

Youth Community Gardens

Site #1: *Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 11929 Beech St NE Alliance, OH 44601*

Site #2: *The Alliance High School, 400 Glamorgan St Alliance, OH 44601.*



These youth centered community gardens were developed to engage at-risk teens to grow their own foods while learning about and practicing agriculture, environmental stewardship, and community development. A primary goal of our Youth Gardening project is to foster the development of a work ethic, self-esteem, citizenship, leadership and team work through involvement in all aspects of growing local foods. Each year approximately 60-80 youth participate in the gardens. They experience and learn about gardening, horticulture, science, the environment, nutrition, and art

An assortment of foods are grown including; lettuces, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, green beans, potatoes, carrots, kale, collards, sweet potatoes, tomatillo's, strawberries, broccoli, cauliflower, herbs, and flowers to encourage and assist pollinators. Fresh produce grown is taken home by participating teens, with any abundance given to the Alliance Food Pantry.

Program collaborators are; Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health, and Alliance City Schools.

The first garden site was established in 2010 at Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve. The program went very well, which inspired leaders to outreach into the city. In 2012, the Alliance High School (AHS) site was developed. In spring of 2015, AHS informed garden leaders that due to new construction the garden needed to move to another location on AHS grounds. With assistance from AHS, United Health Care, and many volunteer hours the garden is now re-located to its new home adjacent to the building.

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