



“Don’t judge
each day by
the harvest you
reap but by the
seeds that you
plant.”

Robert Louis Stevenson

Urban neighborhoods often experience

- a lack of healthy food options;
- few green, open spaces;
- vacant and abandoned properties;
- depleted social cohesion.

Community and school gardens address all of these issues and more. They provide gardeners with a straight-forward way to take control of the environments they live in while improving the local food system.

For more than 30 years, Isles Garden Support Network (IGSN) has helped residents, schools, and organizations create and maintain gardens.

IGSN offers:

- technical assistance
- educational workshops
- social events
- site evaluation
- soil testing
- plants and seedlings
- lending library of tools and resources
- The Incubator Garden, our training garden
- help securing leases for City-owned land
- help accessing City water

Currently, we support nearly 60 gardens throughout Trenton and beyond. Join us!





ISLES GARDEN SUPPORT NETWORK 2015 CALENDAR

Thursday	March 19	Community Garden Kickoff Meeting	6:30-8 PM	33 Tucker St.
Tuesday	March 31	Garden Plow Event	9:30-1:30 PM	Chestnut Ave. Garden
Saturday	April 4	Workshop: Gardening Foundations Part I	9:30-11:30 AM	33 Tucker St.
Friday	April 10	Community Garden Seed & Spring Plant Distribution	5-7 PM	33 Tucker St.
Friday	May 1	Community Garden Seed & Summer Plant Distribution	5-7 PM	33 Tucker St.
Saturday	May 2	Workshop: Gardening Foundations Part 2	9:30-11:30 AM	33 Tucker St.
Saturday	May 16	Workshop: Container Gardening & Terrariums	9:30-11:30 AM	33 Tucker St.
Saturday	May 30	Workshop: Tools & Techniques	9:30-11:30 AM	33 Tucker St.
Saturday	June 13	Workshop: Organic Growing & Composting	9:30-11:30 AM	33 Tucker St.
Saturday	June 27	Field Trip: Show Us Your Gardens!	9:00 AM-Noon	Begin and end at 33 Tucker St.
Friday	July 10	Summer Garden Social	5-7 PM	33 Tucker St.

Please see reverse for detailed descriptions. Events are free and open to the public. Workshops and plant/seed distributions are free to registered gardeners. These are just the events we have scheduled through early summer, so stay in touch. Contact us if you would like more information!

Isles, Inc.

Urban Agriculture
10 Wood Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-341-4773
UrbanAg@isles.org
www.isles.org

Garden Registration Fees

Basic Level: Free (workshops, socials)
Supporting Level: (materials, technical assistance)
\$25 – one to five gardeners
\$40 – six to ten gardeners
\$50 – ten or more gardeners
\$50 – organizational membership

Community Garden Kickoff Meeting

Thursday, March 19th - 6:30-8 PM @ 33 Tucker St. (off Warren near Battle Monument)

Whether you're a seasoned expert or just want to discover your green thumb, join us as we gear up for the year. Don't belong to a garden? We can help connect you with one.

Garden Plow Event with Howell Living History Farm

Tuesday, March 31st - 9:30-11:30 AM

Chestnut Ave Garden (between Walnut & Greenwood)

For over twenty years, Howell Farm has joined us in the spring for an old-fashioned plow led by a team of horses or oxen. Come celebrate this occasion as we prepare the Chestnut Avenue garden for the upcoming growing season. Rain date Thursday, April 2nd.

***Gardening Foundations: Part I**

Saturday, April 4th - 9:30-11:30 AM @ 33 Tucker St.

Want to garden, but not sure where to start? Join us for an informal workshop designed to take you through the year, as we discuss soil, watering, planting schedules, and trouble-shooting. Participants are encouraged to attend Part II on May 2 and also the workshops on organic gardening, composting, and tools & techniques.

Community Garden Seed & Plant Distribution

Friday, April 10th - 5-7:00 PM @ 33 Tucker St.

Pick up your seeds & fertilizer along with cool-weather seedlings like lettuce, cabbage, collards, & kale. Remember to bring your own cardboard box or seedling trays from last year!

Community Garden Seed & Plant Distribution

Friday, May 1st - 5-7 PM @ 33 Tucker St.

Pick up more seeds & fertilizer along with warm-weather seedlings like tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and herbs. Remember to bring your own cardboard box or seedling trays from last year!

***Gardening Foundations: Part II**

Saturday, May 2nd - 9:30-11:30 AM @ 33 Tucker St.

Building on lessons learned in Part One, participants will further develop gardening skills by learning the basic requirements of growing vegetables from A (asparagus) to Z (zucchini).

Workshop: Container Gardening & Terrariums

Saturday, May 16th - 9:30-11:30AM @ 33 Tucker St.

Not sure how to start gardening at home or don't think you have enough room? Join us and learn how to start on a scale that fits where you live. Learn how to select the right containers, soil, plants, and best location. We will also do a hands-on terrarium workshop so participants can take home a finished product...plants and all. Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own terrarium container.

***Workshop: Tools & Techniques**

Saturday, May 30th - 9:30-11:30 AM @ 33 Tucker St.

In addition to learning about basic tool use and care, we will discuss strategies for effective watering, weeding, and harvesting. Techniques for plant pruning & support will also be demonstrated as ways to maximize yield in the minimum amount of space.

***Workshop: Organic Gardening and Composting**

Saturday, June 13th - 9:30 AM-11:30 AM @ 33 Tucker St.

Learn practical ways of handling garden problems in ways that are safe for you and safe for the environment. Special focus will be given to organic management of pests and diseases. Learn about the benefits and principles of composting, including simple bin construction. Learn the vital role that soil organisms play in plant health. We will also discuss different types of mulches and their application in weed control and soil moisture retention.

Field Trip: Show us Your Garden!

Saturday, June 27th – 9:00-Noon, begins/ends @ 33 Tucker St.

We are also organizing a "round robin" style garden tour for and by community gardeners. Is your garden the talk of the town? We plan on scheduling visits to a variety of gardens, so let us know if you're interested in being a featured stop. Even if your garden is not participating, please join us to see how Trenton is "growing". We will carpool from Tucker Street and return there for a brown bag lunch.

***Indicates joint workshop with Incubator Garden**

What is the Incubator Garden?

The Incubator Garden, located at 33 Tucker Street in Trenton, offers hands-on training for novice gardeners or those who would like more experience. Horticultural training will be supplemented with leadership training to cultivate more knowledgeable and confident gardeners, as well as head gardeners who can lead new or existing community gardens. Trainees in the incubator garden will tend individual plots in a communal setting and will receive a high level of support. Participants would spend one year, including one growing season, in the incubator garden.

How does it work?

The incubator garden accommodates approximately ten gardeners. Each gardener will have a single raised bed measuring 5'x10' for their own use, but will also have access to a communal herb and flower bed. Classes are a combination of discussion-based topics and practical hands-on demonstrations. Staff will be available at other scheduled times for assistance, but trainees will have access to the garden to work outside of scheduled class times at their convenience.

How often are the classes?

Classes are scheduled on Saturday mornings, with an average of two classes per month from April through June. Four classes form the core of the program, but additional specialized ones will be scheduled throughout the growing season, including cooking, food preservation, and skills building.

This sounds tough. Can you reassure me?

Growing food is easier than you think. Classes are designed for beginners, but even those with prior gardening experience can still learn new skills. Think of this as not just learning to work with plants, but as a way to productively work with other people for common good.

I already belong to a community garden. Can I join the Incubator?

You can join even if you're already gardening, but all trainees are required to maintain a plot in the Incubator Garden and participate in classes and workshops.

What happens when we're through?

Once gardeners have completed their term at the end of the 2015 growing season, we hope they will move on to existing community gardens or help start new ones, as we would like to train a new "crop" of gardeners each year. During the course of their year at the incubator, trainees will connect with others in their group, but will also connect with those from existing community gardens. These connections will help facilitate transition out of the Incubator setting.

Does it cost anything?

Cost for the training program is \$50, but the fee can be waived if you complete additional volunteer hours at projects related to the Incubator or Isles Garden Support Network. You will have access to most plants, seeds & fertilizer for your plot in addition to shared tools & equipment. All class materials are covered as well. You can even team up with a friend and share a plot!

Is there a selection process?

Space is limited, so we will accept trainees who meet most or all of the criteria below:

- Resident of Trenton
- Interested in joining or starting a community garden
- Able to attend at least 75% of the classes offered
- Commitment to working cooperatively with others
- Commitment to maintaining your plot through end of fall growing season

TENTATIVE Class Schedule

Class content and activities are subject to change, but we will adhere mainly to a Saturday morning schedule. Classes may be repeated on Saturdays or on weekday evenings.

Sat	4/04/2015	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Foundations: Part One
Sat	4/18/2015	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Incubator Work Day
Sat	5/02/2015	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Foundations: Part Two
Sat	5/30/2015	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Tools & Techniques
Sat	6/13/2015	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Composting & Organic Growing

Class Descriptions

Foundations: Part One

Learn about the principles of community gardening and the benefits that it can provide. An overview of the year will include background on operation of the incubator garden and your active role in it through classes and garden work. This class will also focus on basic horticulture skills, including soils, botany, and seasonality.

Foundations: Part Two

Building on lessons learned in Part One, participants will further develop gardening skills by learning the basic care requirements of growing vegetables from A (asparagus) to Z (zucchini).

Tools & Techniques

In addition to learning about basic tool use and care, we will discuss strategies for effective watering, weeding, and harvesting. Techniques for plant pruning & support will also be demonstrated as ways to maximize yield in the minimum amount of space.

Organic Growing and Composting

Learn practical ways of handling garden problems in ways that are safe for you and safe for the environment. Special focus will be given to organic management of pests and diseases. We will also learn about the benefits and principles of composting.

If you have questions or would like to refer someone else for the Incubator Garden, please contact Jim Simon, Urban Agriculture Manager at 609.341.4724 or jsimon@isles.org

Incubator Garden Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____

Is your primary phone a cell phone? _____ Can you receive text messages? _____

Alternate Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

1. Do you currently garden at home or in a community garden?
2. How would you describe your level of gardening experience?
3. Are you interested in joining or starting a community garden in the future?
4. Why are you interested in the Incubator Garden?
5. What skills do you hope to acquire if selected to participate in the Incubator Garden?
6. Tell us something interesting about yourself.
7. Are you involved with other community organizations?
8. Are you able to attend classes at the scheduled times (Saturday mornings)?
9. Do you plan to team up with another person on your plot? If yes, give us their name and have them fill out their own application.
10. Are there any other factors that we should consider for your application?

If you have questions or would like to refer someone else for the Incubator Garden, please contact Jim Simon, Urban Agriculture Manager at 609.341.4724 or jsimon@isles.org

Please return completed applications to Jim via e-mail or to:

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