Emory Educational Garden Project
Cultivating community and food on campus

HIGHLIGHTS

The Emory Educational Garden Project is intended to make small-scale food production accessible through transferring gardening knowledge at weekly workdays and sharing fresh produce with volunteers.

Eight small but productive garden plots across campus are maintained by Emory community members, providing communal spaces to work and grow food together.

BENEFITS

- A variety of produce, including tomatoes, lettuce, beans, eggplants, broccoli, strawberries, cotton, and more, are all grown in the Emory Educational Gardens around campus.
- The fruits and vegetables in the gardens are grown for educational purposes, to help aspiring gardeners become more comfortable with growing food. Volunteers are also rewarded with the fruits of their labor by taking home the produce that they cultivate and harvest.
- The Educational Gardens contribute to our Sustainability Vision by providing a safe habitat for pollinators and replacing turf grass with more biodiverse ecosystems.
- The Garden Living-Learning Community, part of the Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) program, is a themed housing community located on Clairmont Campus. Residents are responsible for maintaining the Clairmont Educational Garden, while also engaging with topics related to food cultures and food communities in a credit-bearing class, as well as occasional field trips and other activities. For more information, contact FIR Dr. Levin Arnsberger or Program Assistant Quinton Gasper.

HOW IT WORKS

- The gardens are maintained by teams of volunteers that meet for weekly workdays. Most gardens are led by undergraduate and graduate student groups, departments, or classes, but all members of the Emory community are welcome to volunteer. No prior experience is needed.
- Volunteers assist with maintenance tasks, including weeding, planting, watering, and of course, harvesting.
- The workday schedule is available on the Emory OSI Calendar, or through the gardening listserv. To be added to the listserv or for any other questions, contact the Educational Garden Project Coordinator.
- View a flyer of the Spring 2020 garden dates here.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT THE EMORY EDUCATIONAL GARDEN PROJECT

Summer through Fall, 2019

- Worked with the Emory Autism Center and their MYlife program by providing guided garden volunteer hours to the individuals with autism in the program
- Provided guided workdays to a group of middle and high school students from local schools to help them achieve the required volunteer hours over summer vacation
- Participated in the School of Public Health’s “Rollins-teer day” by guiding a group of incoming students through a morning of volunteering on campus
- Provided garden workdays to multiple Emory courses including courses in the English and romance languages departments
- Started a pollinator garden to be placed on the Carter Center Butterfly Trail and assisted campus groups with the prospect of starting and registering more on campus
- Gave campus gardens tours for the Emory SEED Program. (a group on campus that aims to increase enthusiasm and interest in college for low income Atlanta area schools)
- Participated in having tables at both of the Emory sustainable food fairs
- Helped research at Emory by providing some garden space to researchers who needed plants to be cultivated outside as well as allowed for the collection of insects in the gardens for research
- Provided tours of the Emory research greenhouses to multiple EEGP volunteer groups and clubs associated with EEGP

LEARN MORE

Come volunteer in the gardens! Anyone is welcome to join garden workdays: you do not need to be a student, but can also be a staff member or a resident of the nearby community. Check the events calendar for the weekly workday schedule for each educational garden.

Join the gardening email listserv by emailing the Emory Gardens Coordinator, Erik Edwards. Feel free to reach out to Erik at erik.a.edwards@emory.edu and gardens@emory.edu with any more questions.

Groups interested in starting a new garden on campus can use this guide to apply for approval:

- New Garden Application Guide
Want to teach a course through the Educational Gardens? Let us know.

Get connected:

Gardens Coordinator email: Erik Edwards
Gardens email
Instagram
Facebook

DOWNLOAD FACT SHEET