



We officially kicked off our summer programming this week! We could not be more excited to get our 60 youth interns into the Urban Roots gardens, kitchens, and parkland to make some big impacts this season. Let's take a look at what our programs have in store!

### What's Cooking?

What's cookin' in the Urban Roots kitchen? Lots of fun, summer activities! This summer, we'll be working with seven chefs from around the Twin Cities-including Rajen Rayan, Beth Dooley, Jenny Breen, Yia Vang of Union Kitchen, Ruhel Islam from Gandhi Mahal, and Robin Asbel. We're excited to be working with these fantastic chefs. Gandhi Mahal and chef/owner Ruhel Islam will be giving our Cook Fresh interns a tour of his restaurant, and talk about what it's like to own a restaurant business. Come join us for a Chef-led lunch on Tuesdays this summer! RSVP to [sanduaem@urbanrootsmn.org](mailto:sanduaem@urbanrootsmn.org).



### What's Growing?

Rivoli Bluff Farm is in full swing! Intrepid staff members have been plowing, installing drip irrigation and planting the quarter acre plot. Thanks to our partnership with the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services, we benefitted from a Minnesota Superbowl Legacy Fund of the Minnesota Community Foundation and the hard work of Pentair volunteers who planted 60 fruit trees adjacent to the vegetable crops. Raspberries and other fruit shrubs will soon join the orchard plot. We're excited to be heading into such a fruitful summer!

Another exciting growth opportunity for Urban Roots? This July, look for our newly built 38' x 52' high-tunnel as a pilot project in partnership with the Department of Agriculture. We look forward to increased production for 2017-2018!

### What Are We Protecting?

National Park Service Ranger Training will be on June 26th! Urban Roots Youth work with National Park Service staff to learn about leading groups throughout parks of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area-including Indian Mounds Park and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. Conservation crews are also managing two new honeybee hives and pollinator beds this summer, with plans to install more natives in a buffer to the water catchment. We can't wait to make our green footprint on Saint Paul this summer!



### Greenhouse for our Green Thumbs!

Our work with Metropolitan State University and the GROW-IT Work Group made big strides this winter. The Minnesota legislature awarded the GROW-IT Center (formerly Department of Agriculture Biology-Control Greenhouse) \$400,000 towards the renovation and addition to the Center. We're over halfway to the finish line and we'll continue to pursue funding through 2017 with hopes of opening in 2018!

## Urban Roots Events

### Get a Pi-zza This!

Urban Roots will be hosting our first Urban Pizza Farm! Local chefs and our exceptional youth interns will do a pizza oven take over-creating delicious pizzas made with Urban Roots produce for you to enjoy. The inaugural Urban Pizza Farm will take place on June 29th featuring Chef Yia Vang! Can't make it? Don't worry-we'll have another pizza night on July 20th featuring Les Dames D'Escoffier. This is bound to be a delicious evening celebrating youth, community, and great food. [Get your tickets today!](#)





### Join us for Conservation Fun!

Urban Roots Conservation youth will be working with the Minnesota Dragonfly Society and Capitol Region Watershed District to survey macro-invertebrates, which are great indicators of water quality. The event is from 10am-12pm and is free and open to all ages. Join us for this day of conservation fun!

[Check out the event details here!](#)

### Dinner on the Farm... In the City?

Another great chance for great food, drinks, and company at our demonstration farm site in East Saint Paul! We have partnered with Dinner On The Farm and Chef Yia Vang for this fabulous event on July 23rd. This event will feature local brews, served by our neighbors at Flat Earth Brewing Company, music by Patty and The Buttons, and farm tours from our awesome youth interns. Tickets go FAST so get yours and join us on the farm.

[Get your tickets today!](#)



### Farmer to Table with Cook St. Paul!



COOK St. Paul continues their "Farmer-to-Table" series this summer, and Urban Roots will be their featured partner on July 8th at 5:00! The dinner will feature a delicious veggie-centric menu artfully prepared by chef Mitch Robbie, which will spotlight the produce grown by Urban Roots wonderful youth interns. No tickets needed- just show up and be prepared to celebrate vibrant summer flavors.

[Learn more about Cook Saint Paul!](#)

## Positive Change with Mississippi Market!

Don't forget that Urban Roots is Mississippi Market's recipient for the Positive Change during the month of June, at all 3 Mississippi Market locations!

Previously known as Eco-Stamp, Mississippi Market's bag credit and donation program is now known as Positive Change. The name is a nod to their mission statement: to create positive change in the community by influencing the production, distribution, and enjoyment of food. Mississippi Market needs your help in creating the most positive change in our communities so they are asking that you round up your purchases to the next dollar amount for donation to the monthly Positive Change recipient. It may only be a few cents or spare change, but the cumulative impact on our community is astounding! On average, over \$8,000 each month is raised for the Positive Change recipients. Find out more information by clicking [here](#)— Let's make this their biggest month ever!

Along with Positive Change, join together with your St. Paul community to celebrate our incredible local farmers, makers, and producers at Mississippi Market's Local Food Fest on June 17th from 11am-2pm. Meet local growers, sample their delicious fresh foods, enjoy live music, shop exclusive sales, and celebrate all things local at your co-op! Urban Roots staff will be tabling at each store and sampling one of our famous Roots for the Home Team salads, and selling produce at their East 7th Street location. Stop in to say hello if you are in the area! Find our more event details [here!](#)

## Where Can You Find Our Youth-Grown Produce?



Urban Roots is partnering with East Side Table to feature our youth-grown produce in their 10-week make-at-home meal kit program! We're excited to help bring this pilot program to the East Side.

You can also find our produce at Mississippi Market East 7th, COOK Saint Paul, Swede Hollow Cafe, and Roots for the Home Team Twins games! Support your local youth farmers and check out these businesses this summer!

There's still one CSA share left for the summer! To reserve the final spot, email [sbadawi@urbanrootsmn.org](mailto:sbadawi@urbanrootsmn.org). [More info about our CSA can be found here!](#)

## Save the Date!

Urban Roots will be hosting our annual Get to Know Your Urban Roots fall event on October 12th at the beautiful Harriet Island Pavilion! We'll be partnering with Chowgirls for an evening of food, drinks, and fun. We can't wait to highlight our hard-working staff, exceptional youth interns, and unique programming. Not only that, but this will be a great way to highlight our 20th anniversary on the East Side. Tickets will go on sale soon, so keep an eye on our social media!

