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PRESS RELEASE

Capital Roots Celebrates Earth Day Unveiling its Newest Community Garden in Albany

Albany, NY, April 22, 2021 – [Capital Roots](#), local food access nonprofit, unveiled their newest Community Garden on Earth Day, with a ribbon cutting ceremony in Albany. The new Morris Street Community Garden, located on 251 Morris Street, will open for its first growing season in 2021 and will provide space for Capital Region families to grow their own organic produce close to home.

Capital Roots CEO, Amy Klein, was joined by Mayor Kathy Sheehan, State Senator Neil Breslin, Assembly member, representatives of Tri-City Rentals, BBL Construction, Columbia Development and Albany Medical Center who donated the land, members of the Park South Neighborhood Association, supporters, gardeners and neighbors.

Community Gardens provide green spaces for city residents to spend time outside with the added benefit of organically grown healthy food. In a time when isolation and indoor living has been the norm, community gardens are a safe space where relaxation and positive mental health flourish.

“It is a great thrill to cut the ribbon on the Morris Street Community Garden which has a 20-year history as a greenspace in the Park South neighborhood, “ said Amy Klein, Capital Roots’ CEO. “Thanks to all the partners who made this possible, this community garden will be forever preserved as a neighborhood resource.

“What better way to celebrate Earth Day than partnering with Capital Roots to officially open the most recent Albany Community Garden on Morris Street,” said Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan. “ This Community Garden has the capacity to provide over 60 gardeners and their families with spaces to grow healthy food and be outdoors, all while presenting the opportunity for the neighborhood to form a stronger community. I am excited to be a part of preserving this massive and functional green space within the City.”

“Understanding the importance and value of having access to grow food locally in the Park South Neighborhood - we promised to provide land for a new neighborhood community garden. Along with our partners from BBL and Columbia Development today we are fulfilling that promise. We thank Amy Klein and Capital Roots for their vision and leadership in restoring this community benefit for all to enjoy,” said Norman Massry, Tri-City Rentals.



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Assemblymember John McDonald said: "The theme for Earth Day 2021 is 'Restore our Earth,' and I cannot think of a better way to celebrate that theme than celebrating the opening of this new community garden. Thank you to Capital Roots, the Massry family, and all of the partners who have joined together to make this project possible. Community gardens literally bring life back to communities, provide nutritious food, and the opportunity to be environmental stewards. I look forward to seeing how this garden come fully to fruition."

More than 4,000 residents of the Capital Region reap the benefits sown in Capital Roots' 55 organically managed community gardens. Roughly 441 tons or \$2 million worth of organic produce is harvested annually from the organization's plots throughout Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and southern Saratoga counties.

Senator Breslin said: "Capital Roots does a phenomenal job building healthy communities in the Capital Region. I congratulate Capital Roots on the opening of their newest and largest community garden on Morris Street. This donation to Capital Roots' Urban Land Trust will provide green space, educational opportunities, and food in downtown Albany for years to come."

This property will join Capital Roots' urban land trust of 14.6 acres. These spaces are protected forever as a community gardens and important greenspaces.

"Earth Day is a reminder for all of us to pause and do our part to take care of our planet which includes improving food sustainability and access to nutritious and fresh food," said Assemblymember Patricia Fahy. "Expanding urban community gardens like Morris Street's newest will ensure that local residents will have another source for sustainable, fresh, and nutritious food. Community gardens allow urban residents to learn more about sustainable farming and food-growing practices, including their impact on fighting climate change and reducing food insecurity among our neighbors and within our communities. I commend Capital Roots for capitalizing on this opportunity graciously provided by the Massry family's property donation, and I look forward to seeing its impact in our local community."

About Capital Roots

Capital Roots, celebrating 45 years is an nonprofit organization that nourishes healthy communities with 55 Community Gardens, the Veggie Mobile®, Healthy Stores, the Produce Project, Squash Hunger and more. Capital Roots is headquartered at the Urban Grow Center, a regional food hub focused on urban agriculture and produce distribution to four counties, enabling Capital Roots to deliver local food and services to underserved neighborhoods and low-income families. Learn more at www.capitalroots.org.



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