

Urban & Green

Urban Wilds
Community Gardens
Greenways

SAVE THESE DATES

Neponset River Greenway Festival
Greenway Geology Walk
Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 p.m.
Meet at Milton T stop down-stairs

Ever wondered about the rocks along the trail and riverbanks? Les Tyralla, registered geologist, will be our guide on this easy walk that passes a number of interesting outcrops in Lower Mills. **Registration required.**

Seed, Sow & Grow
Dorchester Community Gardens Bicycle Tour

Saturday, August 6, 10:00 a.m.
Meet at Fields Corner T Station, Charles Street entrance

Dorchester is home to nearly 20 community gardens and some of the oldest in Boston. We'll visit a mix of recently renovated gardens and some old favorites. Bring your own bike and helmet. A guardian must accompany children under 14. Co-sponsored by DotBike and the Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition. **Registration required.**

BNAN Annual Event
Harvest Festival & Perennial Divide

Saturday, October 1
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive, Mattapan

Participate in the popular perennial divide plant swap with other gardeners! Bring pre-divided plants you'd like to share and bring containers to take other plants home. For further details see Events Calendar on page 5.

Missing East Boston Greenway Connection Now in Design

Active planning work is now underway on the missing Greenway connection from Bremen Street Park to Constitution Beach, spurred by an unexpected opportunity and broad-based support.

With immense support from Mayor Menino and East Boston elected officials – Senator Anthony Petrucelli, Rep. Carlo Basile and Councilor Sal LaMattina- the Boston Redevelopment Authority with other city agencies began work in earnest this spring to meet with the community advocates and Massport to discuss options to make the Greenway connector path work with both the community's desire for access and Massport's interest in security. A design committee has formed, including BNAN consultant and architect Gretchen Schneider.

The June 23 meeting of the East Boston Greenway Council is going to be co-hosted with Airport Impact Relief (AIR), Inc. The two groups will host the BRA and city agencies and Massport to discuss design options for the new Greenway section. This meeting marks the beginning of the community process to discuss the options to construct the path.

The progress of these discussions is thanks to the unusual move by the Boston Conservation Commission as they ruled on a permit for Massport's Green Bus Depot *continued on page 9*



Gardeners gather at the 10th Annual Spring Festival and Perennial Divide at City Natives on Saturday, May 21. See additional photo on page 4 and article on page 11.

Dorchester Community Gardens Are In Demand

Excitement around community gardening is building these days in Dorchester and BNAN's Boston Is Growing Gardens (BIGG) is right in the thick of things. Several gardens in Dorchester have undergone renovation and are now hosting horticultural workshops for both returning and new gardeners.

The project's keystone project, the renovation of the Nightingale Community Garden, is nearing completion. At the garden's spring meeting, 60 residents of differing ages, cultural backgrounds and gardening abilities gathered to learn about upcoming gardening opportunities at Nightingale. The

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Get Active with Annual Neponset Greenway Festival

The year 2011 marks the 17th Annual Neponset River Greenway Festival. In the beginning it was just a one weekend event, and now dozens of events span the summer on the Greenway from the Harbor all the way to the Blue Hills. BNAN works with community partners to design a schedule of programs for all that celebrates the Greenway trail and parkland.

New this year are more programs offering more physical activity on the Greenway. "Active Thursdays" in August lets folks participate in a guided walk, yoga or even riverside Zumba at Pope John Paul II Park; and afterwards, they can relax at a sunset family movie. In addition, there will be a fitness walk with the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition in August, exploring efforts to complete the trail in Mattapan, as well as a Lower Mills Geology Walk in July to learn more about the interesting rock outcrops of the river.

The Martini Shell in Hyde Park will be alive with a trio of music concerts and arts festivals hosted by DCR and community partners this summer. The community is excited to have this park open for all to enjoy after last year's facelift and construction of 2.5 miles of Greenway connecting to the park.

Canoe trips are one of the activities BNAN is famous for along the Neponset. Along with our partner MA DCR, the Festival offers four opportunities to enjoy a free paddling trip, equipment provided.

Beginners will want to mark their calendars Sunday, June 26 to learn to paddle on the Mother Brook Mill Pond, and those looking for something new should set aside Sunday, July 10 for "Neponset by Boat and Train," where we will paddle downstream and then hop the trolley back. Space is limited, reserve your space now.

There's plenty more – from children's performances, family movies, arts workshops and more. Be sure to see the events section beginning on page 5 for details. We hope to see you and your family at a Neponset River Greenway Festival event this summer!

NEPONSET RIVER GREENWAY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Wednesday | July 6, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. |
| | St. Brendan's Church | |
| | 589 Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester | |
| Wednesday | August 3, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. |
| | Foley Senior Residences | |
| | 249 River Street, Mattapan | |
| Wednesday | September 7, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. |
| | Milton Yacht Club | |
| | 25 Wharf Street, Milton | |



Russ Cohen (left) pointed out wild edibles for participants to sample on a walk along the Neponset Greenway.

Neponset Extension Preferred Route Hits Roadblock

This June, the Neponset Greenway Council was shocked to learn that the MBTA rejected MA DCR's request for easement at Mattapan Station, a critical piece to creating an equitable and safe connection for the Neponset Trail that now ends on the north side of Mattapan Square and at Central Avenue in Milton. The route alternative put forth by the Council and others, which begins at Central Ave on the Milton side, crossed over to Boston behind Ryan Playground and continues to Mattapan Station with an at-grade crossing, was one of the most publicly supported trail options and the route DCR was pursuing. Advocates will be turning to elected officials and the Governor, a Milton resident, to see if this can be resolved.

Another missing Greenway link, the "Dorchester Coast Trail" section between Tenean Beach and the Harborwalk by UMass Boston, has a completed master plan thanks to the work of Tufts graduate students. The plan is available on the Tufts Urban Planning website and it is now up to Greenway advocates to get the report into the hands of supportive elected officials, raise community awareness and examine opportunities for funding to construct the three-quarter mile gap.

Lastly, later this summer Neponset Greenway users will enjoy the opening of the redecked Baker Square railroad bridge in Lower Mills, creating a spur trail loop that connects with Central Avenue on the Boston side of the river. Construction began in June and is being fast tracked for an opening in August.



Thanks to the many volunteers helping to keep plantings at Pope John Paul II Park looking great this spring! Here, Simon Bowers (left) and colleague Eric Dawson from Cone, Inc. get their hands dirty as part of a corporate volunteer project. This summer the Youth Conservation Corps will take over care of the plantings, and come fall we'll be looking for volunteers once again.

City Natives Notebook

by Jeremy Dick, BNAN Horticulturist

City Natives was bustling as the host of the 10th Annual Spring Festival and Perennial Divide on May 21. The popular event attracted a diverse collection of more than 400 gardeners from Greater Boston and proved to highlight how dynamic and engaging the property has become. I spent the day talking with gardeners, selling plants and enjoying the dizzying energy of the event. That night I was able to reflect on the last ten years at City Natives and realize how the property has grown from a native plant nursery to include garden education, volunteer engagement and community building components. I am thankful and proud to have been involved in the development of City Natives and would like to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and staff who have helped to make it the place it is today.

City Natives will supply plants for two large projects this summer. The first is a buffer planting at the Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester. As part of the renovation of Nightingale we will install a selection of trees and shrubs to mimic a forest edge at the western property line of the garden. The planting will include edible species such as hazel, serviceberry and blueberry to provide food for gardeners while acting as a screen for the homes to the west. As it matures the planting will be a vibrant backdrop for the garden and valuable habitat for wildlife.

The second planting is part of a continued habitat enhancement project at Pope John Paul II Park in Dorchester. For the past four years BNAN has partnered with MA DCR to coordinate the development of hummocks (islands of native vegetation) within the meadow landscape of the Hallet Street side of the park, which caps a former landfill. We will engage volunteers and the Youth Conservation Corps to install pitch pine, eastern red cedar, bayberry and beach plum raised at City Natives. The plantings will provide shelter and food to augment the developing habitat.

Please reference the City Natives page at www.boston-natural.org for the full list of perennials, shrubs, trees and vines offered at City Natives. Plant purchases can be made by appointment or during programs and events. Questions, sales inquiries and volunteering requests can be submitted by email to citynatives@bostonnatural.org.

BOSTON GARDENERS COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Tuesday July 26, 2011 6:00 p.m.**
BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street,
Downtown Boston
- Tuesday August 23, 2011 6:00 p.m.**
BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street,
Downtown Boston
- Tuesday September 27, 2011 6:00 p.m.**
BNAN Office, 62 Summer Street,
Downtown Boston

Please check our website at www.bostonnatural.org for latest BGC meeting updates.

Boston Gardeners Council Plans 2011 "Produce To Pantries" Project

Last year's "Produce to Pantries" project was such a success that the Boston Gardeners Council (BGC) has been inspired to expand the program. BGC members want to make the program simpler for gardeners, farmers and volunteers. Although one more pantry will be added, the Dorchester House, the Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester and Mattapan's Haitian American Public Health Initiative, the project will be more streamlined and will serve a broader population.

Community gardens, farms and volunteer drivers or even bikers with trailers will be paired with the pantries closest to them. The drop at the pantries will be the same each week. Gardeners are planning on growing and donating produce through a variety of strategies, including setting aside a plot in large gardens just for food to donate, planting rows within their plots and a system to harvest donations from each others plots when someone is on vacation or unable to harvest their produce. Many gardeners report that some produce goes un-harvested each season; so donating this produce is a perfect opportunity to keep fresh vegetables from going to waste.

Like last year, the crops will be harvested once a week by a garden point person and placed in a cooled bin that will be picked up by volunteers and transported to the food pantries.

Please contact Karen Chaffee at BNAN, karen@bostonnatural.org to sign up to grow produce at your garden, deliver produce or assist with weighing and sorting produce at the food pantries.

The BGC continues to organize educational programs and build support for new gardeners and gardens, as well as to advocate for issues of importance to Boston gardeners. Please join us for our monthly meetings every fourth Tuesday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the BNAN office. Contact Karen Chaffee at karen@bostonnatural.org for more information.

New Homes, New Gardens: A Partnership for Greener Yards

BNAN began a collaboration with the Department of Neighborhood Development Boston Home Center to develop a program *New Homes, New Gardens* that provides professional residential landscaping services to homeowners of formerly foreclosed residences. During a series of visits, a BNAN landscape professional works with the homeowner through the process of conducting a simple site analysis, creating a design, assisting with installing new plants and creating a plan for how to best maintain new and existing plantings in their outdoor space. Basic tools, compost and plant material, and containers for properties without yards, are also provided. Master Urban Gardeners will volunteer to coach the new homeowner-gardener through their first season.

BNAN staff are excited to work with homeowners to improve their properties. From container gardens and window boxes, to larger yards where people grow food, ornamentals and trees, this program will help to create attractive, welcoming and healthy landscapes for residents and their neighbors to enjoy.

Collaborating for Food Access in Boston

In what can only be described as a very exciting and promising summer for the BNAN and the Trustees of Reservations partnership, the staff from both organizations have spent months planning an intensive collaboration around food production and education and are already engaged with Boston's communities and local organizations for programs planned for this summer and fall.

In partnership with the Bowdoin Street Health Center, BNAN garden educator Erika Rumbley is leading a series of workshops for the Healthy Champions program led by Jen French to train youth on food production at the Norton Stonehurst Community Garden, while the BIGG project manager Grantley Payne will be working with providers at the Health Center to enlist help in recruiting new gardeners among their patients needing healthy food and exercise. The Trustee's City Harvest program, overseen by Wil Bullock, will be growing food at the Bradley Farm in Canton and will participate in the Bowdoin St. Health Center's farmers' market alongside the Healthy Champions. BNAN is looking to create education opportunities for the Healthy Champions youth and the City Harvest program, while they work together at this market.

TTOR's Powisset Farm, managed by Meryl LaTronica, will be providing food shares to the Healthy Families program overseen by Cathy Wirth at the Bowdoin St. Health Center, supplementing BNAN's efforts to increase food access to Dorchester residents. BNAN's Produce to Pantries project with the Boston Gardeners Council will again be coordinating produce from community gardens and TTOR's two farms to supply three food pantries this summer.

TTOR's City Harvest program will also be participating in the Mattapan Farmers' Market, a project long supported by BNAN. In addition, they will host a market day at the office premises of one of BNAN's long-standing partners, the Haitian-American Public Health Initiative (HAPHI), to help the Haitian community access healthy produce from the farms.

As the summer rolls forward, we hope you are able to come join us at any of the farmers' markets or in the community gardens. A big thank you to all our partners for their collaborative spirit and generosity with their resources.



Cyclists gather at Pope John Paul II Park before a group ride to explore the Dorchester Coast Trail options to connect the Neponset Greenway to the Harborwalk by UMass, including members of DotBike and Boston Cyclists Union.

Dot Bike Spins its Wheels to Get Things Done

An enthusiastic group of Dorchester bicyclists came together in 2007 at the invitation of Roseanne Foley, director of the Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition (DEHC) to form Dot Bike, the leading advocates for two-wheeled travel in this hilly, urban neighborhood. Today, more than 250 Dorchester cyclists follow the efforts of this active group of volunteer advocates.

Dot Bike has an extensive list of accomplishments. They have advocated for bike lanes on Talbot Avenue and Columbia Road, compiled a list of 70 proposed new bike rack locations; and developed plans with the MBTA for adequate bike parking at Dorchester Red Line stations, including a bike cage at Ashmont Station. Dot Bike joined the Franklin Park Coalition, JP Bikes and Rozzie Bikes to convince the Boston Parks Department to end the "no biking" rule at Franklin Park. They hosted a volunteer clean up day on bike paths in the park and volunteer at the Bike Festival every year.

As an active member of the Neponset Greenway Council, one of their greatest challenges is completing the Dorchester Coast Trail that will connect the Neponset River Greenway to the Boston HarborWalk. Working together with MA Department of Conservation and Recreation and BNAN, Dot Bike advocate Debbie Munson is optimistic that after many years of work a solution will soon be identified. In May, Dot Bike joined the Boston Cyclists Union and BNAN to organize a ride exploring options for linking the Neponset River Greenway to the Boston HarborWalk at UMass Boston.

There is always something going on with Dot Bike. For Boston Bike Week in May, Dot Bike hosted different events designed to cultivate a cycling community in Dorchester from a commuter breakfast in Edward Everett Square to leading a convoy from Dorchester's Peabody Square to City Hall Plaza. This summer, on August 6, Dot Bike will lead a tour of Dorchester's community gardens co-sponsored with DEHC and BNAN. Led by Dot Bike's Andy Schroeder, the tour will wind its way through Dorchester to visit more than 20 community gardens.

One of the goals of Dot Bike is to expand outreach and let people know that biking in the city can be safe and enjoyable. To learn more, join the fun and advocate for bikes in Boston, please visit Dot Bike at www.dotbike.org and like their page on Facebook.



Over 400 people attended the Spring Festival and Perennial Divide at City Natives on May 21. See additional photo on front page and article on page 11.

All programs are free and open to the public. Please check our website at www.bostonnatural.org for updates, maps to locations and further details.

To register and for further information call BNAN at 617-542-7696 or email info@bostonnatural.org.

Boston is Growing Gardens Beautifying Your Garden

Saturday, June 25
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Want to tidy up your garden? Join us for this hands-on workshop on flowers and garden maintenance.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Basics for Beginners: Canoe Trips

**Sunday, June 26, 12:00 p.m.,
1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m.**
Mother Brook Mill Pond,
Knight Street, Hyde Park

Curious about canoeing? The Mother Brook Mill Pond is a perfect spot to learn basic paddling skills. Beginners only please! **Registration required.** Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Tuesday, July 5, Sunset
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy.,
Hyde Park

Bring a blanket, chair and popcorn for a family movie that begins at sunset. Tuesdays from July 5 to August 9. Visit www.bostonnatural.org to find out what's playing. Sponsored by MA DCR.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Especially for Children Performance Series

Thursday, July 7
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ryan Playground, River Street,
Mattapan

Every Thursday morning in July enjoy this series of kid-friendly performances - from musicians to live animals to storytelling - and stay a little longer for a dip in the park's wading pool! Check www.bostonnatural.org or call 617-542-7696 for performance schedule.

Seed, Sow & Grow Are You Garden Fit?

Saturday, July 9
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Learn how to keep your body limber, fit and ready to garden with basic yoga movements, body weight strength training and Zumba dancing designed to synchronize and prepare your body for the physical demands of gardening. **Registration required.**

Neponset River Greenway Festival Neponset River by Boat and Train

Sunday, July 10, 1:00 p.m.
7 Brush Hill Road launch,
Milton, near Mattapan Square

We'll paddle canoes downstream and then hop the trolley back to discover the rich history of the area. Paddling experience required. **Registration required.** Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Tuesday, July 12, Sunset
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy.,
Hyde Park

Neponset River Greenway Festival Greenway Geology Walk

Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 p.m.
Meet at Milton T stop downstairs

Ever wondered about the rocks along the trail and riverbanks? Les Tyralla, registered geologist, will be our guide on this easy walk that passes a number of interesting outcrops in Lower Mills. **Registration required.**

Neponset River Greenway Festival Especially for Children Performance Series

Thursday, July 14
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ryan Playground, River Street,
Mattapan

Second performance in the 4-week series for children.

Boston is Growing Gardens Hey, Good Cooking!

Thursday July 14
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Don't know what to do with all the fresh vegetables you are growing? In these interactive cooking demonstrations, volunteer chefs and nutritionists from Cooking Matters will provide you with useful tips and lots of delicious - and nutritious - recipes for making the most out of your garden bounty! **Registration required.**

Boston is Growing Gardens Harvesting and Co-existing with Bugs in the Garden

Saturday, July 16,
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Learn strategies for dealing with common garden pests and proper harvesting techniques so your vegetables will stay fresh.

Urban Wilds Council Event Celebrate Hellenic Hill Urban Wild

Saturday, July 16
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Jamaica Pond Boathouse,
Jamaicaway and Pond Street,
Jamaica Plain

Join BNAN and The Friends of Jamaica Pond for a tour of Jamaica Pond and the Hellenic Hill Urban Wild. Learn about the ecological, environmental and historical significance of this threatened Urban Wild and how essential its protection is. To RSVP contact 617-542-7696 or karen@bostonnatural.org.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Summer Fun on the Neponset

Saturday, July 16
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Pope John Paul II Park
Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

Join the Park Rangers for fun activities for all ages - including arts and crafts, kite flying, disc golf, canoeing, K-9 demonstrations and much more! Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

[MORE >](#)

BOSTON NATURAL AREAS NETWORK

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Tuesday, July 19, Sunset
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy.,
Hyde Park

Sounds of the Garden Concert Series

The Leo Colon Jazz Project

Wednesday, July 20
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Enjoy Latin jazz and swing with an accent on Caribbean rhythms great for dancing and grooving at the first concert in this popular garden music series.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Especially for Children Performance Series

Thursday, July 21
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ryan Playground, River Street,
Mattapan

Neponset River Greenway Festival Mattapan Greenway Connections Walk

Thursday, July 21, 6:00 p.m.
Meet at Mattapan Square T Station.

We'll do a 5K walk from Mattapan Square along River Street and the Greenway trail to Dorchester, learning about efforts to complete the trail in this area. Co-sponsored by Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition.

East Boston Greenway Bike to Deer Island

Sunday, July 24, 10:00 a.m.
Paul Revere Park, Charlestown
or 10:45 am meet up with ride at
East Boston Greenway Caboose,
South Bremen and Marginal
Streets, East Boston

Ride to the tip of Deer Island in the middle of Boston Harbor, the most isolated connected part of the city. Led by Doug Mink, this 30-mile ride (or 20 miles from East Boston) will be along scenic waterfront, city streets and some off-road paths.

Registration recommended.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Neponset Watercolor Workshop

Monday, July 25
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Baker Square River Trail, behind
1243 Adams Street, Dorchester

Cathy Garnett of MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation will instruct the group in basic watercolor technique, using the surrounding trees, mill buildings and river as our subjects. Supplies provided, bring your own folding chair.
Registration required.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Tuesday, July 26, Sunset
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy.,
Hyde Park

Seed, Sow & Grow Summer Cooking in the Garden

Wednesday, July 27
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive,
Mattapan

Learn to prepare quick, healthy and affordable dishes using your own fresh picked herbs and produce. Phoebe Flemming, Registered Dietitian and community gardener, will demonstrate some fun and exciting ways to use your garden crops, reduce sodium and saturated fat in your diet, cook healthy and save money at the same time! **Registration required.**

Neponset River Greenway Festival Especially for Children Performance Series

Thursday, July 28
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ryan Playground, River Street,
Mattapan

Neponset River Greenway Festival Estuary Paddle

Saturday, July 30, 10:00 a.m.
Neponset Park, Hilltop Street,
Dorchester

Discover the ecologically important Neponset Estuary as we take our canoes upstream and explore its inlets. Paddling experience required. **Registration required.** Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Air Force Band of Liberty Concert

Sunday, July 31
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy.,
Hyde Park

Enjoy world class musical entertainment in the great outdoors. The Air Force Liberty Band fosters America's rich national heritage by blending music and patriotism. Let your spirit soar during this free concert for all! Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Tuesday, August 2, Sunset
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy.,
Hyde Park

Sounds of the Garden Concert Series

Wednesday, August 3
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Visit www.bostonnatural.org for performance schedule.

Neponset River Greenway Festival August Active Thursdays

Thursday, August 4
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Pope John Paul II Park, Gallivan
Blvd., Dorchester

Set aside an hour every Thursday in August for an activity to keep you healthy at Pope John Paul II Park before the movie begins at sunset. Meet at playground sunshelter and we'll walk the Greenway to Tenean Beach.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Thursday, August 4, Sunset
Pope John Paul II Park
Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

Seed, Sow & Grow Dorchester Community Gardens Bicycle Tour

Saturday, August 6, 10:00 a.m.
Meet at Fields Corner T Station,
Charles Street entrance

Dorchester is home to nearly 20 community gardens. We'll visit a mix of recently renovated gardens and some old favorites. Bring your own bike and helmet. A guardian must accompany children under

[MORE >](#)

BOSTON NATURAL AREAS NETWORK

14 years. Co-sponsored by DotBike and the Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition. **Registration required.**

Neponset River Greenway Festival Summer Arts Fest

Saturday, August 6
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy., Hyde Park

Join the MA DCR rangers and the Menino Arts Center in Hyde Park for this fun interactive arts festival for all ages. Chalk art, stamp printing, group mural and bead making. Fun for the whole family. Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Tuesday, August 9, Sunset
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy., Hyde Park

Neponset River Greenway Festival Nature Sketching Workshop

Wednesday, August 10
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive, Mattapan.

Nature artist Anne Schmalz will introduce participants to sketching the natural world, flowers and vegetables at this garden and nursery along the river. Supplies provided, bring your own folding chair. **Registration required.**

Sounds of the Garden Concert Series

Wednesday, August 10
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Visit www.bostonnatural.org for performance schedule.

Boston is Growing Gardens Saving Water and Saving Seed

Thursday, August 11
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Nightingale Community Garden, 512 Park Street, Dorchester

The hot month of August is the perfect time to implement water saving techniques in your garden. Learn how to conserve water and how to collect seeds for next year's garden!

Neponset River Greenway Festival August Active Thursdays

Thursday, August 11
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Pope John Paul II Park
Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

Walk the Greenway to Central Ave. On this round-trip walk we'll go by new habitat plantings at the park, and get you back in time for the sunset movie.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Thursday, August 11, Sunset
Pope John Paul II Park, Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

Seed, Sow & Grow Pucker Up! Pickle Making for Kids & Families

Saturday, August 13
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive, Mattapan

Use your cucumbers and summer vegetables creatively! Join Bowdoin Street Health Center's Healthy Champions, a group of youth peer educators, as they lead us in a vinegar-based pickle recipe that can be modified to incorporate a variety of spices and vegetables. Participants will take home a jar of their own pickles. A guardian must accompany children under 14 years. **Registration required.**

Urban Wilds Council Hike Allandale Woods To Bussey Meadow

Saturday, August 13
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Meet in the parking area near the Church at 7 VFW Pkwy, West Roxbury

Follow the watercourse of Bussey Brook beginning at Allandale Woods Urban Wild, through the Arnold Arboretum and end at Bussey Brook Urban Wild just as the brook goes underground and starts its path to the Charles River. Along the way we will explore native and non-native plants. To RSVP contact 617 542-7696 or karen@bostonnatural.org.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Lower Mills Canoe Paddle

Sunday, August 14 - 11:00 a.m.
Milton Landing, Wharf Street, Milton

We'll head up to the falls at the old Baker Chocolate mills and out into the salt marshes. Paddling experience required. **Registration required.** Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

Boston Gardeners Council Event Water Smart Gardening

Thursday, August 18
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive, Mattapan

Learn about drought-tolerant plants, soil improvements and capturing water. By incorporating water smart gardening into your yard, you cannot only save water, but money, time and effort. To RSVP contact 617-542-7696 or karen@boston-natural.org.

Neponset River Greenway Festival August Active Thursdays

Thursday, August 18
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Pope John Paul II Park, Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

PJP Power Loop with Disc Golf. Put your walking shoes on for a cruise around the park and get your throwing arm ready to try putting frisbees at a tee.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Thursday, August 18, Sunset
Pope John Paul II Park
Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

Neponset River Greenway Festival Star Party on the River

Friday, August 19
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
(Rain/Cloud Date: Saturday, August 20)
Hutchinson Field, Adams Street, Milton

Join astronomy enthusiasts from the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston for a closer look at the night sky including the Summer Triangle, Saturn, double stars and more. Bring a blanket or chair, bug spray and a flashlight. All ages welcome. Hutchinson Field is a property of The Trustees of Reservations.

[MORE >](#)

Boston is Growing Gardens Grow Greens All Fall!

Saturday, August 20
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Not ready for the growing season to end? In this hands-on workshop, we'll learn easy, affordable techniques for growing delicious salads into the cold months.

Boston is Growing Gardens Hey, Good Cooking!

Saturday August 20
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

Don't know what to do with all the fresh vegetables you are growing? In these interactive cooking demonstrations, volunteer chefs and nutritionists from Cooking Matters will provide you with useful tips and lots of delicious - and nutritious - recipes for making the most out of your garden bounty! **Registration required.**

Sounds of the Garden Concert Series

Wednesday, August 24
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Visit www.bostonnatural.org for performance schedule.

Neponset River Greenway Festival August Active Thursdays

Thursday, August 25
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Pope John Paul II Park
Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

Sunset Yoga & Stretch. Beginner-friendly yoga and stretching outside along the river will be a nice way to end your day.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Family Movie Series

Thursday, August 25, Sunset
Pope John Paul II Park
Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester

Boston Gardeners Council Workshop Attracting Native Pollinators to Your Garden

Saturday, August 27
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive,
Mattapan

Join The Trustees of Reservations ecologist Russ Hopping for a workshop on how to attract native pollinators to your vegetable and ornamental gardens. Learn how to create habitat that will support many of these essential species.

Registration required.

Neponset River Greenway Festival Hyde Park Jazz Fest

Saturday, September 3
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Martini Shell Park, Truman Pkwy.,
Hyde Park

Back by popular demand! Celebrate Labor Day weekend with a jazz festival featuring local award winning artists. Bring a blanket and a picnic basket to enjoy this relaxing end of summer serenade. Co-sponsored by MA DCR.

Seed, Sow & Grow South End Community Gardens Walking Tour

Wednesday, September 7
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Meet at Berkeley Street
Community Garden, Tremont and
Berkeley Streets, South End

This interpretive walk will visit community gardens, pocket parks and historic squares in the South End. We will learn about each site's history and varied gardening styles; from vertical growing to season extending to contemplative design. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water and a camera. **Registration required.**

Boston is Growing Gardens Putting your Garden to Bed

Saturday, September 10
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Nightingale Community Garden,
512 Park Street, Dorchester

The end of the growing season is just around the corner! Learn the options for wrapping up the season right, including mulch, cover crops and growing fall vegetables.

Seed, Sow & Grow East Boston Community Gardens Bicycle Tour

Saturday, September 10
12:00 p.m.
Meet at Umana School, 312
Border Street, East Boston

From Jeffries Point to Eagle Hill, local gardeners will be our guides for this family-friendly tour where we'll ride the East Boston Greenway path and see the gardens and greenspaces that connect the neighborhood. Limited bikes and helmets available to borrow. Contact BNAN to reserve a bike. Co-sponsored by Friends of East Boston Greenway, Environmental Chelsea Creek Crew and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center.

Registration required.

Seed, Sow & Grow Extend Your Growing Season

Saturday, September 24
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive,
Mattapan

Don't stop now! Learn what cool season annuals and perennial vegetables you can grow in the fall and even through the winter. We'll also cover ways to make inexpensive season extending devices and how to combat late season frosts.

Registration required.

BNAN Annual Event Harvest Festival & Perennial Divide

Saturday, October 1
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
City Natives, 30 Edgewater Drive,
Mattapan

Enjoy the fall bounty! Take advantage of a gardener's market of native plants, fresh produce, honey and family arts and crafts. Learn about beekeeping and also get your garden questions answered! Participate in the popular perennial divide. Bring pre-divided plants you'd like to share and bring containers to take plants home.

BNAN would like to thank the following corporate sponsors for their generous support of our mission:

Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day
www.mrsmeyers.com

Blue State Coffee
957 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
www.bluestatecoffee.com

East Boston Greenway Connector continued from page 1

project to include consideration of the Greenway connection as part of access and buffer at the depot in this section of the airport. Specifically, at a series of spring hearings, Greenway advocates proposed that the bus depot project incorporate the Greenway connection along either edge of the proposed project as community mitigation.

The goal of the community process is to find a consensus path solution and incorporate it into the bus depot construction, which begins later this year. East Boston Greenway advocates are grateful for the leadership, support and action taken by their East Boston elected leaders, as well as a number of East Boston's dedicated activists, to bring discussions to this point. These steps are very encouraging and bring the vision of an East Boston Greenway extending from the harbor across the neighborhood to its only swimming beach closer to fruition.

Hellenic Hill: A Cherished Urban Wild Needs Our Support

Walking along the eastern side of Jamaica Pond and looking west, we are presented with a rare urban view of a fully wooded hillside that serves as a pristine backdrop against the pond's waters. Where else within the city lines of Boston can one experience this? Indeed, people flock to Jamaica Pond to soak in the peace and stillness that such a landscape provides. It is not only the pond that calls people but its setting within the surrounding landscape. The backdrop to this landscape is the Hellenic Hill Urban Wild, a 12.5-acre undeveloped piece of land that sits along 156 -222 Prince Street.

In January 2011 Hellenic College announced that it was seeking offers from interested buyers to sell the land which encompasses the Urban Wild. Since then concerned neighbors and conservation groups including The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and The Friends of Jamaica Pond, as well as many others who cherish the pond, have been watching closely and advocating for permanent protection of the hillside.

Beyond its aesthetic value and the diverse amount of people who enjoy its view, Hellenic Hill serves an essential ecological purpose. The wooded hillside in an otherwise developed area helps to maintain the purity of Jamaica Pond's water quality through filtering out contaminants and preventing erosion. As a result a wide range of bird and aquatic species have been able to thrive.

One thing that Friends Groups of urban wilds can do to help, no matter where they are located within the city, is to individually sign on to support the efforts of The Friends of Jamaica Pond and The Emerald Necklace Conservancy. Please post information about the issue on your individual websites and keep your members updated. For individuals, the quickest way is to sign a petition organized through Gerry Wright with the Friends of Jamaica Pond. To do so please go to their website: www.friendsofjamaicapond.org. Stay posted on their website and in BNAN's bi-weekly e-newsletters to learn about upcoming meetings and next steps.

Exploring the Connections Among Urban Wilds

A group of enthusiastic explorers got together the first weekend in June to bike to six Urban Wilds, three in Mattapan and three in Hyde Park. The bike ride, led by BNAN Board member Doug Mink, covered 12 miles with stops at the Dell Rock Urban Wild and Sherrin Woods to hike to the overlooks with fantastic views of the City. Participants learned about the importance of these Wilds and how to identify several of the commonly found plants with the help of BNAN stewardship manager Karen Chaffee.

At its first annual Strategic Planning meeting in March, Urban Wilds Council (UWC) members developed a theme for 2011 that focuses on building a greater understanding of Urban Wilds through developing educational programs such as the June bike ride to emphasize the ecological importance of Urban Wilds that serve as habitat for important flora and fauna.

Following this theme, UWC summer programs focus on the ecological connections between various Urban Wilds and other important green spaces in the city that provide "mini wildlife" corridors. In July, the Friends of Jamaica Pond and the UWC will lead a birding tour along the pond and past the threatened Hellenic Hill Urban Wild to help promote understanding of the ecological connections between these two habitats. In August, the program will explore the natural corridor connecting Allandale Urban Wild, The Arnold Arboretum and Bussey Brook Urban Wild. For more details, please see a schedule of these programs in the calendar on page five.

The Urban Wilds Council meets on the second Wednesday every other month throughout the year. The next meeting is on August 10. Please contact Karen Chaffee at karen@bostonnatural.org for more information.



Cyclists gather in front of Gladeside Urban Wild in Mattapan to take a break along the Urban Wilds Bike Tour on June 4.

EAST BOSTON GREENWAY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Thursday | July 28, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. |
| | East Boston YMCA, 215 Bremen St., East Boston | |
| Thursday | September 22, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. |
| | East Boston YMCA, 215 Bremen St., East Boston | |

Refugee and Immigrant Families Grow Roots

The third season of the Gardening with Refugee Organizations (GRO) program is in full swing. To date, GRO has provided more than 1,000 refugees and immigrants with training on how to safely grow fresh produce in the city. In addition to growing safe, culturally



Gardeners from the Southern Sudanese Solidarity Organization and the Congolese Development Center gathered for an urban gardening workshop on Saturday, June 4. Erika Rumbley co-led the workshop with Florence Kiambe, a MUG graduate from the Congo.

appropriate vegetables, GRO allows gardeners to become more self-sufficient and integrated into their communities. Yves Louise, a Haitian gardener at Kennedy Playground Community Garden, commented, "It's good to have the garden because we share with the community and neighborhood. When we harvest, we give them something. So they can

eat healthy food too."

In May and June, BNAN hosted five GRO trainings at City Natives and in community gardens across Boston to reach the third batch of refugee and immigrant gardeners and to provide advanced training to those who attended past workshops. With the assistance of an interpreter from the immigrant or refugee community, Erika Rumbley, BNAN's new Garden Educator, led group discussions about the successes and challenges of growing food in New England.

The discussion format allowed seasoned GRO gardeners to share their expertise with their recently arrived neighbors who want to begin growing food in community gardens, backyards or containers this summer. After the discussion, trainings featured a demonstration of intensive soil preparation and planting techniques.

GRO trainings give gardeners the tools they need to plant their first New England vegetable gardens with vegetables from around the world.

Youth Working on Greenways and Urban Wilds

BNAN's 18th year of Youth Conservation Corps will kick off this summer on July 5 and last six weeks until August 12. YCC employs young people from all over the city and neighboring Milton in conservation and park improvement projects in Boston's Urban Wilds and East Boston and Neponset Greenways. In 2011, BNAN will welcome 42 teens in our important work, the largest program ever.

The East Boston team will be busy on the Greenway taking care of planting beds and trees as well as on Belle Isle Marsh building and refining a trail off Saratoga Street and learning interpretation skills. The Neponset Crew will be spending time at different parks along the river in Dorchester and Mattapan, continuing the hummock creation and habitat plantings begun by last year's crew, most noticeably at Pope John Paul II Park. The Urban Wilds Crew will be engaged in Allandale Woods in West Roxbury, improving trail drainage and tackling invasive species as well as improving the landscape between an orchard in Mission Hill and its surrounding park.

For many teens, YCC is their first job, and also for some their first time exploring these special greenspaces that Boston has to offer. BNAN looks forward to the rich experiences of another summer working with youth outdoors. Drop by and visit a crew in the field!

BNAN is grateful for the support of our agency partners, community members and foundations that support this important program. It has been a difficult year for funding youth employment. BNAN is still actively fundraising for YCC and as of mid-May needs to raise another \$35,000 to support program costs. If you would like to make a gift in support of the program, please contact Vidya Tikku, BNAN Vice President for Development, at vidya@bostonnatural.org or 617-542-7696.

Say Hello to BNAN's New Garden Educator

Boston Natural Areas Network is pleased to welcome Erika Rumbley, our new and first full-time Garden Educator. Following in the well established footprints of longtime BNAN Garden Educator, Jo Ann Whitehead, who worked part-time and retired at the end of 2010, Erika will be responsible for developing the BNAN gardening and environmental curricula and will lead and coordinate BNAN's many garden programs and events, including the Master Urban Garden (MUG) program, the MUGatHOME program, the Gardeners Gathering, the Seed, Sow & Grow workshop series and both the Spring and Fall Festivals and Perennial Divides.

Erika is a graduate of Vassar College where she earned her undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies. She was most recently the Community Garden Network coordinator at the Southside Community Land Trust in Providence, Rhode Island.

"We are thrilled to have someone of Erika's experience in community gardening join us," says BNAN president Valerie Burns. "Her knowledge and skills will greatly benefit all Boston's community gardeners."



BNAN Garden Educator, Erika Rumbley, shows off lettuce seedlings from City Natives to youngsters at the Eritrean Community Center as part of the Gardening through Refugee Organizations (GRO) project.



Students at the Mason Elementary School learn how to plant potatoes in their outdoor classroom.

SLUG Schools End Year With Fresh Vegetables

The annual spring visits of SLUG staff Mari Pierce-Quininoz and Karen Chaffee revealed lots of gardening both in the classroom and later in the season, outdoors. SLUG students of all ages, now including middle and high schoolers, have been getting their hands dirty under grow lights or in raised garden beds.

Third graders at the Mason School in Roxbury discovered that their pop-up greenhouse warmed up enough over the winter to cause their greens to go to flower. As a result they were able to reap a harvest on the same day that they planted new greens in their garden beds. These greens had been started indoors by students from the kindergarten class. After testing the soil, The MATCH School has begun the process of installing their first outdoor beds, and the Edward Everett School in Dorchester is organizing volunteers to take care of their garden over the summer. A special congratulations goes out to staff from the “Let’s Get Moving” program in East Boston who worked with the Umana School and neighborhood families, for their work to create a new community garden at Paul’s Parking Lot on Bremen Street.

In May, BNAN staff said goodbye to Mari, who has worked with the SLUG program since the spring of 2009. Although we are thrilled to see Mari graduate from the Tufts School of Nutrition and Urban Environmental Policy and Planning, we are sad to see her go. Mari has given a tremendous amount of time, dedication and knowledge towards making the SLUG program a success and we thank her for all of her hard work. Best of luck Mari, everyone from SLUG will miss you.

Generous Gardeners, Happy Gardeners at the Spring Festival

The 10th Annual Spring Festival and Perennial Divide drew over 400 gardeners to City Natives on Saturday, May 21. Generous gardeners arrived with buckets, bags and trunks full of freshly unearthed perennials to exchange. Thousands of donated perennials were divided by volunteers and carried home to be planted, one day to return with their new gardeners who are dividing once again. We cannot imagine a better way to kick off the growing season.

Led by volunteer Master Urban Gardeners and local beekeepers, gardeners enjoyed tours of the Learning Garden and City Natives Apiary. The young at heart had their faces painted, while gardeners signed up to donate a portion of their harvest to Produce to Pantries this summer. The Clover Food Truck was a wonderful addition to the Festival this year.

The Plant Sale was also a favorite. After getting an early start in the City Natives greenhouse this spring, our vegetable seedlings and native plants made their debut. Jeremy Dick, BNAN’s Director of Property and Horticulture, helped visitors find the perfect plants for their landscape.

Seed, Sow & Grow Offers Active and Healthy Programs for Summer

The Seed, Sow & Grow series continues to attract new gardeners and posted record levels in registration and attendance this spring. The popular workshop series is now transitioning to a lineup of summer programs that cover vegetable growing, container gardening, cooking, bicycle and walking tours, pickling and yoga. “The series promotes wellness by teaching gardeners to engage in physical activity to produce, prepare and enjoy their own fresh produce,” remarks Stewardship Manager Karen Chaffee. Garden Educator, Erika Rumbley, adds: “Seed, Sow & Grow programs are a great way to get out in the sunshine, learn to grow your own produce and cook a healthy meal for your family.”

Be sure to check the calendar section of this newsletter for the full listing of Seed, Sow & Grow workshops and tours scheduled this summer. All programs are free and open to the public and are presented by BNAN staff, local professionals and dedicated volunteers. Registration is required and participants are urged to register early as most programs are limited to 30 people and fill fast.



Program attendees learn to cultivate Bountiful Blueberries on Saturday, April 30 at the Paul Gore & Beecher Streets Community Garden in Jamaica Plain.

2011 Gardeners Gathering Honors Commitment to Community Gardening

More than 450 gardeners attended the 36th annual Gardeners Gathering at Northeastern University, the largest attendance ever, to learn and share in over 25 workshops and celebrate their common love of all kinds of city gardens. Mayor Menino joined the gardeners for the presentation of the ninth annual Community Garden Awards, honoring special achievements.

This year Elnora Thompson received the *2011 Most Valuable Gardener* award. Elnora is the Garden Manager for Dorchester's Nightingale Community Garden, which has recently undergone extraordinary renovations and now has 131 new garden plots. Elnora has tremendous experience gardening and truly loves sharing her knowledge and the food she grows with family, friends and neighbors.

Also honored was Roxbury Community College (RCC) Professor, Nasreen Latif, and the RCC Garden as the *2011 Rookie Community Garden of the Year*. The garden will serve as a laboratory space for students and will be managed and cultivated by the faculty, staff and student volunteers.

The 2011 *Community Garden Hall of Fame Award* was given to Irene Kochevar from Gardens for Charlestown. Founded in 1976, when a small group of gardeners took over a vacant rubble-strewn lot. Today the garden is owned by the garden organization and contains 63 individual plots as well as communally maintained lawns, fruit trees, perennial borders and a rose garden.

And finally the *2011 Special Award for Outstanding Service* was given to retired BNAN Garden Educator Jo Ann Whitehead. She developed the Master Urban Gardener program (MUG). Jo Ann also developed the Spring Perennial Divide, Autumn Harvest Festival, the Students Learning through Urban Gardening (SLUG) program and Gardeners Gathering.

"This year's Gardeners Gathering was inspirational, full of information and gardening camaraderie," said Valerie Burns, BNAN President. "Although every community garden is unique, the Gardeners Gathering and Community Garden Awards are a wonderful community celebration for all Boston gardeners."



Some of the proud graduates of the recent MUGatHOME class of 2011.

MUGatHOME Class of 2011 Grows Gardens and Volunteers

This spring BNAN completed its fourth year of the MUGatHOME program by graduating 29 new urban green thumbs who are eager to share their knowledge and skills with other Boston residents. In fact, many of the students began volunteering before they even completed the seven-week course. During their 35 hours of class time, hosted again by Northeastern University, the students built a foundation of sustainable landscape design principles. From site analysis to integrated pest management (IPM), participants are armed with the skills to implement their own landscape plans and mentor others through the process.

Thank you to all those who helped with this year's program, especially to COGdesign for working with BNAN to assist with the design component of the course. We look forward to the new MUGatHOME graduates as they become new volunteers in Boston's gardens.

Celebrating a New Community Garden

In cooperation with Bromley Heath Tenants Management Corp., a new community garden will be ready for planting this season on a parcel of land owned by TMC. The garden is located along the Southwest Corridor bike path in Jamaica Plain and near the Jackson Square MBTA station. In addition to TMC, BNAN is partnering with the Refugee and Immigration Assistance Center (RIAC) and Associated Early Care and Education to respond to demand for growing fresh healthy food in a garden that will serve residents from Bromley Heath, including recent refugees.

Once the garden is completed it will contain 17 plots, two of which will be raised ADA accessible beds. To help gardeners get started, BNAN, TMC and RIAC will offer workshops for beginners and those gardening for the first time in this climate. The garden is funded through BNAN with a grant from the Barr Foundation and a grant from Associated Early Care and Education. All look forward to an early summer celebration of the first planting.



Mayor Menino honors the 2011 Community Garden Award winners (clockwise above): Elnora Thompson - Gardener of the Year; Nasreen Latif - Rookie Garden of the Year for Roxbury Community College Garden; Irene Kochevar - Community Garden Hall of Fame for Gardens for Charlestown; and Jo Ann Whitehead - Special Award for Outstanding Service to Community Gardens.

BOSTON NATURAL AREAS NETWORK

Dot Gardens in Demand continued from page 1

1.5-acre garden contains 130 new plots and raised beds and is highlighted by granite plot dividers, an orchard garden of blueberry and raspberry bushes and a sun shelter centered in the garden for relaxation and enjoyment. Nightingale garden coordinator and 2011 *Most Valuable Gardener* recipient Elnora Thompson has already deemed Nightingale - scheduled to be completed by mid-June - as the "jewel of Dorchester." Over the first weekend in June, returning and new gardeners turned up in full force to sign up and select their plots. The excitement is growing, with all plots subscribed for and the next garden meeting to kick off the season scheduled for June 23.

Another BIGG garden, Barry Street Community Garden, tucked away on a tight, one-way street in Dorchester, was renovated last fall by BNAN and is now full of new gardeners also. To help rookie gardeners get started, BNAN garden educator Erika Rumbley is instructing eager participants on some basic do's and don'ts of Gardening 101 in garden workshops. One Barry Street resident commented, "I don't know why I waited so long to come over here, but I'm growing a big garden this year." More new gardeners are also growing at the two gardens on Josephine Street, on the two gardens on Bullard street and the Spencer Street garden.

A full calendar of workshops is planned this summer for all the new Dorchester gardeners. Garden-based events allow new community gardeners to attend a workshop within walking distance of their homes, connect with neighbors and even assist with a planting demonstration in their own plots.

The BIGG project has been made possible with the help of funds received through grants from the City of Boston

Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston Public Health Commission and several private foundations. Site work has been coordinated and supervised by BNAN Director of Properties Jeremy Dick while Grantley Payne, BIGG Project Manager, in coordination with Elnora Thompson, the garden coordinator, and Elizabeth Reardon from the Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition have handled gardener recruitment.



Construction workers lay out granite dividers to mark out the garden plots at the Nightingale Community Garden. The excitement is growing, with the renovation nearing completion and gardeners eager to dig in.

Special Membership Offer

Now is a great time to become a member of Boston Natural Areas Network and support the important work we do. As a result of our affiliation with The Trustees of Reservations, new and renewing members who contribute \$50 or above for a one-year BNAN membership will also receive a complimentary, introductory one-year membership to The Trustees, the world's oldest regional land trust. Trustees' members receive free or reduced admission to all 105 properties, discounts on programs and special events, a complimentary copy of The Trustees 200-page Property Guide, a subscription to the membership quarterly and more. Please join or renew now by completing the form below. Offer ends June 30, 2012.

BNAN MEMBERSHIP FORM

Boston Natural Areas Network, Inc.

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Urban & Green, One year subscription
Allendale Farm, Jamaica Plain. 10% off plants

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Boston Building Resources, Mission Hill. 5% off member price on lawn & garden tools

City Farm Florist and Nurseries, Roslindale. 10% off plants & floral arrangements, 5% off fertilizers

Advance Notice of all BNAN special events and programs

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Grantley Payne of BNAN prepares a group of garden candidates for the Lottery and Plot Assignments on Saturday, June 4. Over the course of two days, over 100 plots were claimed by returning and new gardeners at the newly renovated Nightingale Community Garden in Dorchester.

Boston Natural Areas Network, organized in 1977, works to preserve, expand and improve urban open space through community organizing, acquisition, ownerships, programming, development and management of special kinds of urban land – Urban Wilds, Greenways and Community Gardens. In all its endeavors, BNAN is guided by local citizens advocating for their open space and assisting them to preserve and shape their community.