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DC GREENWORKS AND LIVING CITY DC TO INSTALL ACCESSIBLE RAISED BED GARDENS

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WASHINGTON – dc greenworks, which promotes environmentally sustainable building practices through low-impact development technologies, will install 15 raised beds on the grounds of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments in cooperation with Living City DC 14th & U and the One City Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to create a community garden on Saturday, July 23. The Dunbar Apartments are located at 2001 15th Street NW.

dc greenworks will coordinate and manage the Dunbar Apartments resident volunteers and youth from the SYEP in the installation of the raised beds. The gardens will create a welcoming space for residents and the community to meet and will give the Dunbar Apartments residents access to fresh flowers and produce. The site of the garden is an underused shuffleboard area.

"We are thrilled to be helping to transform this underused space into one that will be more welcoming to people and more environmentally friendly," said Peter Ensign, Executive Director of dc greenworks. "Here we have the opportunity to work with so many volunteers who will help create the space they themselves will be able to enjoy from now on."

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The community garden serves many purposes. At face value, as a garden, it is a convenient source of interaction with nature and plants for the seniors living in the Dunbar Apartments, as well as a source of fresh produce for them. The gardens are designed to allow residents to work in the gardens while sitting, rather than bending down. It also allows for young people in the community to build something of value within their own neighborhood, and bring people from parts of the LCDC 14th & U larger community into contact with the Dunbar Apartments.

SYEP Youth aged 14-21 will be participating in planting the raised beds. SYEP is an annual program that provides summer employment and offers youth a chance to earn money, gain skills, and expand their interest in new careers. LCDC 14th & U has arranged for several youth from the nearby community to assist with developing and maintaining the community garden at the Dunbar Apartments this summer. The SYEP program is managed by Deborah Thomas, the LCDC 14th & U Director of Community Outreach and the ANC 1B Commissioner.

dc greenworks was established 17 years ago to help resolve urban environmental and economic problems by fostering local enterprise, job training and community stewardship, especially in underserved communities. The organization has four key program areas: rainwater conservation and re-use, urban agriculture, green job training, education and public leadership.

dc greenworks: Growing Livable Communities Using Living Materials

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