SEEDING OUR FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

GROW PITTSBURGH
Dear supporters and friends,

I recently found myself on a road trip talking to my children about the days before Google maps and GPS. I wanted to share my enthusiasm and passion for reading maps: for the process of identifying a destination and then exploring the many paths and decisions that can ultimately lead us there. In 2018, Grow Pittsburgh began the first year of a new strategic plan, our own map toward a destination of mission fulfillment and deepened impact. Our overarching focus is to build programs, systems, and networks that solidify food growing projects as essential regional assets for generations to come. I hope that you enjoy reading this report and learning about the paths that we are taking to reach this goal.

Last year was a difficult time in our community. From the death of Antwon Rose II to the shootings at Tree of Life and other losses, our whole community has felt the impacts of shared tragedies and personal grief. Through this time, we have been grateful for the therapeutic benefits that gardens can bring to our communities through the healing and joy that are found in growing, preparing, and sharing food not only with those we love, but also with strangers we have only just met. I am proud that we have worked together to try to make our city and our world a better, kinder, and more welcoming place.

Thanks to your support and the talents and hard work of our staff and community, this challenging past year has also been marked with success and growth. We were able to formally support an ever-growing network of school and community gardens, forge new partnerships with corner stores to ensure access to fresh produce throughout the week, and expand our programming into early childhood centers across our region. These initiatives, among many others outlined in this report, highlight our commitment to establishing and supporting gardens as essential and enduring resources in our community.

This work is ongoing, collaborative, and adaptive. The changing needs of our community continually present new opportunities and challenges, but with our map in hand, we are navigating together toward a place where everyone in our region grows and eats fresh, local, culturally relevant, and delicious food. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Warmly,

Jake Seltman, Executive Director

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**INCOME**

**TOTAL:** $1,735,710

- **EARNED:** $137,939
- **MEMBERSHIP:** $128,059
- **GRANTS:** $1,469,712

Corporate & member support

**Includes multi-year grants**

**85%**

**EXPENSES**

**TOTAL:** $1,624,598

- **OPERATIONS:** $208,835
- **FUNDRAISING:** $100,097
- **PROGRAMMING:** $1,315,666

**81%**

* Figures based on un-audited financial statements
Seated nine committee members to Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI) to protect community gardens in our region through a partnership with Allegheny Land Trust, received four applications from interested gardens, and began pursuing protection for two of them.

Partnered with two Braddock corner stores, 4th Street Market and Aunt Cheryl’s Cafe, to sell produce on consignment and provide fresh food to residents seven days a week.

Launched the Community Garden Network to connect the more than 100 community gardens throughout Allegheny County to each other and resources through regular meet-ups, skillshares, field trips and newsletters.

In partnership with Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, hosted PA Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding in celebration of Pennsylvania’s first “Urban Ag Week,” for a tour of urban gardens and farms in Mt. Oliver Borough, Northside and Homewood.

“I RECENTLY HAVE BECOME VEGETARIAN AND IT FELT REALLY GOOD TO BUY ALL OF OUR PRODUCE LOCALLY JUST BLOCKS AWAY FROM HOME.”

—Kimberly Ferry, Braddock Farms Stand Customer

SEEDING OUR FUTURE

EXPANDING SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAMMING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTERS as part of statewide Ready, Set, Grow! initiative

LOOKING AHEAD
IT WAS REALLY INSPIRING AND INVIGORATING TO SEE THAT IT’S POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE SORTS OF JOBS THAT THE APPRENTICESHIP TEACHES YOU ABOUT.”
— Kiah Boudreau, Urban Farm Apprentice

WE GROW FOOD

- Sold over 11,000 pounds of food to local residents between our two weekly farm stands at Braddock and Shiloh Farms
- Donated over 1,500 pounds of food to Heritage Community Initiatives, Rankin Christian Center, Braddock Youth Project, and East End Cooperative Ministries
- Hosted 31 farm tours to 289 individuals from schools, community, and corporate groups as well as part of the Pittsburgh Urban Farm Tour
- Hosted 10 apprentices and two farm assistants across three production sites
- 17 community and corporate groups volunteered at our production sites
- Grew over 15,000 seedlings, 2,000 of which were donated to school gardens, users at the Garden Resource Center, Sankofa Village, YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, and area community gardens
- Partnered with Rivendale Farms and Pittsburgh Pirates Charities to support the establishment of the Rivendale Patio Garden at PNC Park. Ballpark chefs used the produce throughout the season, and our apprentices visited and helped maintain the garden

LOOKING AHEAD

LAUNCHING A YOUTH-ORIENTED EFFORT TO EXPAND FRESH PRODUCE ACCESS IN FOOD INSECURE COMMUNITIES through two markets in Homewood and Braddock to support local growers while also creating more youth employment opportunities
WE BUILD AND SUPPORT GARDENS

• 172 new users joined the Garden Resource Center, surpassing 9,000 total loans in its fourth year of operation

• 13 advisory committee members collaborated to steer long term visioning of the Garden Resource Center

• Over 300 area growers attended our 6th Annual Seed Swap with Phipps Conservatory and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, enjoying workshops and sharing seed stories

• Partnered with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to award $20,000 in materials through our Sustainability Fund to 38 gardens for improvements

• 146 community gardeners attended workshops, garden events, and volunteer days, logging 2,701 volunteer hours

• Hosted 3 skillshares about planting and harvesting garlic to 26 attendees from eight community gardens through the new Community Garden Network

• Worked with communities to support 1.2 acres of new gardens in Allegheny County, including 3,725 sq. ft. of new food growing space

LOOKING AHEAD

ENVISIONING CONTINUED GROWTH AND CELEBRATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM which has supported 100 gardens and engaged more than 1,500 individuals since 2010
“STUDENTS ARE EAGER TO GO OUT TO THE GARDEN AND IT GIVES EVERYONE A MEANINGFUL PLACE TO BE ENGAGED OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM.”

—Survey response from educator in Learning Garden Program

WE TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO GROW FOOD

• Hosted 15 Garden Workshops with a total of 245 participants

• Built 11 new Learning Gardens with programming partner Big Green

• 65 individuals took our How to Start a Community Garden workshop, locally and at American Community Garden Association Conference

• Now supporting gardens in 26 of 54 Pittsburgh Public Schools

• Partnered with The Frick Pittsburgh to lead the Learning Tree program, in which 205 students from Colfax and Faison learned about planting herb seeds

• Hosted four Teacher Trainings for 35 educators representing 18 schools

• Partnered with Homewood Children’s Village and Braddock Youth Project on Urban Farmers in Training, a summer education and employment program for 12 youth, culminating in the 5th Annual Youth Garden Summit attended by 50 youth from across the city who spent their summer focused on food growing projects

• Eight Urban Farm Apprentices received over 1,900 hours of hands-on farm and food production training and 15 field trips

BUILDING OUT A SCHOOL GARDEN NETWORK

to facilitate connections between educators and increase capacity to sustain gardens and programming in all schools for years to come

LOOKING AHEAD
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

CORPORATE
AgRecycle Compost Center
Allegheny County Conservation District
Allegheny County General Fund
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Allegheny Land Trust
AmeriCorps(KEYS Service Corps
Apple Cookie and Chocolate Factory
Associated Master Plumbers of Allegheny County
B Gourmet
Bathhouse Ceramics Studio
Bear Left Bear
Bible Center Church
big Burrito Restaurant Group
Big Green
Black Urban Gardeners and Farmers of Pittsburgh Co-op
BNY Mellon Community Partnership
Braddock Borough
Braddock Carnegie Library
Braddock Economic Development Corporation
Braddock Free Store
Braddock Redux
Braddock Youth Project
BTC Inc.
Burgh Bees
BYS Yoga
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Chatham University
School of Sustainability
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh’s Healthy School Program
Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh
Churchill Garden Club
Churchview Farm
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Common Threads
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East End Food Coop
Eisler Landscapes, Inc.
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First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne
fl. 2/f Fairmont Pittsburgh
Frick Art and Historical Center
Gardens Dreams Urban Farm and Nursery
Gateway School District
Giant Eagle
Grandview Lions Club
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Greentree Garden Club
Grounded Strategies
Hart Seed Company
Hello Bistro
Henkel’s Greenhouse
Heritage Community Initiatives
Hill House Association
Hilltop Alliance
Homewood Children’s Village
Hope Community Connections Center
Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Idea Foundry
Just Harvest
Landforce
Lawrenceville Corporation
Let’s Move Pittsburgh
Local Government Academy
Marcus Studio
Millie’s Homemade Ice Cream
Nature Works Farm
Neighbors on the Mount
New Academy Charter School
New Sun Rising
Nine Mile Run Watershed
Northgate School District
One Tree Per Child
Operation Better Block / Junior Green Corps
Paul Lumber & Supply Co.
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Penn’s Corner Farm Alliance
Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Pennsylvania Women’s Agricultural Network
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Pittsburgh Public Schools Food Services
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Schenley Farms Garden Club
Seed Savers Exchange
Shaler Garden Club
Smith Construction
Southwest Pittsburgh Community Development Corporation
Spirit
Square Cafe
Student Conservation Association
Superior Motors
Sustainable Pittsburgh
Sycamore Estate
The Davey Tree Expert Company
The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park
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Thomas Blvd Group
Threadbare Cider and Mead
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University of Pittsburgh’s PittServes
Urban League of Pittsburgh
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Wilderness Lumber Co
Wilkins Township
Wilkinsburg School District
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Woodland Hills School District
YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh
Yoga Hom
YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh

COMMUNITY
Allegheny County Economic Development
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny Foundation
Benter Foundation
Colcom Foundation
Edwin R. Crawford Estate Trust
Evan and Tracy Segal Family Foundation
American Eagle Outfitters
Botanical Interests
Chipotle
Choolah
CMU Heinz College
Dollar Bank
Eat’n Park Hospitality Group
Farm to Table Western PA
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Taylor Clemm

James Dreher
Jessi Durmis
Noah James

Lamar Johnson
Oliver Pinder

THANKS TO OUR STAFF, APPRENTICES, VOLUNTEERS, AND BOARD FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN 2018!
“YOU DON’T EVEN HAVE TO BE A GARDENER TO PARTICIPATE. PEOPLE LIKE COMING AND WALKING AROUND THE GARDEN BECAUSE IT MAKES THEM FEEL GOOD.”

—Scott Fisher, Duquesne Community Victory Garden

“I LOVE LEARNING NEW THINGS, AND I LOVE THAT I CAN TRY OUT NEW TOOLS AND SOIL AMENDMENTS.”

—Emily Davis, GRC user and volunteer

“I THINK STUDENTS AND STAFF FEEL BETTER ABOUT OUR SCHOOL WHEN THEY SEE HOW WELL THE GARDEN IS DOING OUTSIDE.”

—Survey response from educator in Learning Garden Program