



News Release

January 15, 2021

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EBRPHA Partnering with Baton Roots Community Farm to Install Raised Vegetable Gardens at Communities

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority has partnered with Baton Roots Community Farm to install raised garden beds to grow vegetables and fruits that will produce a sustainable food source for residents at 11 of its communities, EBRPHA Chief Executive Officer J. Wesley Daniels, Jr. announced today.

Baton Roots Community Farm is a collaborative effort between the Walls Project and BREC and operates the Walls Project Urban Farm on Winbourne Avenue. The farm blends hands-on training, master gardening education and creative placemaking to inspire a culture of health and wellness throughout the North Baton Rouge community. Baton Roots also manages three satellite farm plots at area high schools which creates decentralized fresh food distribution via a network of local partners.

Daniels said bringing the talent and experience of the Urban Farm to the various communities will enhance the quality of life of the residents while contributing to their health and wellbeing.

“Collaboration is critical as we strive to teach our families useful skills and introduce them to the basics of healthy eating,” Daniels said. “Baton Roots is the ideal partner to assist us in providing access to healthy food.”

The raised garden beds will be built in two phases at 11 housing communities. The Baton Roots staff will kick start the project by building the beds and taking the necessary steps to start the process including irrigation, fertilization and planting seedlings beginning in February and March. Weekly updates and training will prepare the residents to maintain the beds on their own and help develop a sustainable food system and land stewardship ethic.

“Our community programs, events, and alliances work to break through the walls that prevent people from living safe, healthy and prosperous lives,” said Casey Phillips, Executive Director of the Walls Project. “Our partnership with our area housing communities allows us to further pursue areas of need where services and programming do not exist or are cost-prohibitive.”

The communities and number of beds to be built include Sharlo Terrace (8), Ardenwood Village (4), Monte Sano Village (8), Turner Plaza (12), Capital Square (4), Kelly Terrace (8), Scotland Villa (8), Wood Plaza (4), Clarksdale Apartments (12), River South II (4) and Zion Terrace (12).

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ACCESS is EBRPHA’s transformation strategy that leverages its housing opportunities to create greater access and resources for Education, Economic Opportunities and Health & Wellness.

EBRPHA creates sustainable communities that provide critical access to the foundations of a productive life for EBRPHA families. Through this comprehensive investment approach, ACCESS, with the support of its community partners, strategically positions investments, assets, and community partners to establish a pathway from “cradle to career to dignity in aging”.