



## Fall 2025 Newsletter

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### End of season volunteer opportunities

Still need hours? We have several ways to help on **Saturday, October 11** and **Sunday, October 12**. Volunteers are needed for:

- End-of-season garden clean-up
- Old Brooklyn StreetFest

☐ Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/ZSMfwei>

Any additional opportunities will be shared on GroupMe and posted on the website under [Volunteer Opps](#).

**Don't forget:** Log all volunteer hours in the book at the shed under the main gardener's name. Every hour counts and helps us celebrate your contribution!

*(per End-of-Season Rule 22 – Checkout Process)*

### Garden closing check-out procedure

To wrap up the 2025 gardening season, please plan to check out of your plot with Greg, our Garden Coordinator, or a Committee Member by **4 p.m. on**

Closing date: Oct. 11



**Saturday, October 11th.** Together, you'll go over a simple check-out sheet that confirms your plot is ready for winter plowing.

**Plot Preparation for Check-out and Volunteer Hours** ([See Rules](#))

- **Manmade Materials / Trash** – Remove all manmade materials, including weed-blocking material and staples/pins. Gardeners must haul away their own trash: broken hoses, tomato cages, stakes or unwanted weed blocker materials.
- **Flowers** – **Leave flowers in place** to provide habitat for pollinators.
- **Vegetation** – **Cut vining vegetation** to 2 feet or less and spread vegetation evenly across the plot. It is not necessary and not recommended that vegetation/organic material be removed. Vegetation **MAY NOT** be placed in compost bins.
- **Straw** – Spread any straw bales evenly across the plot. Cardboard may remain in place.
- **Stakes** – Leave your name board and brown plot stakes in place.
- **Level Ground** – Rake smooth all mounds and fill in any holes so the ground is level.
- **Volunteer Hours** – All volunteer hours or monetary donations\* are due at season's end and will be verified during check-out.

\*[Donate via PayPal](#)

Thank you for helping prepare the garden for a fresh start next season! Completing these steps ensures your plot is ready for plowing and planting the winter cover crop, AND keeps you in good standing for 2026.

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**JOIN US @ OB STREETFEST**

**SAT. OCTOBER 11** **2 PM TO 8 PM**

CELEBRATE OLD BROOKLYN!  
BROADVIEW ROAD: SPRING TO TAMPA

BFCG will be at the **OB StreetFest celebration!**  
On Saturday, Oct. 11 from 2–8p, Broadview Rd between Spring Rd and Tampa Ave will become pedestrian only, filled with food, live music, retail vendors/artisans, a beer garden, and family friendly activities. Free!

Garden volunteers will work our booth ([See SignUp](#)) but everyone is encouraged to stop by!



**October 25**

## Trick or Treat Trail

Old Brooklyn's annual Trick or Treat Trail, organized by Gateway Church, will be held at BFCG on **Saturday, October 25th from 1-3 p.m.** The free event includes popcorn, apple cider, games, crafts, and music, plus the Trick or Treat Trail with treat stations hosted by local organizations.

BFCG will have a station with activities and treats. Watch GroupMe and the website for volunteer opportunities and donations of sweets/treats! (Volunteer time and \$ are applied to the 2026 season.)

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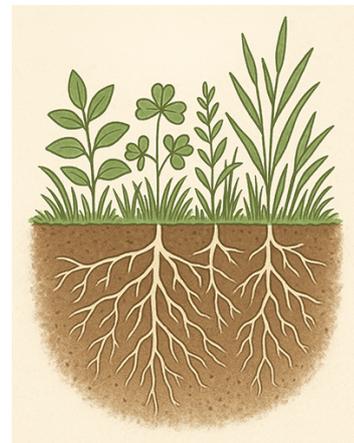
## Recharging our soil

### Winter cover crop

After the season wraps up, we'll plant a winter cover crop to help keep our soil healthy. Cover crops protect the ground over winter, add organic matter, and return valuable nutrients.

Planting a mix, including legumes and grasses, is recommended for the best results:

- **Clover** – fixes nitrogen in the soil
- **Winter wheat** – protects against erosion
- **Hairy vetch** – enriches soil fertility
- **Field radish** – breaks up compacted soil with its deep roots



Together, these plants set the stage for healthier plots and stronger harvests next season. In the spring, the crop will be turned into the soil to break down.

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## Stay in touch over the off-season

### GroupMe garden alerts

Garden updates don't stop completely just because the season winds down. GroupMe is still the easiest way to stay connected – free, simple, and already used by many of your fellow gardeners. Don't miss important reminders or early news for the 2026 season!



### [Sign-up info here.](#)

Need help? A committee member can walk you through it, or email us at [grow@benfranklincommunitygarden.org](mailto:grow@benfranklincommunitygarden.org).

Thanks for keeping the garden community strong year-round!

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**Become a member of Old Brooklyn CDC**

Membership is free — please consider joining. A gardener's membership does not bring any obligation but it does add to the Garden's voice within our parent organization. <https://www.oldbrooklyn.com/me...>



## New Operating Committee members

At the Annual Meeting on September 14, we elected new members to the Operating Committee. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming:

- **Bug Robbins**
- **Janet Smith**
- **Connor Wollenzier**

A heartfelt thank you to our outgoing members for their

service and dedication:

- **Mary Ellen Stasek**
- **Mark Tapajna, Vice Chair**
- **Jennifer Terry**
- **Lisa Young**

Their time, effort, and leadership have made a real difference in the garden community.

There are still **two vacancies** on the committee — it's not too late to get involved! If you're interested in lending a hand, please let us know.

## Garden Operating Committee Monthly Meetings

Your Garden Operating Committee meets year round! Unless otherwise indicated, committee meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at

Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation  
4274 Pearl Road, rear entrance.

All gardeners and members of the public are welcome to attend!



### Ben Franklin Community Garden

1905 Spring Road  
Mailing Address: 4274 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
A program of  
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.

[communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org](mailto:communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org)

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