

Benjamin Franklin Garden Committee Accomplishments 2015

1. Most of our fruit trees were pruned during March and April. The peach trees had a heavy yield of fruit but insect damage was severe.
2. Garden committee chair and vice-chair were invited to Kent Ohio "Green Town" to give a presentation on community gardens on 4/14/15.
3. Held a successful fundraiser at Local Tavern on 4/18/15.
4. Garden soil was tested: the test report dated 6/11/15 showed that with the exception of nitrogen the soil has plenty of the necessary minerals.
5. The garden hosted a number of educational classes, a tree pruning class on 2/26/15, and tree steward classes on 4/20/15 and 11/4/15.
6. New trees planted: two pawpaw trees 6/2/15, a royal frost birch 10/17/15, a dawn redwood tree 11/4/15, and a crab apple tree 11/4/15.
7. Ice cream social was held 7/14/15.
8. Harvest picnic was held 9/12/15.
9. Staffed a petal for prizes station and provided refreshments for visitors on 5/16/15.
10. Sump pump was purchased to remove the large puddle of water that accumulates under the oak tree after heavy rains.
11. Throughout the season we had requests for garden tours from various organizations, committee members honored all requests — Congresswoman Fudge's interns 7/24, Broadview Hts "Green Acres" community garden 7/25, Cuyahoga Extension Service/Cleveland Metroparks-hosted tour 8/14, Big Creek Connects including staffer from Cleveland Natural History Museum's Natural Areas Program., 9/19.
12. A number of volunteer groups wanted to help maintain the grounds and were accommodated also. Service hours were provided by Gateway Church 4/25, Key Bank Neighbors Make the Difference 5/13, Grace Church 10/10 and Scots in Service 10/17.
13. We won our 7th Blue ribbon as the best community garden at the Cuyahoga county fair 8/9.
14. A safety hazard for decades, the white birch tree, leaning on the electrical lines was finally removed. (A new birch was planted #6)
15. Three new picnic tables for the garden were purchased on 10/5.
16. New shelving was purchased and assembled for storing name boards and stakes for marking garden plots.
17. Committee paid for repair of Ben Franklin Schools leaf vacuum equipment on 7/31, since we use the same equipment for keeping various areas of the garden tended. Cost of repair \$260.00
18. Parts to repair the gas heater in the storage building were purchased and installed.
19. A new gas grill was purchased on 11/15/15 for next season.
20. One gardener graciously donated 300 plot marker stakes.
21. Food donations to the hunger centers totaled 4,720 pounds for the season.
22. Bobcat was rented. The "Mount Franklin" soil was distributed into the garden, the swell was filled in, over flow of soil along the asphalt was leveled, the compost piles were distributed in to the fields and the wood chip path was completed in the woods.
23. The garden is now a member of the American Community Garden Association.
24. We are purchasing a tractor.

Looking ahead to 2016.....

1. Annual fundraiser in April.
2. Kick-off meeting
3. First time gardeners meeting. A
4. Our first till of the soil with our new tractor.
5. Ice cream social.
6. Harvest picnic.
7. We are looking to add one or two social events that will be open to the public to bring in more of the community.
8. The American Community Garden Association will be holding their annual meeting and conference in Cleveland in August-Cleveland Growing Strong- health, equity and sustainability. We were asked to be a part of the oral history project they are putting together. We also expect to be a part of the garden tour for the attendees.
9. Fingers crossed an 8th Blue ribbon at the county fair.

Dates are TBA.