

ELLIS EARLY LEARNING CENTER'S URBAN FARMS

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



## 2025 GARDEN SEASON

Prepared for

**ELLIS EARLY LEARNING CENTER- JAMACIA  
PLAIN & SOUTH END**

Prepared by

**GREEN CITY GROWERS**





**CHRISTOPHER GRALLERT**  
CEO, Green City Growers

## Dear Friends and Partners,

As we look back on an incredible year of growth, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to you, our valued customers, collaborators, food systems advocates, and fellow growers, for being such an integral part of the Green City Growers community.

Your garden is more than just a space for growing vegetables. It's part of a larger movement to rebuild a vibrant, resilient, and more local food system, one garden at a time.

Thanks to your continued support and participation, we've grown from 153 to nearly 200 active garden sites across New England and beyond. Each of these gardens serves as a space for learning, connection, and nourishment, providing fresh, organic produce that sparks curiosity and brings joy to people of all ages.

This year, our 23 Urban Farmer Educators worked in 60 Boston Public Schools, engaging over 2,000 students every week and reaching tens of thousands more through hands-on education and food production. We increased production by 7% from last year, with all of it harvested and shared directly with the communities that helped grow it. 14% of all our produce grown this year has been donated to Spoonfuls, a local food recovery organization, and that number will continue to grow through the end of the year.

Whether it's schoolchildren tasting a cucamelon for the first time, employees harvesting lunch from their office garden, or neighbors sharing recipes over a raised bed, the impact of your garden is real, lasting, and far-reaching. You are helping us create spaces where food brings people together and where education, wellness, and sustainability take root.

We are especially proud of the hard-working horticultural staff and operations crew who work every day to resource and equip our urban farmers for success in the field. They bring deep knowledge, care, and joy to making sure the soil, plants, and harvest are the best they can be. This enables our farmers to build relationships and cultivate thriving gardens across our network. I am very grateful for their commitment and passion.

Growing food and sharing meals is one of the highest forms of human connection. By supporting GCG, you're also supporting fair wages, employee ownership, and the professional growth of the next generation of skilled urban farmers. Your partnership has made this year remarkable, and we look forward to all we'll accomplish together in the year ahead.

With deep appreciation,  
Christopher Grallert

**180+**

Total Garden Sites

**72,570**

Inspiring Experiences with Food

**71,181**

Pounds of Produce

# FROM YOUR FARMERS:

Hello!

Ellis Early Learning Center was my favorite site this season! I loved getting to know the students and tending to the beautiful beds. Seeing students laugh and become familiar with the plants in the garden was certainly a highlight of the year. Some of the students by the end knew which plant produced the veggie they were looking for- very impressive! This season we added a dig bed which turned out to be a big hit with the students! They loved digging for fake bugs and veggies. I already miss the students but excited to see where this program goes next year!

-Farmer Helen

Hello!

It was an absolute pleasure to take over from Farmer Katherine earlier in the year and get to finish up the fall of the season with the students and educators of Ellis Early Learning. I'm very thankful for all of the support and help that the educators of Ellis provided during the weeks of programming we had together. Together we enjoyed sensory learning, art and crafts, and hands on gardening! I will miss getting to spend Friday mornings alongside the learning youth of Ellis and am sending all my best as the rest of the year continues. I hope the spring brings great growing!

-Farmer Aidan

## YOUR IMPACT



# WHAT YOUR IMPACT MEANS



## \* POUNDS OF PRODUCE

By growing fresh, organic produce on-site, you're enriching your community's access to healthy food options. The gardens also serve as a powerful example of sustainability, showing that food can be grown anywhere.

228.80 lbs means...

**~915.20**

Servings of Veggies

## \* EXPERIENCES

Gardening provides a space for people to relax, refocus, and connect with nature in a meaningful way.

A survey of our garden program participating teachers revealed that...

**100%**

of students increased their familiarity & excitement for fresh vegetables

**98%**

of students developed a deeper relationship to the natural world

**98%**

of students were able to make connections from the garden to classroom academics

# FROM OUR TEAM TO YOURS - THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO A GREENER FUTURE!

