



Anti-Racist Community Engagement
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Sowing Seeds of Justice: The Roxbury Community College Garden

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Brochure: Roxbury Community College Garden

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Lifelong Food Education

During the past few years, we have seen a significant increase in the momentum of the local food movement. You can watch one of the many documentaries on the state of industrial agriculture in the United States to sense that something is not quite right with the way that we produce and distribute food in this country. If you have a craving for high-quality, locally-produced food, then this initiative is right for you.



The RCC Garden is a grass-roots initiative that aims to educate the Roxbury community about locally-produced food. The RCC Garden operates a number of raised garden beds on the campus of Roxbury Community College and distributes the yields via farm stands, festivals, and pick-your-own operations.

Stop by, get involved, and help bring local food to Roxbury!

Relearning Our Food System

The Roxbury Community College Garden is a grass-roots initiative to introduce community gardening to the college as a means to connecting the community more closely to our food production systems. The RCC garden seeks to build upon the college's mission to "serve the needs of a diverse Greater Roxbury area and the surrounding Boston metropolitan communities" by educating the community about the value and practices involved with local food production. The RCC Garden seeks to ensure that the local food movement is firmly established within the Roxbury community. A driving goal of the RCC Garden is to ensure access to high quality, local food to Roxbury community members. We envision it becoming a hub of activity for local food initiatives within the Roxbury community.



RCC Garden Project

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ROXBURY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Roxbury Community College Garden

Growing for the Future



Garden Project



The RCC Garden concept was developed by Professor Nasreen Latif as a service learning project assignment in her Honors Colloquium, the Global Food Crisis, in Spring 2010.

The RCC teaching and learning garden was established on Friday, July 30, 2010 with the help of Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN) and garden volunteers.

The goal is to promote locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables and a healthy lifestyle in the Roxbury neighborhood and beyond.

The RCC garden grows herbs and vegetables, sourced from around the globe. Additionally, the garden grows snackable vegetables, herbs, and flowers which are shared with volunteers, friends of garden, and apprentices. Also, the garden has a few fruit trees.

We grow vegetables and flowers in our greenhouse, located in Academic building year-round. Our long-term goal is to create a self-sustaining garden for the community and the outside open classroom/event space for the college and the neighborhood.

Collaboration and Support Services

The RCC Garden is the result of a collaborative effort. Our partners include Boston Natural Areas Network, Food Project and Brookwood Community Farm, MIT/DUSP Department and Harvard Medical School.



In 2011, MIT/DUSP Department donated three peach trees to our project as a friends of RCC garden. Also, every year, garden gets compost from the BNAN and some of our seedlings, comes from the Brookwood Community Farm.

Garden Service Learning Site

The RCC garden is used by RCC faculty and students for practical learning opportunities throughout the year. Apprentices can learn about current and traditional uses and methods of growing plants, agro-business, food production and the health benefits of locally-grown food.



In 2011, the RCC garden project got a grant from the city of Boston for the garden expansion. The garden expansion completed in May, 2013 with wheelchair accessible five large beds.

Garden Events

Events held at our site include an annual celebration; a tree planting celebration; community workday; workshops on seed savings, renewal energy, environmental issues, and water conservation; and, yoga and meditation sessions.



Awards and Recognitions

The RCC garden project was named the 2011 Rockie Garden of the Year by BNAN and received special recognition from Mayor Walsh's Garden Contest in 2014.



Location:

The RCC Garden is adjacent to the Student Center

Building, near the intersection of Columbus Avenue and Cedar Street.

Follow us on Facebook



Operations

The RCC garden's nine raised beds are maintained by a network of volunteers. We have an Advisory Committee of four members that meets three times a year. We also established two clubs: the Economics Club and the Garden Club to motivate and mobilize students around community development and environmental issues.

The produce we derived from these operations is available via a variety of distribution channels, including:

The Spring Annual Celebration - Join us in April to welcome the gardening season and to celebrate the work of our past season/year.

Farm stand/Farmers market - During the harvesting season, the garden will host a farm stand and participate in the RCC Annual Farmers' market, where produce from the garden can be purchased for a discounted price.

Become an RCC garden volunteer and/or take a service learning course and enjoy the benefits of direct access to locally-grown produce. Please contact: Prof. Nasreen Latif, Garden Coordinator at nlatif@rcc.mass.edu.

Involvement

Get Involved! This is the best way that you can make a difference with this important effort. Not only will you gain lifelong knowledge about how to grow and prepare local food, your involvement will help strengthen the movement for introducing locally-sourced food to the Roxbury community. Help out by spending an hour a week tending to the raised beds, spread the word to your friends and colleagues, and by all means, visit us at the farm stand and festival to celebrate the high quality food.