

BEN FRANKLIN COMMUNITY GARDEN
OPERATING COMMITTEE
2013 REPORT

A. GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

1. Additional garlic plots were made available to those who wanted them.
2. The Garden Committee paid for the removal of 3 trees that were diseased, damaged and a safety hazard.
3. Two additional fruit trees have been planted in our orchard; we now have approximately 17 fruit trees -- 2 plum; 3 peach; 4 cherry; 2 nectarine; 3 pear; 3 apple.
4. About 15-20 yards of additional pathway have been cleared for walking in the woods.
5. The Garden Committee purchased a used compost chipper to speed up the break-down of plant and leaf materials.
6. Identification markers were placed on 16 trees; we still have a few dozen to do.
7. Key Bank provided 25-30 volunteers to remove invasive garlic mustard weed, and to clean up trash in the woods.
8. The garden continues to provide a venue for volunteer groups to perform community service - i.e., church groups (from out of state), KISS Foundation's Lia House, court-ordered service and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.
9. Provided gardeners with leaf humus and wood chips.

B. OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. A pre-season class for new gardeners was held on April 27 2013.
2. Effective June 19, 2013 the Ben Franklin Garden was designated as "Urban Garden District" via City Ordinance No. 825-10. The legislation was introduced by Council member Anthony Brancatelli on behalf of the Garden Committee's request and is now zoned as such.
3. The County Extension Service has announced that Ben Franklin is the largest community garden in the county; we always felt that we were but now it is official.
4. The garden won its 6th Blue Ribbon at the Cuyahoga County Fair, (tied with North Royalton) for the best community garden in the county.
5. Ben Franklin gardeners donated close to 6,000 pounds of produce to various hunger centers.
6. In total, all the community gardens in the county donated 23,000 pounds to hunger centers and/or food pantries. One fourth (26%) of that came from the generosity of our gardeners.
7. The Garden Committee continues to fund a First-Time Gardeners Meeting, Ice Cream Social, Harvest Picnic, and the fall brush mowing and plowing.
8. We hosted or supported Community events:
 - Pedal for Prizes 5/18/13
 - Cleveland Garden Walk 6/22/13
 - Salad for Seniors 6/1/13
 - Gave tours to various organizations and church groups (some from out-of-state)
 - Provided opportunities for volunteer work: (e. g. a group of 20 from Pittsburgh on 7/30/13; group of 40 Scots In Service on 9/28/13; group of 25 Key Bank Volunteers on 5/22/13)

C. FUND RAISING

1. Applied for and received \$500 Community Leadership Grant from Key Bank.
2. Held a successful Fourth Annual Fundraiser at Cleats on 3/13/13.
3. Published *Recipes From The Garden* cookbook that went on sale in the spring 2013.
4. Produced a third Garden t-shirt -- with design by a graphic artist/gardener -- that went on sale during the 2013 garden season.
5. The committee continues to raise money by conducting 50/50 raffles, sales of hot dogs, soft drinks and bottled water.

D. DETRIMENTAL EVENTS

On November 14, 2013 we discovered that the storage building and our steel container were broken into and approximately \$1,000 worth of tools and power equipment was stolen. As a result we have put more robust locks on the building and container. Further attempts to break in were unsuccessful.

Submitted by
John Jenkins, Vice-Chair

GARDEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013 -2014

Kim Repinsky	Chair Person, Ex-officio member of all Subcommittees
John Jenkins	Vice Chair, Ex-officio member of all Subcommittees, Acts when Chair is unavailable Performs numerous specific assignments
Jennifer Terry	Treasurer Chair of the Finance Sub-committee Member of Communications Subcommittee
Lisa Young	Secretary Project Manager for County Fair Performs other special assignments Chair, Communications Subcommittee
Mary Ellen Stasek	Chair, Governance and Preservation Subcommittee Performs special assignments Member of Communications Subcommittee
Mark Tapajna	Chair, Projects Subcommittee Performs other special assignments
David Kuebler	Member of Projects Subcommittee Performs other special assignments Master Gardener
Phyllis Crespo	Member of Governance Subcommittee Legal advisor to Garden Committee Performs other special assignments
Greg Noeth	Member of Projects Subcommittee Performs other special assignments
Lyn Oryshkewych	Member of Finance Committee Performs other special assignments
Garden Staff	To be decided