



Greater Newark Conservancy's Urban Farms

To address Newark residents' limited access to fresh, healthy foods, Greater Newark Conservancy launched an Urban Farming Program to cultivate vegetables, fruits, and herbs within the City's neighborhoods. Produce harvested from our Newark-based farms is distributed to residents through our Newark Youth Leadership Project's (NYLP) Youth Farm Stand and membership program.

NYLP interns set up Youth Farm Stands at 12 locations throughout the city including PSE&G's weekly Farmer's Markets, local hospitals, senior centers, and community events. The produce is affordably priced and vouchers from SNAP, WIC, and other government programs are accepted.

Additionally, over 50 individual and families participate in a farm stand membership program, our version of a CSA, or Community Supported Agriculture, where they receive bi-weekly bags filled with our farm-fresh produce.

While there are smaller urban farms throughout the city, our primary farms are located on Court Street, in the Central Ward, and Hawthorne Avenue, in the South Ward. Together, over 65,000 pounds of produce were harvested at these two farms in 2014.



32 Prince Street, Newark, NJ 07103 • Ph: 973-642-4646 • www.citybloom.org



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM COURT STREET FARM



- Construction of this one-acre farm began on land leased from the city in 2011.
- Participants in Clean & Green, our transitional job training program for ex-offenders, helped construct and plant the farm and continue to assist with its maintenance.
- In 2014, a second hoop house, a hen house with chickens, bee hives and more vegetable rows were added to the farm, enabling us to increase production, extend our growing season, and sell farm fresh eggs and honey at our Youth Farm Stands.
- Approximately 25,000 pounds of vegetables were produced during the 2014 growing season.
- More and new varieties of plants are continually added in order to diversify and provide crops that are culturally relevant to the local community.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM HAWTHORNE AVENUE FARM

- Greater Newark Conservancy launched this 2.5-acre farm adjacent to the Hawthorne Avenue School in 2012.
- The farm was built by Conservancy staff, Clean & Green re-entry program participants, high school interns, and community volunteers.
- With help from staff and volunteers a Farm to School outdoor teaching garden was created for nearby schools in 2015.
- Over 1300 students have learned about where their food comes from, gardening & horticultural practices, and good nutrition since our Education staff began Farm to School programming for the neighboring schools.
- Approximately 35,000 pounds of vegetables were produced during the 2014 growing season.
- The Farm now has 75 vegetable planting rows, a 130-fruit tree orchard, over 100 raspberry bushes, 50 blueberry bushes, and a nearly completed major hoop house.



- Community farmers plant and harvest their crops in the 180 "Plot It Fresh" garden beds at Hawthorne Avenue and 200 gardeners farm at ten other locations throughout the city.