plantify

Environmental Non-Profit | Connecting People to Nature

Grow With Us: Winter Steward Cohort Schedule & Program Overview

At Paradise Community Garden

1. Cohort Purpose & Call to Action

Who We Are Looking For: Garden Stewards

The **Grow With Us Winter Cohort** is a direct pathway for dedicated community members who want to become active **Garden Stewards** of Plantify's Demonstration Garden aka "Paradise Community Garden". This cohort serves as our primary **Horticulture Skills Development** initiative—providing hands-on workforce training in urban agriculture, closed-loop soil science, and watershed stewardship.

Are you ready to:

- Commit to learning hands-on skill mastery of soil, water, and opportunity crop systems
- Gain leadership skills as stewards of our public demonstration garden
- Support workshops and free community events

2. Steward Commitment & Mutual Expectations

What Plantify Provides (Your Benefits)	Steward Commitment & Expectations
Applied Gardening and Plant Science Workforce Training	**Weekly Sunday Cadence:** Active participation during Sunday open hours (11:00 AM – 2:00/3:00 PM) throughout the winter session.
Direct Site Stewardship	**Demonstration Site Care (under direction):** Direct ownership and oversight of designated beds, ASP compost operations, and rainwater catchment setups.
Leadership Pathways	**Workshop Support:** Serve as essential hands-on support and co-hosts for 1–2 specialized community workshops.
Event Participation	**Event Co-Production:** Actively co-produce and steward 1 to 2 major seasonal events (e.g., Great Community Soup Bowl or Sips & Scents).

3. Winter Steward Cohort - Book 1: Water

Phase 1: Foundations of Stewardship — Soil & Water Systems

- **Focus:** Aerated Static Pile (ASP) composting mechanics, rainwater catchment operations, and cool-weather opportunity crops.
- **Steward Activity:**
  - Calibrating ASP compost piles and soil testing.
  - Preparation of winter demonstration beds and seed starting for opportunity crops.
  - Distributing plant guides and field logs.
- **Target Event Milestone:** Support upcoming workshops

Phase 2: Applied Leadership & Demonstration Site Care

- **Focus:** Micro-climate management, crop stewardship, peer-to-peer instruction, and event production prep.
- **Steward Activity:**
  - Co-leading small-group demonstrations during regular Hands-on Learning Sunday.
  - Planning roles, logistics, and participant flow for seasonal events.
- **Target Event Milestone:** Co-production & Steward Leadership at 1–2 Workshops and Large Public Community Events.

Phase 3: Graduation, Evaluation & Year-Round Steward Role

- **Focus:** Workforce skill evaluations, cohort reflections, site expansion, and ongoing site stewardship transition.
- **Steward Activity:**
  - Evaluation of horticulture skills gained and portfolio/certificate awarding.
  - Transition into lead Steward roles for Paradise Community Garden's spring/summer programming.

4. Schedule - Book 1: Water

Phase 1: November 7, 2026 – December 27, 2027

Phase 2: January 3, 2027 - February 7, 2027

Phase 3: February 14, 2027 – March 21, 2027

Capstone Event in March

Week	Date	Session Type	Focus & Steward Deliverables
Kickoff	Sat, Nov 7	**Workshop**	**Winter Cohort Kickoff:** Orientation, and initial site walkthrough.
Week 1	Sun, Nov 15	**Hands on learning Day**	**Crop Stewardship & Site Care:** Caring for cool-weather opportunity crops and garden maintenance
Week 2	Sun, Nov 22	**Learning Lab**	**Water & Soil Chemistry:** What is pH and why it's an important measure in the garden
Week 3	Sun, Nov 29	**Hands on learning Day**	**Crop Stewardship & Site Care:** Independent crop care and garden maintenance
Week 4	Sun, Dec 6	**Hands on learning Day**	**Crop Stewardship & Site Care:** Building/turning the ASP pile, applying finished compost
Week 5	Sun, Dec 13	**Workshop**	**Guest Speaker**

Week	Date	Session Type	Focus & Steward Deliverables
Week 6	*Sun, Dec 20*	**Hands on learning Day**	**Crop Stewardship & Site Care:** Independent crop care and garden maintenance
Week 7	*Sun, Dec 27*	**Learning Lab**	**Water Catchment:** Determining site selection, materials, and methods for water catchment and storage.
	Sun, Jan 3	**Phase Two Begins**	**Phase 2 Begins:** Celebrate Progress
	Sun, Feb 14	**Phase Three Begins**	**Phase 3 Begins:** Celebrate Progress
	March	**Celebrate**	**Grow With Us Winter Program Culmination:** Stews co-produce the Winter Community capstone event.

5. Hands-on Day Session Structure

- **11:00 AM – 11:15 AM | Garden Walkthrough:** Assess garden needs, answer questions, and identify tasks for the day
- **11:15 AM – 1:15 PM | Garden Maintenance:** Practice new skills through active work on ASP compost, rainwater catchment, irrigation lines, opportunity crop beds, pest abatement, and maintaining pathways
- **1:15 PM – 1:45 PM | Wrap-Up:** Cleanup, reflect on the days activities and discuss needs for next Sunday
- **1:45 PM – 2:00 PM | Shared Snack:** Enjoy the fruits of our labor, take a break and enjoy each other's company