



# Spring 2021 Newsletter



Happy spring Friends! This growing season has been quickly ramping up and we've been busy in our gardens and organizing some pretty great things. Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter, we have lots to share with you.

## **Friends of Portland Community Gardens Project Updates**

### **Plant starts/Grant from Oroweat**

As we've mentioned in previous newsletters, the Friends of Portland Community Gardens (FPCG) were fortunate to receive a Spring Planting Grant from Oroweat. We've been busy using these funds to support the Portland Produce for People program.

We began growing vegetable starts in January for the purpose of providing them to Portland Community Gardens. The Community Transition Program (Portland Public Schools) supported our efforts by allowing us to use their greenhouse space and donating some starts they grew. Wild Grown Farm donated 4" pots which we put to great use when transplanting seedlings into bigger containers. We also received a number of starts lovingly grown by community gardeners. We really appreciate the support from our local gardening community.



On Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> FPCG provided 14 Portland Community gardens with over 1,200 starts! We supplied these gardens with arugula, broccoli, chard, collards, leeks, lettuce, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, onions, and pak choi starts. These starts went to the following gardens to support their Produce for People (PFP) programs and to help out gardeners:



- Adams
- Blair
- Brentwood South
- Clinton
- Errol Heights
- Frazer
- Front and Curry
- Ivon
- Johns
- Lents
- Sabin
- Sewallcrest
- McCoy
- 72<sup>nd</sup>
- Pier



We will be distributing warm weather starts soon that include tomatoes, peppers, chard and squashes.

### **Produce for People Networking Group**

Produce for People is a program of the City of Portland Community Gardening program where the gardens grow food and donate extra produce for local food shelters. We have begun working with the Portland Community Gardens Department and Produce for People Coordinators to explore how to best support PFP efforts. To help facilitate conversations, we are working toward setting up a PFP Networking Group where PFP volunteers can exchange ideas, share resources, and support each other. We'd love to hear your ideas and have you join this group. If your PFP Group would like to join our group, please fill out the [form](#) link to tell us more about your garden's PFP program.

### **Gift cards for Garden Managers**

Every year, FPCG supports the volunteer Garden Managers by providing each Portland Community Garden Manager a gift card to support the needs of their garden. In the past, these have been used for a variety of purposes; whatever that garden needs from coffee and donuts to rakes and hoses. We have sent out all of the 2021 gift cards to participating Garden Managers.

### **2021 Mason Bee Project**

Friends completed a very successful Mason Bee project this year. The ultimate goal is to give a mason bee house and cocoons to all the 57 community gardens to add to their population of pollinators. We still have 23 gardens to give mason bees, however many do not have garden managers, which makes it difficult to find gardeners to manage the bee house. Friends increased their sales of bee houses to the public as a fundraiser. We sold 25 bee houses (with cocoons included) to raise \$1,778.



### **2021 project ideas**

Do you have any projects that you would like Friends of Portland Community Gardens to help with in 2021? Send your ideas to us! [info@portlandcommunitygardens.org](mailto:info@portlandcommunitygardens.org)

### **Right Now in the Garden**



## Spring planting

May is a great time to plant tender annuals before it has warmed enough for heat loving crops. Some of our favorites right now are radishes, peas, lettuce, dill, cilantro, onions, and carrots.

It is also a good time to sow flowers that need warmer temps to germinate, for example, sunflowers, marigolds, cosmos, nasturtiums, and borage. Plantings of these flowers in May will result in blooms August and early fall.

## Providing for pollinators

Cultivating space that is beneficial to pollinators, like bees and butterflies, is beneficial to your garden since pollinators help move pollen between flowers. You can help encourage pollinators in your garden by planting native flowering plants that bloom in spring, summer, and fall. You can also help protect pollinators by avoiding pesticides (they are harmful to their health). See [link](#) for a plant list of plant species for a pollinator habitat in the Pacific Northwest.



## Raised garden beds

Raised garden beds are a popular solution to garden issues (soil quality, uneven ground, etc) and can also be a delightful addition to your outdoor landscape. When building a raised bed for organic vegetable gardening it is also important to consider the framing material. When using wood for raised beds, cedar, juniper, or recycled untreated wood are all great options – just be mindful of treated wood or other materials that may leech chemicals into the soil. For more info on building [raised beds](#) (and more), OSU Extension Service [Website](#) is a great resource.

## Support FPCG

Looking for more ways to support Friends of Portland Community Gardens?

- You can make a donation on our [website](#).
- The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible [AmazonSmile](#) purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. Just add Friends of Portland Community Gardens as the nonprofit organization to your account.
- If you shop at Fred Meyer, you can help support Friends of Portland Community Gardens through the Community Rewards program. Just designate FPCG as the nonprofit to be linked to your Rewards Card. Any transactions using the Shopper's Card number will be applied to the program with no added cost to you. Click [here](#) for more information.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) for updates and events.

Friends of Portland Community Gardens (Friends) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to support and expand community gardening opportunities for all Portland-area residents to grow healthy food and build community around gardening.

For over 30 years, Friends has provided support to the Portland Parks and Recreation Community Gardens program, while also expanding our mission to also include non-Parks & Recreation community gardens throughout the Portland area.

Friends of Portland Community Gardens



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