

# BEN FRANKLIN Community Garden

**Celebrating 30 Years as a Program of  
Old Brooklyn Community Development  
Corporation (OBCDC)**



Since 1980 Ben Franklin Community Garden has been a treasure within Old Brooklyn. “Benji” (as it is affectionately called) has 200 garden plots covering five acres and is located behind Ben Franklin Elementary School at 1905 Spring Road.

In addition to the gardens, there is a serene natural grassy area for picnics or peaceful meditation. There is a plan to clear some walking trails throughout the wooded area to be used by students or residents in 2011. There is also a children’s garden utilized by the students at the school, as well as space for the Ohio University Extension Master Gardener’s program.



Over the years gardeners have donated thousands of pounds of food to local food banks and pantries throughout the west side of Cleveland. And for the past several years the Garden has won Best Community Garden at the Cuyahoga County Fair. Individual gardeners have also won many top prizes for their vegetables at the fair each year.



In 2010, Robert J. Boggs, the Director of the Ohio State Department of Agriculture, visited the garden with his staff. They were all very impressed and said the garden could be the largest community garden in the entire state of Ohio! Mayor Frank Jackson also toured the garden as part of the Cleveland Garden Tour in August of 2009.



“Benji” was designated a Cleveland Landmark and a special ceremony was held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 for the dedication. Councilman Anthony Brancatelli and past City Council representative Merle Gordon were on hand to present the honors.

The garden is a great place for community events held by the CDC and the Garden’s Operating Committee. The committee holds an ice cream social and harvest picnic each year for the active gardeners. The garden is also open to visitors during OBCDC’s annual “All Access” Home & Bicycle Tour.



The Garden is supported by Old Brooklyn CDC and has received Neighborhood Connections grants throughout the past several years. In addition, the Summer Sprout Program provides seeds and plants free of charge to gardeners.

For more information on obtaining a garden plot or general information call OBCDC at 216-459-1000.