City of Dunwoody Georgia

4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
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To: Mayor and City Council

From: Rachel Waldron
Parks and Recreation Director

Re: Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard Annual Presentation

Date: November 16, 2026

Summary

The City of Dunwoody Guide for Non-Profit Partners was adopted in 2021 to strengthen the relationship between the non-profits that utilize city-owned facilities and the City of Dunwoody. Per the guide, Partners are to prepare an annual report and presentation to City Council, orally or in writing.

The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to call Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard a Partner. Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard provides an opportunity for members to grow food organically year-round, educates and mentors others in the community about sustainable growing practices, and dedicates a portion of its space to growing food for charitable purposes. Their core tenets include using organic growing methods, modelling environmental stewardship, being simple and scalable, enabling access for all, and fostering a learning environment.

Lynn Deutsch Mayor
Eric Linton ICMA-CM City Manager
Sharon Lowery CMC City Clerk

Catherine Lautenbacher City Council Post 1
Rob Price City Council Post 2
Tom Lambert City Council Post 3

Stacey Harris City Council Post 4
Joe Seconder City Council Post 5
John Heneghan City Council Post 6

State of the Garden 2026

Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard at Brook Run
www.dcgo.org

Presented to the City of Dunwoody

With appreciation for our major sponsor,
our community partners, and every volunteer.

2009
Founded

97
Member beds

40+
Pantry beds

114
Members & affiliates

Our mission

01 Organic gardening

A safe, fun place to grow food organically.

02 Education

Helping others learn about organic gardening.

03 Charitable giving

Growing food for charitable purposes.

A unique garden in the heart of our community



A year of gardening and friendship

A year of happy, mostly healthy gardening





Recreating the entry garden

Thank you to Ann, Richard, Taylor, Matt, Pam, Yenifer, Anna, and the Parks and Recreation crew.







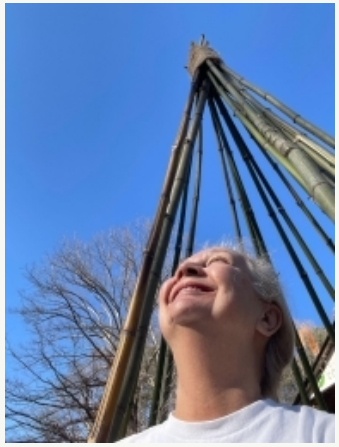
Fresh planting at the entrance

By our amazing volunteers



An entry garden for the young at heart

A teepee, a little library, and places to explore.











The veggie patch through the seasons

Spring planting and summer growth







MLK Day of Service

Thank you to more volunteers who turned a day of service into lasting improvements.





MLK workday accomplishments

Garden weeded, Beds repaired and filled. Tomato cages sorted, Tool shed cleaned, and winterized, wheelbarrows rep







Time together in the garden

Snap Dragon's Garden and moments of fun between workdays









Family fun with the City of Dunwoody

Thank you to the City for sponsoring opportunities for families to enjoy the garden.



Our most successful plant sale

Special thanks to Cyndi McGill and her team of volunteers for organizing and leading the sale.







Thank you, plant sale volunteers

Your time and friendly welcome made the sale possible.





Neighbors supporting the plant sale

We appreciate every shopper, grower, and volunteer who took part.







Introducing the Healthy Garden Guide

A new resource to support healthy gardens in 2026





Healthy Garden Guide: practical resources

Plot Readiness: Beginning of Growing Season

- Remove and dispose of surface weeds
- Cultivate existing soil and remove old plant material
- Fill plot to the top edge with Soil[3] and mix with existing soil
- Add organic fertilizer according to package directions
- Select and install any desired fencing to keep critters out
- Have your mulch and weed barriers ready for plant installation



Ongoing Care Schedule

What	When	How
Water	1 to 3X week	◦ Avoid getting leaves wet ◦ Water deeply ◦ Check timers to prevent flooding
Weed	1X week	Pull weeds - roots and all!
Monitor*	1 to 3X week	Inspect plants for insects and disease. Take action immediately if found!*
Groom	1X week	◦ Keep vining plants on supports ◦ Remove and dispose of diseased, dead, or pruned material
Fertilize	1X month during growing season	Side dress (sprinkle around plant) organic fertilizer according to product directions

*consult Pest & Disease info on Garden Shed BOLO Board for details

Garden Etiquette: Be a Good Neighbor!

- Keep your plot weeded
- Be on the lookout for bad bugs and disease – and ACT!
- Consult the Garden BOLO Board for updates and tips for managing pests and diseases
- Put all weeds and discarded plant material in the bins
- Is the bin full? Pull it down to the street! Are there empty bins at the street? Pull them back up!
- Return tools (cleaned!) and pest spray bottles to the shed and emptied wheel barrows to their area
- Carefully monitor irrigation timers to avoid flooding
- Contact Harvest if you'll be away: DCGOHarvest@gmail.com

Contacts & Resources:

Questions? Pests? Issues?
Email DCGOGarden@gmail.com

Weather
Weather.uga.edu
Sandy Spring Station

UGA Extension resources
extension.uga.edu/

Educational Materials
DCGO.org/miss-a-master-gardener-talk/

Ongoing DCGO Communications
Check your email for DCGO Newsletters and info about upcoming events and important dates

Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard at Brook Run
www.dcgo.org

Dunwoody Community Garden's

HEALTHY GARDEN GUIDE

Healthy Garden Guidelines: What & Why?

DCGO is one of the largest community gardens in Georgia, providing our members and volunteers with incredible opportunities: growing organically, enjoying community, learning, and sharing. But these opportunities come with some unique challenges!

With over 100 gardeners growing in close proximity, it's critical everyone follow basic guidelines for cultivation and maintenance: in other words, your weeds become your neighbor's weeds, and your pests become their pests. And, an empty, ignored plot takes away the opportunity for someone else who would love to use it.

This Healthy Garden Guide provides basic steps to ensure the best results from your plot while being a good neighbor to your fellow gardeners, including:

- Plot Readiness
- Planting Guide
- Ongoing Care
- Garden Etiquette
- Resource Links

Healthy Garden Guide: planting advice

DCGO Planting Guide

This chart was developed specifically for our garden. For each plant, you'll see its growing season, optimal time to plant, and proper spacing to ensure that plants are grown with sufficient space to help prevent pests and diseases. Recommended pest-resistant varieties are also provided. Remember that our hardiness zone is 8A, which means that our average first frost date is mid-November and our average last frost date is April 15.

Garden Favorites:

Tomatoes: Better Boy and Mountain Magic (disease-resistant hybrids); Sungold, Black Cherry, and Indigo Rose small tomatoes

Eggplant: Midnight Moon (globe) and Turkish Delight (Asian)

Peppers: Shishito, Jalapeno

Tomato Tips:

- Consider disease-resistant hybrid tomato varieties (e.g., Better Boy)
- When planting, remove lower leaves and bury the stem as deeply as possible
- Use a non-woven or paper landscape fabric or a thick layer of newspaper underneath the plants to prevent fungus splashback
- Pinch back suckers to force productive growth
- Keep lower leaves trimmed up to reduce opportunities for fungus growth



Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard Planting Guide 2026*

* last revised 3/27/26

Plant	p = planting time												Type	Ideal Seed Germ Soil °F	Preferred Method	Support	Plants:SQ/FT
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
Arugula			p	p	p				p	p	p		A	50-77	DS		9 : 1
Basil				p	p	p							A	60-80	T		1 to 4 : 1
Beets		p	p	p	p	p			p	p			A	40-75	DS		4 to 9 : 1
Broccoli			p	p					p	p			A	60-80	T		1 : 1
Bush Beans*				p	p	p	p	p					A	60-80	DS		4 to 6 : 1
Cabbage		p	p						p	p	p		A	60-70	T		1 : 1 to 2
Carrots			p	p	p	p	p	p	p	p			A		DS		9 to 16 : 1
Chives			p	p					p	p			TP	60-70	DS or T		9 to 16 : 1
Collards		p	p						p	p	p		A	60-70	T		1 : 1
Cucumber				p	p	p							A	60-70	DS or T	T	1 : 1
Eggplant				p	p	p	p						A	60-70	T		1 : 2
Field Peas					p	p	p	p					A	>70	DS	T	8 : 1 (T)
Garlic (soft-neck)										p	p	p	A	60-70	clove		4 to 9 : 1
Kale			p	p					p	p			A	60-70	DS or T		Varies
Leeks		p	p	p					p	p			A	50-85	DS		4 to 6 : 1
Lettuces		p	p	p						p	p		A	>40	DS or T		Varies
Melons				p	p	p	p						A	>65	DS or T	T	Varies
Mustard Greens		p	p	p					p	p			A	50-70	DS		4 to 16 : 1
Okra						p	p						A	>75	DS		1 : 1
Onions (short-day)		p											A		Sets		4 to 6 : 1
Onions (scallions)	p	p	p						p	p			A		DS		16 : 1
Oregano			p	p	p				p	p			P		T		1 : 1
Pak Choi			p	p	p				p	p	p		A	60-70	DS or T		9 to 12 : 1
Peppers				p	p	p	p						A	60-80	T	S	1 : 1 (varies)
Potatoes			p	p	p								A		SE	T	up to 4 : 1
Radishes		p	p	p					p	p	p		A	55-75	DS		16 : 1
Rosemary			p	p	p				p	p			P		T		1 : 1 to 2
Sage			p	p	p				p	p			TP		T		1 : 1
Snap or English Peas		p	p	p					p	p			A		DS	T	8 : 1 (T)
Snap/Pole Beans*				p	p	p	p	p					A		DS	T	8 : 1 (T)
Squash*				p	p	p	p						A		DS or T		1 : 2 or 3
Strawberries			p	p	p	p			p	p			P		T		1 to 2 : 1
Sweet Potatoes					p	p							A		Slips	T	1 : 1
Thyme			p	p	p				p	p			P		T		1 : 1
Tomato				p	p	p	p						A		T	T or C	1 : 4
Turnips								p	p				A		DS		9 : 1
Zucchini*				p	p	p	p						A		DS or T		1 : 3 or 4

*Recommended: Pest-Resistant Seed Varieties	Type	Preferred Method	Support	Plants:SQ/FT
Bush Beans: Refugee, Wade, Black Valentine, Royal Burgundy **Snap/Pole Beans:** Logan Giant, Royalty Purple Pod, Louisiana Purple Pod, Asparagus (Yard-Long) **Lima Beans:** Baby Fordhook, Baby White **Winter Squash:** Butternut, Royal Acorn, Green-Striped Cushaw **Summer Squash:** Rampicante (Zucchini), Passion Golden Mabre Scallop (pattypan alternative to yellow summer squash)	A = Annual P = Perennial B = Biennial TP = Tender Perennial	DS = Direct Seed T = Transplant SL = Slip SE = Seed Potato Sets = Onion Sets	T = Trellis C = Cage S = Stake	T = the # of plants is divided on either side of the supporting trellis

Please note: This Planting Guide was developed by a team of Master Gardeners (Georgia MGEVs) as a planning tool for our garden members. It is based on actual experience in gardening at DCGO as well as on published sources (e.g., University of Georgia Extension). Your actual gardening results will vary depending on external factors (weather, soil, diseases), ongoing care (watering, pest control), and Plant selection.

Questions? Contact DCGOGarden@gmail.com!

Growing food for our neighbors

Thank you to the volunteers who tend the pantry beds throughout the season.





The harvest team at work

Our volunteers bring care and consistency to every harvest.







Beautiful fresh food from the pantry beds





Sharing with Malachi's Storehouse

Fresh produce for neighbors in need, with thanks to our distribution partner.







Sharing with other community gardens

Plants and seeds from our greenhouse are distributed to other Community Gardens



More than 2,300 pounds donated

To Malachi’s Storehouse in 2026, with the harvest continuing







Corporate Partners - A new cutting garden for the harvest team

Thank you to our Master Gardner Team and Keller Williams.



Teaching future gardeners

Helping children discover the joy of growing







Hands-on learning in the garden

Learning together, indoors and out





2026 Master Gardener talks

Monthly community gardening & landscaping series

January–June

JAN 10 Fruit Trees in Georgia

FEB 14 Basic Community Gardening

MAR 14 Q and A Panel

APR 11 Sustainable Landscaping

MAY 09 Plant Swap

JUN 13 Organic Disease & Pest Control

July–November

JUL 11 Calendar of Birds and Pollinators

AUG 08 Trees and Bushes

SEP 12 Compost Tea

OCT 10 Fall is For Planting

NOV 14 Garden Tool Maintenance

Thank you to our presenters

Cyndi McGill, Jane McLean, Ann Bone, Mike Fillon, and Richard Osterholtz
Venue setup: Tielke Baker

The people and support behind the garden

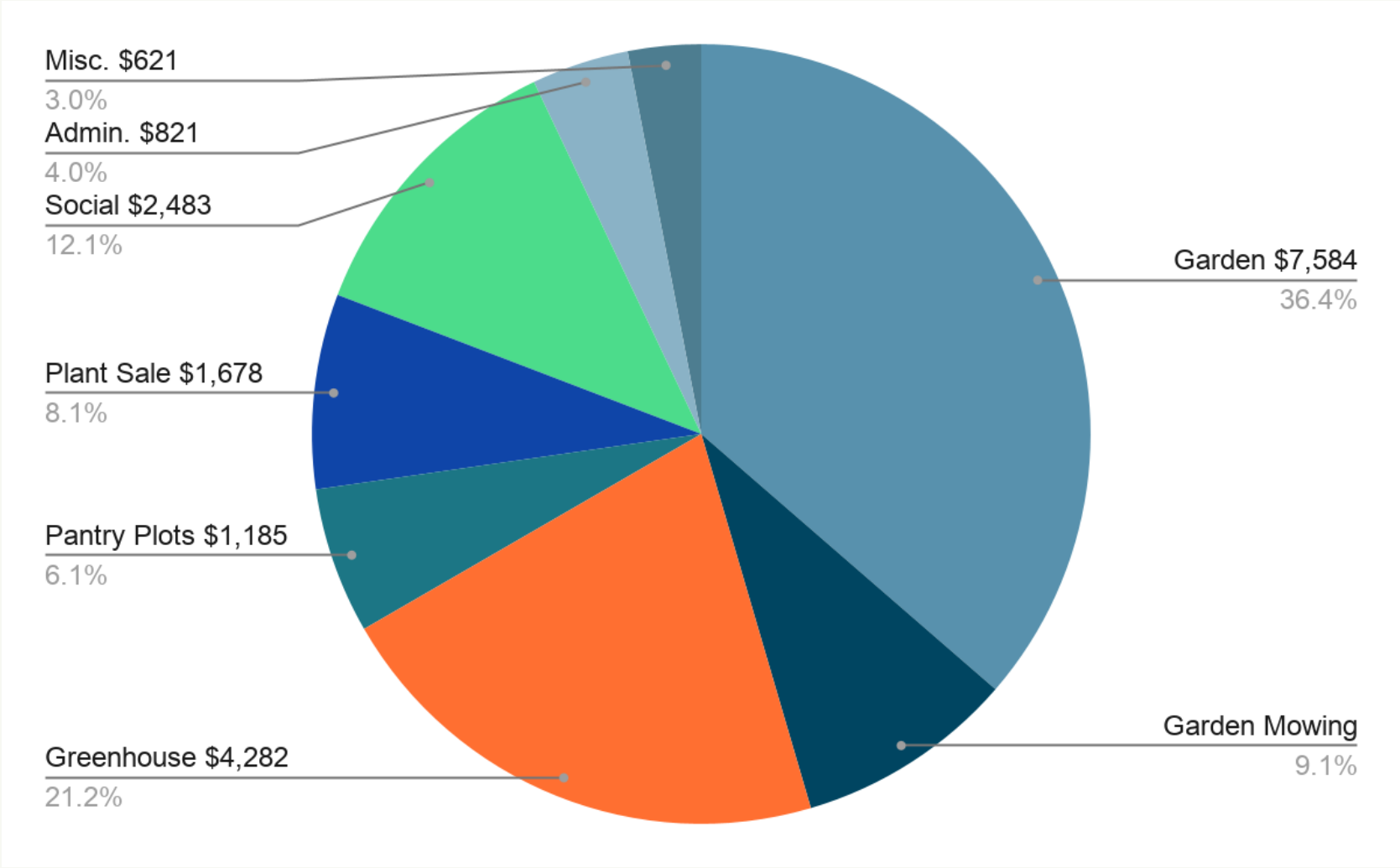
Dedicated volunteers make the work possible.

Membership dues, plant sales, donations, and other income help fund the work.

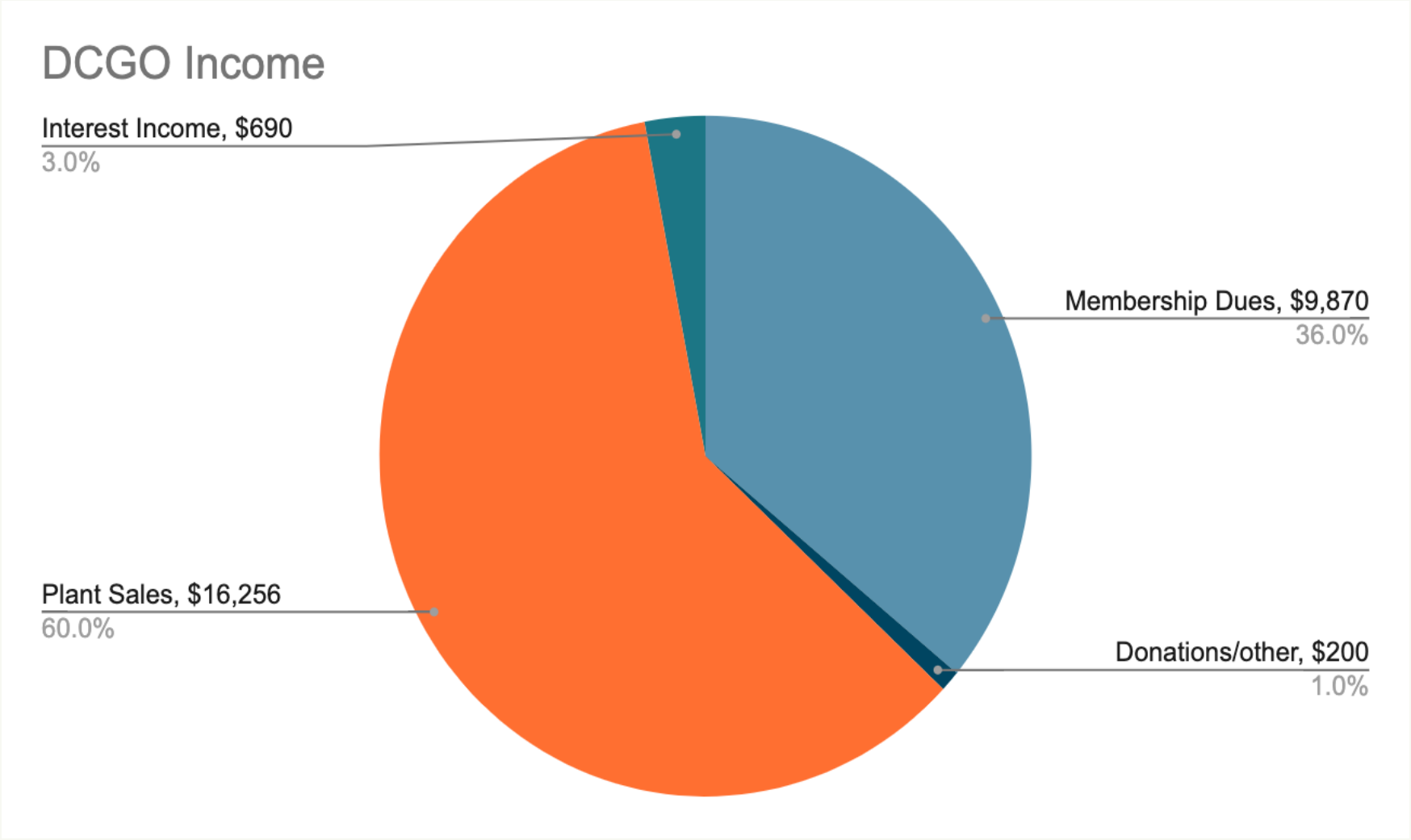
We are grateful for the City’s sponsorship and the generosity of our community.

2025–26 expenses

Reported total: $20,884



2025–26 funding sources



Our 2025–26 leadership team

Ann Bone — Co-Chairperson

Pam Robinson — Co-Chairperson

John Krieck — Treasurer

Jacob Hays — Secretary

Anna Schoenbachler — Membership

Cyndi McGill — Plant Sale Director

Richard Osterholtz — Greenhouse Director

Jeff Leech — Co-Garden Director

Taylor Levinson — Co-Garden Director

Beth Paschetto — Events Director

Sarah Phillips — Communications Director

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Looking ahead: greenhouse replacement

Working with the City to replace our aging greenhouses



City partnership
Planning, design, and construction of updated growing facilities.

Critical need
Weather damage to roof panels and framing makes replacement an urgent priority.





Thank you, City of Dunwoody

From our partners and volunteers, thank you for helping our garden grow.

Your continued support makes space for learning, service, and friendship in our community.



"Afraid it'll escape?"

With gratitude from DCGO