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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Everything you wanted to know about gardens you can learn this summer in Dorchester

BOSTON, MA – June 13, 2011 – Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN) is launching a series of seven workshops this summer at Nightingale Community Garden located at 512 Park Street in Dorchester. The workshops will help neighborhood gardeners get the most out their vegetable gardens with helpful hints on garden planning, harvesting, and end of the year garden care. The programs will also provide tips on how to stay fit in the garden as well as how to prepare the produce for the dinner table.

The programs will be led by BNAN garden educator, Erika Rumbley along with help from BNAN staff and Master Urban Gardener volunteers.. The workshops are a response to the growing interest in community gardening.

The BIGG Garden Workshop Schedule is as follows:

Saturday,	June 25,	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Starting your Garden
Saturday,	July 9,	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Are you Garden Fit? **
Thursday,	July 14,	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Hey Good Cooking! I **
Saturday,	July 16,	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Coexisting with Bugs in the Garden
Thursday,	August 11,	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Saving Water Saving Seeds
Saturday,	August 20,	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Grow Greens all Fall!
Saturday,	August 20,	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Hey Good Cooking! II **
Saturday,	September 10,	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Putting your Garden to Bed

**Registration is required for these programs. Please call 617-542-7696 or email to info@bostonnatural.org to register.

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In addition to the summer programs, BNAN will offer Garden Coaching every Saturday when there is not a scheduled program at Nightingale Garden from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Master Urban Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions about where to plant, when to weed and how to harvest. Just look for the green aprons for great advice.

The Nightingale Garden Workshop Series is part of BNAN's Boston Is Growing Gardens (BIGG) project which aims to double the community garden food growing capacity in Dorchester and increase opportunities for access to healthy food and physical activity for Dorchester residents. Working with our partners, the City of Boston, Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition, gardeners, neighbors and local health organizations, BNAN is undertaking to create a two-fold increase in the number of plots (from 249 to 251) in the 17 Dorchester Community Gardens owned by BNAN.

Funding for Dorchester Community Gardens has been provided by the Boston Public Health Commission/Center for Disease Control, The Manton Foundation, The Boston Foundation, The Claneil Foundation, The Towards Sustainability Foundation and The Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund in addition to the City of Boston Department of Neighborhood Development.

If you would like to learn more about BIGG or how to get involved in community gardening in your Dorchester neighborhood, please contact BNAN at info@bostonnatural.org or call BIGG Project Manager Grantley Payne at 617-542-7696 x21.

Boston Natural Areas Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together local residents, partner organizations, public officials and foundations to preserve, expand, and enhance urban open space, including community gardens, greenways, and urban wilds. For more information about the organization, becoming a member or the calendar of events, visit www.bostonnatural.org or call 617-542-7696.

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