanning 13 counties statewide.

Supermarket Expansion

With GusNIP funding, City Green has been able to bring the Good Food Bucks program not only to farms and farmers markets, but also to brick-and-mortar grocery stores. This program expansion means Good Food Bucks can reach more NJ residents in more locations on more days of the week. In 2023, Good Food Bucks can be found at the ShopRite of Newark, Hackensack Market, and the ShopRite of East Orange, with more stores coming soon!

USDA FMPP

With support from a three-year USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) grant, City Green launched its “Farmers for Food Access” Resource Hub to help connect more NJ farmers and farmers markets with nutrition assistance programs like SNAP, WIC, FMNP, and Good Food Bucks. New resources include webinars, SNAP and WIC authorization workbooks, and dedicated technical assistance. FMPP funding also supports statewide marketing for the Good Food Bucks program at farms and farmers markets, and provides professionally designed videos, banners, flyers, sandwich boards, digital ads, so that Good Food Bucks can become a household name in New Jersey!

Good Food Bucks Across New Jersey

In 2023 Good Food Bucks are offered at 31 farmers markets and 3 brick-and-mortar partners across 15 NJ counties. In total, nearly 15,000 people use Good Food Bucks every year, and 154 local and regional farmers earn additional revenue from Good Food Buck purchases.

- Highland Park Farmers Market, Highland Park
- Montclair Community Farms, Montclair
- Montclair Farmers' Market, Montclair
- NDD Common Greens Farmers Market, Newark
- Norz Hill Farm & Market. LLC, Hillsborough
- Nutley Farmers Market, Nutley
- Princeton Farmers' Market, Princeton
- Riverview Farmers Market, Jersey City
- Rosie's Farm Market, Mullica Hill
- The Harvest at New Hope Community Ministries, Prospect Park
- West Windsor Community Farmers' Market, West Windsor

Brick and Mortar

- ShopRite of Newark, Newark
- Hackensack Market, Hackensack



Community Engagement & Advocacy

Community Engagement and Advocacy



The mission of the Engagement & Advocacy Department is to foster broad support and interaction with City Green's programs and mission through community events, building new relationships, strengthening partnerships, and disseminating information. Through these efforts, community members, organizations, and decision-makers will be informed of City Green's opportunities and resources.

Community Engagement works to connect the entire City Green team and body of activity with the people it hopes to serve. The communications strategy engages casual followers, close friends, and potential supporters. The department also creates experiences throughout the year for the public to enjoy. In collaboration with other departments, the communications team plans and coordinates community festivals, Veggie Mobile events, volunteer projects and more.

Through the activities of the Department of Community Engagement and Advocacy, all of City Green's amazing work can be enjoyed by the community.

The Advocacy Initiative works to elevate our grassroots efforts toward greater system and policy change through legislative advocacy, connecting with lawmakers and community stakeholders, educating decision makers on program impact and how policies can strengthen and improve the reach of City Green's work.

Thank you to our Community Engagement and Advocacy Team: Jennifer, Jasmine, & Erin!

Community Building & Amplification

Farm Fests

City Green's Farm Fests held in June, July, August, September were a huge success, drawing hundreds of families out to bask in the beautiful summer weather and picnic with their neighbors in the festival space at the Farm Eco-Center. Guests shopped at the farm stand, enjoyed refreshments from local vendors Ghost Hawk and Montclair Brewery, listened to a wide range of live music, and soaked in the beauty and color of the farm and gardens in the height of the season.

Clifton Community Baby Shower

Hosted by the Clifton Health Department, this free event provides resources for mothers and families. City Green's outreach team attended to promote the Veggie Mobile, Good Food Bucks, and family and youth programming!

Thanksgiving Market

City Green's annual Thanksgiving Market is always a wonderful way to end each farm and market season. In 2022, the 4th Annual Thanksgiving Market hosted 10 other local vendors and over 400 shoppers for a great day of holiday shopping and community!

Lou Costello Senior Day

City Green held two "Senior Day" Events at Lou Costello Park to draw SFMNP customers from nearby senior residences and promote the new Lou Costello market location in Paterson. These fun events were a collaboration with the Paterson Alliance, SNAP-Ed and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and involved apple tasting, music, raffles and giveaways for seniors.

Harvest Festival

Greenest Place in Paterson Garden Contest Harvest Festival In 2022, City Green's annual Harvest Festival drew more than 300 attendees to Paterson's Eastside Park, where they enjoyed festive family activities such as pumpkin bowling, apple cider pressing, a petting zoo, and nature jewelry making.

Inclusive Healthy Communities Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting

City Green was joined at the Farm Eco-Center by officials from the State of New Jersey, the City of Clifton & Passaic County for the official ribbon cutting of our Gardens For All! initiative to improve disability access at the Farm Eco-Center and throughout City Green's Dig In! community garden network.

Good Food Bucks in the White House

City Green's Advocacy team has built strong connections with the offices of local and federal legislators like State Senator Teresa Ruiz and Senator Cory Booker. As a result, City Green has provided written and spoken testimonial about the importance and impact of SNAP nutrition incentives at both state and federal level listening sessions with the aim of influencing the 2023 Farm Bill and establishing state legislation for continued funding of nutrition incentives.

Greenest Place in Paterson Garden Contest

City Green celebrated Paterson gardeners and honored its garden contest winner at this event in Eastside Park, where neighborhood gardeners gathered, supported each other and shared their home gardening stories.

Legislative Priorities

Secure State Investment into SNAP Nutrition Incentives

Through years of advocating with state and federal legislators, City Green was able to successfully pave the way for New Jersey to fund, for the first time, SNAP Nutrition Incentives.

Additionally, our advocacy efforts have resulted in the introduction of legislation to establish a State of New Jersey Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Program. Bills have been introduced in both the New Jersey State Senate and State Assembly. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are in support of nutrition incentives for New Jersey.

City Green successfully advocated for funding in the state budget for Good Food Bucks. A coalition of state Senators and Assemblypersons supported the budget appropriations of \$500,000 - New Jersey's first ever state award to SNAP incentives.

Other priorities include:

- Municipal and county-level policies to support increased fresh food access and affordability
- Municipal and county-level policies to promote and sustain farmers markets and farm stands
- State policies and legislation to support land availability and funding for urban agriculture and growers



City Green offers volunteer and internship opportunities for members of the community to further our mission of enhancing and maintaining preserved open spaces, producing local, healthy food, educating both adults and children, and taking an active role in environmental stewardship. City Green offers a variety of volunteer and internship opportunities so that members of the community can participate in ways that fit their interests and schedule. The Wednesday Volunteer Program offers a way for individuals and small groups to lend a hand to the Community Horticulture and Agriculture Teams at City Green in a fun and productive way.

City Green's weekly "Wednesday Weeders" volunteer program hosted over 520 people for over 1,300 hours in our farms and gardens. Volunteers helped harvest food for City Green's Veggie Mobile and Farm Stand program and maintained the farm's native plant gardens and landscaping. 124 people from 8 different Corporate Volunteer Groups completed and sponsored full-day projects at City Green's Farm Eco-Center, contributing financial support and labor to City Green, while participating in a day of team building out in nature.

Corporate Volunteer Partners

- Starbucks
- Verizon
- Goldberg Realty
- Columbia Bank
- Mountainside Hospital
- Samsung (Samsung Day)
- Columbia Bank
- Goldberg Realty



In 2022 we hosted **501 Volunteers** who contributed **1279.5 Volunteer Hours**

Including **8 Large Projects** completed by **Corporate Volunteers**

Volunteers



Dig In!

Dig In!



Dig In!

The mission of the Dig In! program is to support the creation of vibrant gardens in urban, suburban and rural areas of Passaic County for the production of healthy food, habitat restoration, neighborhood beautification and community enhancement. Through participation in Dig In! community members gain access to financial support, educational workshops, technical assistance and materials and resources for the successful establishment of sustainable garden projects and access to City Green's Tool Lending Library.

In 2022, the Dig In! program worked with 10 community gardens in Passaic County and awarded 25 different grants to support community gardens and neighborhood farms, tree and habitat restoration gardens, and water supplies for existing gardens.

Thank you to our Dig In! Team: Liz & Carmen!



Dig In! Highlights

- City Green offered on-site technical assistance to 3 Dig In! garden partners this year, in addition to 18 hours of educational gardening and skill-enhancing workshops at the City Green Farm Eco-Center
- A Garden 101 presentation featuring basic garden skills lessons was also available online for Dig In! partners to access at any time. 131 gardeners attended City Green's garden workshops in 2022 to enhance their skills!
- Partners also took advantage of City Green's Tool Lending Library, with 3 different gardening groups borrowing tools this year. The Tool Lending Library allows grantees to use their funds for items other than expensive gardening equipment like wheelbarrows and shovels!
- The Passaic County Daffodil Project is made possible by City Green and Passaic County's Dig In! Community Garden program. In 2022, City Green planted 25,000 daffodil bulbs in parks across Passaic, Paterson, and Clifton in parks and public schools
- The Dig In! Garden Menu was created in 2022 and allows Dig In! grantees to select garden items from a pre-made menu that includes new garden beds, additional soil, garden pots, tools, irrigation supplies, etc., which City Green will then procure and deliver to their community garden. This saves gardeners the time of having to shop around and use their grant money to pay for additional shipping or inflated material costs
- Monthly Volunteer Days at Weaselbrook Park were run by City Green to support its community garden partners in caring for the established perennials



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Youth Programming

- City Sprouts
- School Grounds
- Growing Strong

City Sprouts

The mission of City Sprouts is to create safe, beautiful vegetable and flower gardens for children in urban communities, enhanced by an outdoor education program that ensures interaction with the natural world, access to hands-on experiential learning, and an understanding of where food comes from. Children are further engaged through community partnership and family participation. Through participation in City Sprouts, children develop an appreciation for the natural environment and for the taste and health benefits of freshly picked veggies.

The City Sprouts program takes place in three seasonal sessions: Spring, Summer, and Fall. This year 1,610 children had unique outdoor learning experiences at 12 different City Sprouts Gardens. The curriculum was taught through 144 different weekly lesson sessions covering 15 different topics, each lasting 30-45 minutes. These outdoor lessons not only introduce children to new knowledge, skills, and vocabulary, but also give them an opportunity to channel their after-school energy into the sensory experience of the garden. Through City Sprouts, students are able to make meaningful connections between food and nature that will last a lifetime!

By the Numbers:

- **1610 Youth Participants**
- **18 Varieties of Vegetables Grown**
- **144 Lessons Taught**



"I want to thank City Green and the volunteers, interns and participants that helped to make the summer 2022 gardening experience a very successful one at the Club. Today, I overheard one of our campers say that he should have joined from the very beginning of camp, because he missed out on a lot of information. I also heard another camper say that he never liked tomatoes, but he popped a cherry tomato in his mouth and he loved it! Our campers had so much fun and learned so much this summer—and there are more vegetables still growing."
Debra Lesnick, Educational Director of Boys and Girls Club of Clifton

City Sprouts

Sample Our Lessons

- Starting the Spring Garden
- Garden Compost
- Planting Flowers for Us and the Bees
- Eating Seasonally w. Strawberry Radish Salsa
- Summer Crops
- Art in the Garden
- For the Birds
- All About Bugs
- Herbs in the Garden
- Salsa!
- Why Do Leaves Change Color?
- All About Apples
- Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Everywhere
- A Harvest Salad
- Getting the Garden Ready for Winter



Meet our Partners

- Paterson Free Public Library
- Southside Public Library
- Clifton Public Library
- Boys & Girls Club of Garfield
- Hamilton House
- Oasis
- Boys & Girls Club of Clifton
- Boys & Girls Club of Paterson
- Boys & Girls Club of Passaic
- Camp YDP
- Friendship Corner

Thank you to our City Sprouts Team Liz, Kirsten, Brianna, Miranda, & Marri!

School Grounds

School Grounds provides outdoor garden classrooms, teacher training, and ongoing support for partner schools in NJ, with a focus on at-risk urban communities, while also enhancing academic achievement across disciplines, and ensuring student interactions with the natural world, access to hands-on experiential learning, and an understanding of where food comes from. Collaborating teachers gain curriculum, resources, knowledge, and enthusiasm to use this outdoor educational classroom as a tool for cultivating a farm to school culture that values and celebrates garden education as an integral part of developing the whole child.

Highlights: In 2022, City Green added 7 school gardens to the School Grounds network which as of 2022 consists of 111 different schools. School Grounds supports outdoor learning gardens in 36 different municipalities. 55 New Jersey teachers were trained in gardening techniques and specialized garden curriculum this year alone, and 10 new raised garden beds were installed for our partners. Since its inception, the School Grounds program has partnered with 140 schools spanning the state of New Jersey.

By the Numbers:

- **111 Existing School Grounds Partners**
- **55 Teachers Trained**
- **7 New School Gardens added to our network**
- **6 Part Workshop Series for Educators**
- **29 Farm to Pre-K Partners**
- **97 Pre-School Visits**
- **265 Children hosted at City Green for fun and interactive field trips!**

Thank you to our 2022 School Grounds Team: Julian, Emma, & Garden Educators!

“

“I had three teachers in particular come to me and say, ‘I want to be part of the leadership team for those gardens.’ And those teachers worked hard all year long in building this. They went to weekend symposiums, they went to workshops, they studied under the tutelage of City Green staff... and they brought their desire to work with students.”

***Mike Ollo, Vice Principal,
School 2 in Paterson***

Farm to School

The United States Department of Agriculture & City Green's Partnership

Workshop Series

September 2022 marked the beginning of a City Green- led workshop series for teachers. Two workshops per season are offered mostly on site, and in 2022 there were a total of 23 participants– mainly from schools Paterson! Workshops covered 6 topics: Back to School Gardening, Fall Planting for Spring Blooms, Grant Writing 101, Getting Ready for Spring! Teaching in the School Garden and Preparing for Summer Break. Through offering more in-person workshops and services, the School Grounds department was able to build stronger relationships with teachers in 2022!

USDA to School Grant

Thanks to USDA funding, City Green was able to expand 3 existing preschool gardens at Greater Bergen Community Action Eastside in Paterson, Clifton Early Learners Academy A in Clifton, and Montclair Child Development Center William St. in Orange, building deeper relationships with these partners. The grant also funded two new gardens to be built in Paterson at the Roberto Clemente School and School 2.



In their Own Words...

- *"The City Green Team is FANTASTIC! They are extremely organized and very patient!! The teachers and children are in awe every time we are together!" - **Director of Gingerbread House, Boys & Girls Club***
- *"Children develop an understanding of where fruits and vegetables come from, they may be more eager to try fruits and vegetables as their understanding and taste for fresh fruits and vegetables develops, children learn about life-cycles of plants, children become engaged in hands-on learning, children spend more time outside, and teachers learn new ways to engage students through planting lessons." - **Vice Principal of Clifton Early Learners Academy***
- *"I like to see happy students and happy teachers. Happy students learn better. And students who see the product of their hard work in the gardens are happy. That's my job, to create happy, healthy school cultures." **Mike Ollo, Vice Principal, School 2 in Paterson***

Growing Strong

Growing Strong provides paid summer employment to high school students from at-risk communities in Paterson and Clifton, enhanced by a youth development program that ensures college and career readiness. By working in an urban farming and market enterprise or educational garden camp program, interns positively engage with their community, benefit from purposeful mentorship and peer collaboration, and foster a personal connection with food systems, healthy eating, and the environment.

Since its inception in 2008, Growing Strong has grown in capacity from 3 students to 17, with a competitive application process. Often, former Growing Strong interns will return to City Green for future employment opportunities, allowing them to continue building their skill sets over years and providing City Green with a resource pool of more trained and knowledgeable staff.

Thank you to our Growing Strong & Youth Climate Capstone Team: Isabel, Miranda, & Erin!

Highlights

In 2022, the Growing Strong program provided 12 high-schoolers with paid summer employment. Over the course of the 8-week program, interns worked in one of three groups. Farm Crew harvested thousands of pounds of food from the Clifton Farm Eco-Center, Market Crew sold fresh produce to their communities, and Farm and Garden Camp educators taught enriching outdoor curriculum to farm and garden campers in Clifton and Paterson. Built into the Growing Strong program are weekly Food Justice and professional workshops led by City Green staff which seek to contextualize the work Growing Strong does at City Green and prepare them for entering the professional world after high school. Through these workshops, students are able to feel empowered about the work that they do and inspired to keep seeking positive change in the world around them!

In Their Own Words

“With all of the stigmas that come with growing up in a low-income and underfunded community -”ghetto” is one of them. City Green shows that no matter how much people try to take the last pieces of green left in the “ghettos” (that they purposely fill with fast food restaurants, unfinished projects, and other plans that harm our youth and earth) ghettos still get green. Showing the youth growing up in Paterson that there’s another way, that the roots hold the real nutrients that will nourish their mind, bodies and souls- is a form of rebellion to those who took away those resources in the first place.” **Mari Gebril**

“If I could describe what City Green does to someone, the first word that I would think of is ‘cultivate’. The Growing Strong program cultivated me like a crop. I deepened my understanding [of] agriculture and became more responsible. I made a resume for the first time. I had my first job at City Green. I’m thankful for who I have become.” **Madiha Aslam**

“Whether the weather is hot, rainy, or bad, I’ve learned to work hard and regularly thanks to City Green. When I do the planting and harvesting there, I almost forget how time passes and I surrender myself to nature. Every single day I stepped through the door at City Green enlightened me with the unique sounds of birds, the smell of mint in the air, and the vibrant color of fresh vegetables, and this program I was in helped me learn a lot of information and research resources under the title of ‘food access’.” **Nazli Yildiz**



Youth Climate Action Capstone Project



City Green's Youth Climate Action Capstone Project, launched in April 2022, is a year-long independent learning opportunity for high school students that deepens their understanding of climate change and empowers them to take action against it in their communities.

In monthly workshops, students from Clifton High School, Cresskill High School, and the Passaic County Technical Institute learned about climate change and its impacts on the environment, human health, water, and food. Guided by City Green's Agriculture Education Coordinator Isabel Anderson, the students began their action projects by conducting research, designing their project's components, connecting with resources and stakeholders, and implementing their projects with mini-grant support.

Student projects include building community fridges to minimize food waste, implementing composting programs to use at a school garden at Cresskill High School, creating sustainable school lunch systems by replacing plastic utensils with compostable ones, educating individuals on their carbon footprints through informational flyers, and presenting food system workshops to students at the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton.

Thank You to our Funders!

Farms and Markets:

Partner for Health Foundation

USDA AMS FMPP (Farmers Market Promotion Program)

Reinvestment Fund's Healthy Food Financing Initiative
Market Income

Good Food Bucks:

USDA NIFA GusNIP (Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program)

USDA AMS FMPP (Farmers Market Promotion Program)

Russell BeErrie Foundation

Victoria Foundation

Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

Schumann Fund for New Jersey

Vermont Community Foundation

Whole Cities Foundation Newark Fresh, Healthy Food Access Grant

Nourishing Newark Community Grant

New Jersey YMCA State Alliance SNAP-Ed Implementation Grant

Community Horticulture and Agriculture:

USDA NRCS UAIP (Urban Agriculture Innovation Program)

Meg Bergstrand Foundation

Passaic County Board of County Commissioners

NJ Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Disability
Services (IHC Grant)

Growing Strong and Climate Capstone Project:

Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation

Community Foundation of New Jersey

The Elizabeth and Barrets O. Benjamin Charitable Foundation

School Grounds:

USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant

Fee for Service Programs

Emerson Collective Community and School Garden Special Initiative

American Public Gardens and US Botanical Garden

General Operations:

Geraldine R Dodge Foundation

Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation

McMaster Carr