

## What an amazing summer!

In closing out Summer 2023, we're holding on to the sunshine, the smiles, and the incredible fall harvest ahead. Scroll down to see some the highlights from the **Young Leaders Program**, learn more about our **Summer Garden Volunteers**, and make sure you mark your calendars at an exciting upcoming event this fall!

## Learning with Young Leaders

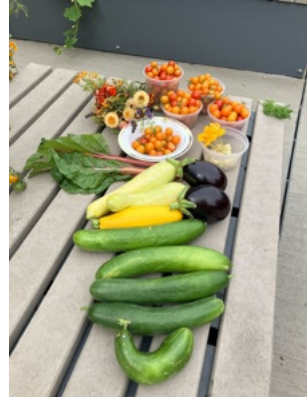
For five weeks, Young Leaders connected, investigated, explored and thought critically about what it means to tend a garden in a city.



In their gardens, they tested soil, tried their hand at hydroponic growing, and learned how to make a simple, natural spray to repel those pesky produce-eating insects and pests. They took excellent care of their gardens throughout their 5 week program - weeding, watering, and harvesting a variety of produce including garlic, tomatoes, carrots, greens, and herbs!

Groups also went beyond the garden with field trips to local grocery stores in order to investigate issues of food access; to the [Charles River Floating Wetland](#) to learn about efforts to clean and beautify the local environment; and to [The Rose Kennedy Greenway](#) to explore their vegetable gardens and bring ideas back home to their school gardens.

Many thanks goes out to our CitySprouts lead counselors, to field trip organizer and [Forest Foundation](#) Fellow Lucy Washington, and to Taylor Leonard of the Charles River Conservancy, and to Sam Trulli at The Rose Kennedy Greenway for making these trips happen!



Youth took excellent care of CitySprouts school gardens and had a variety of goodies to harvest throughout the program!

Last but of course not least, at some sites, students and leaders got creative with their cooking. One student thought the results of their efforts were so good that he commented after taking a bite of fresh salad greens from the garden:

"This is so good that if this was an anime, I would start levitating!"



Our [Young Leaders Program](#) continues into the Fall in both Boston and Cambridge. Details will be posted on our website in mid-September!

[Support the Young Leaders Program](#)

Thank you to our summer garden volunteers!

*"Our summer volunteers have been hard at work caring for our gardens over the past two months. They have watered, weeded, planted, fertilized, and harvested, ensuring the gardens are flourishing for the start of school in September. We are incredibly grateful for their time, effort, and commitment. Their support is essential to maintaining thriving outdoor living classrooms for our students. Thank you."*

- Maggie Eid, Community Engagement Coordinator



[Learn more about volunteering](#)



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