



Mary Collins <mary.c@evanstongrows.org>

Updates and Info--Winter Newsletter!

1 message

Evanston Grows <mary.c@evanstongrows.org>
Reply-To: mary.c@evanstongrows.org
To: Mary Collins <mary.c@evanstongrows.org>

Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 12:56 PM



Farming Together. Feeding Community.

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024

Keep up with [Evanston Grows](#) news related to health equity, growing and accessing food in Evanston.

INTRODUCING WARD FARM, LARGEST TO-DATE

Everything we do is created through collaborations. Ward Farm at 2230 Main St. is a perfect example of how we join with partners to make our community stronger. Ward Manufacturing is providing significant financial funding along with a half acre of their land to be farmed by Evanston Grows this spring. *(see below for volunteer opportunities)*

We are planning a weekly farm stand, cooking programs, family events and garden tours as some of the opportunities at the new farm that can contribute to the building dynamic relationships with the neighborhood. Adjacent to the new Ward Farm are Infant Welfare Society of Evanston, an early childhood education provider, and The Aux, a commercial hub dedicated to healing, wellness and racial equity.

Greenwise Organic Lawn Care, The Mulch Center, and Arbor Green Tree Service have all generously contributed in-kind services to the new collaborative farm.

EDUCATION WRAP-UP

While gardens are sleeping, EG staff, partners and volunteers are busy providing **education to increase awareness and resiliency in our community**. Some of the education partnership included working with a STEAM class at ETHS, tabling at ETHS Civics Fair, and teaming up with NU Form & Function on marketing strategies to reach diverse audiences.

In March, two **EG "Food as Medicine" classes taught by Chef Q** will help senior citizens learn how to easily incorporate nutrient-rich produce into their diets for better health outcomes. Then, Master Gardener and **EG Board Member, Jocelyn Mallard**, along with **Master Gardener and EG Volunteer, Diane Ouellette** will teach school-age campers at Fleetwood's spring break camp, how to grow seedlings and garden at home and in community!

INTERNS WANTED

Workforce development and career education are important components of building urban agriculture infrastructure in our community and beyond. Paid internships are an important part of that equation.



Above: Greenwise tractor, EG staff and volunteers help prepare the new half acre farm in west Evanston to grow thousands of pounds of produce for nearby distribution.

UPDATE-- EVANSTON'S NEW URBAN FARM

As a result of Evanston's [Participatory Budgeting election](#) last fall, Evanston Grows (EG) was given the opportunity to use ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funds to build a [new one acre farm](#). Since then, City officials and EG leadership have been working together to identify a plot that can become the future home of the urban farm. It will be built and managed by EG, along with terrific input and support from community members. It's a long process, folks, and will be worth the effort-- a farm for health equity, education and community--right here in Evanston! We will keep you updated!



APPRECIATION EVENT HONORS VOLUNTEERS

EG's volunteers are critical to our success: Teens, college students, young parents, farmers, teachers, seniors, gardeners, soil scientists, retirees, artists, plumbers and more! Over 50 volunteers gathered at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center in January for a fun evening of celebration honoring friendships, connections and contributions.

EG is so fortunate to have so many terrific people who do everything from weeding and watering to greeting and growing, from driving and digging to strategizing and sowing. Thank you to each and every one of you for all you've done for Evanston Grows! We couldn't have gotten this far without your help! Can't wait to see you again soon! (See below for some upcoming volunteer opportunities.)

Our paid internship program, managed by Director of Farm Operations, Matt Ryan, had 9 participants in three different cohorts last year. We are now accepting applications for the 2024 program. Interns ages 18 and older will learn about the science and techniques of urban farming in our climate and much more. See the [EG WEBSITE](#) for more information.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

WORK DAYS @ Ward Farm--help build our newest and largest farm to-date! Dress for the weather and bring a shovel if you can. If you can't be there the entire time, that's okay--any time makes a difference.

- Sat., March 2, 10-11am
- Sat., March 16, 9am-12pm
- Sat., March 23, 9am-12pm

[Sign up here to volunteer for any or all dates!](#)

To learn about future work days and other volunteer opportunities, check out the [volunteer page](#) on our website or email our Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Rosner at rachel.r@evanstongrows.org.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT THROUGH A CORPORATE MATCH

Amplify your impact! Take advantage of our corporate match donation opportunity, where your contribution to Evanston Grows will be doubled, doubling the difference you make in our community. Act now to maximize your philanthropic efforts and create an even greater positive change together. To learn more, talk to your company's human resources department or go to www.evanstongrows.org/donate. If you have additional questions contact our



Above: Volunteers at annual Volunteer Celebration in Jan.

FARM STANDS TO OPEN 1st WEEK IN JUNE!

If you, or someone you know, needs access to free produce, EG's fresh produce will be available at no cost in several different farm stands, food pantries and community fridges starting in early June. In addition to EG's Fleetwood and Levy Senior Center Farm Stands, Vineyard Food Pantry and a new location near our new Ward Farm will open the week of June 3. Please contact Evanston Grows at info@evanstongrows.org for more information.

Development Associate, Kerri-Simone at kerri-simone.a@evanstongrows.org

SAVE THE DATE!

**EVANSTON GROWS 2nd ANNUAL
SEEDLING SALE
FUNDRAISER!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18
10am - 2pm**

Location TBD

**Get your organic veggie seedlings,
outdoor plants, and more!**

Cash, check and credit cards accepted.

DONATE TODAY -- WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Get up-to-date info on opportunities, events, and activities:

[Evanston Grows \(@evanstongrows\) • Instagram](#)

[Evanston Grows Facebook page](#)

[Evanston Grows website](#)

Our Contact Information

Evanston Grows

P.O. Box 8011

Evanston, IL 60204

847-224-3781

<http://www.evanstongrows.org>

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)