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Capital District Community Gardens Constructs Greenhouse on Urban Farm

Increasing Harvest and Distribution of Local, Organic Produce in Our Region

Today 50 volunteers, including students from Troy High School and area colleges, helped Capital District Community Gardens raise a “high tunnel” or unheated greenhouse for the organization’s Produce Project Farm on 8th Street in Troy.

Capital District Community Gardens is a 36-year-old non-profit that nourishes healthy communities throughout the Capital Region with 46 community gardens, The Veggie Mobile and seven other programs designed to improve public health. CDCG’s Produce Project is a youth job-training initiative, which offers stipends, school credit and a harvest share to at-risk students from Troy High School in exchange for tending crops and selling them to local markets. The farm sits on 2.5 acres, overlooking historic Troy.

“The Capital District Community Gardens’ 8th Street Farm is one of my favorite places in the City of Troy,” said Troy Mayor Lou Rosamilia. “It illustrates the spirit of volunteerism, community, and hard work that makes our city great. This weekend’s construction of the second ‘high tunnel’ is more evidence of how successful the people and programs associated with the 8th Street Farm have become. This is a fantastic venue and another milestone for one of the City’s most impressive community assets.”

Last year, The Produce Project harvested nearly four tons of produce, of which 5,992 pounds were sold at local markets and businesses and 1,446 pounds were donated to CDCG’s Squash Hunger program and the students’ families. Installation of the farm’s second high tunnel will double the program’s year-round growing capacity, while offering youth more space for outdoor activity during the winter. Harvest increases will be used to launch a Community Supported Agriculture System, to expand distribution in the local market and to stock CDCG’s mobile market, The Veggie Mobile.

“It is wonderful to work with so many members of the community to raise the second ‘high tunnel,’” said CDCG’s Executive Director Amy Klein. “CDCG is very grateful to Mayor Rosamilia and his administration for facilitating this construction project and also for installing water at the farm.”

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Capital District Community Gardens is a 36 year old nonprofit organization that nourishes healthy communities with nearly 50 Community Gardens, The Veggie Mobile, The Healthy Convenience Store Initiative, The Produce Project, Squash Hunger, The Taste Good Series and Street Tree Planting.

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